

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 2021
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Public Works Chairman Jimmie Edwards called the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Councilman Wayne Ardoin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.
3. **Roll Call:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. Ex. Officio Dexter Brown. **ABSENT:** None
4. Persons to Address the Committee.
 - **Mr. Nathan Carriere** addressed the council. He thanked the Parish President for the grading work that he has done on St. Amand Road. He stated St. Amand Road has no ditches and he would like ditches on that road. Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated she has sent many request to have ditching work done on St. Amand Road. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Today we put out a RFP. We will dig the ditches down that road. The RFP will be due October 1st, 2021. Shortly after we will issue the work order to get it done. We will be doing approximately 50 miles of roads by the end of this year. We have already spent over one million dollars this year on ditch digging thru out the entire parish. With the ARA money, we have about two million dollars to do more ditching. We will be digging ditches down your road, and that RFP went out today.” Mr. Nathan Carriere questioned if we had any drainage boards in the St. Amand Road Area. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Not in your area, our engineers will be the ones doing the study.”
 - **Ms. Alicia Mire** addressed the council regarding her application for the Tourist Commission Board.
 - **Mr. Herman Fuselier** addressed the council regarding the applicants for the Tourist Commission Board. He ask that the council keep Eunice Applicants in mind when selecting a person to fill that position.
5. Public Works Report:
 - a. Update on Adjudicated Property in the Parish. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “In you packet you should have a list of Adjudicated Property to sell. We have 39 properties to sell. I am asking the council to approve the sale of those properties. Also in your packet, you will have a list of four Blighted Properties, I am asking the council to take action.” ***No Action was taken to forward to regular meeting held on Wednesday, September 15th, 2021 to approve selling 39 Adjudicated Properties and four Blighted Properties.***
 - b. Update on Road Work throughout the Parish. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Roadwork is being done every day.” Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Is there any way that we can get more information on these properties besides the Parcel Numbers. When a Bid is open we will have an idea of the value of the property.” Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will present a copy of the Tax Assessor’s Sheet to the council at the next meeting. A deposit is placed on each property that is being sold to begin the process.”
 - c. Update Phase 5 Smooth Ride Home. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Phase 5 of the Smooth Ride Home is still ongoing. The rain did stop them but they are planning to finish next month. Chairman Dexter Brown has an item on the agenda regarding Facebook Live. I have sent a letter to each of you to consider going Facebook Live. This will let

the people see what we do in a meeting so they don't have any issues that may come up later on. Like the voting precincts, if we would have had live video of that, people would have been able to see it. With people not coming to meetings, it is hard for them to file an objection when they don't know what is going on. With COVID, we are not really advocating for them to come to a meeting, but if we do Facebook Live, they can see it and participate." Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned the cost to place the meetings live on Facebook. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It does not cost anything to have a meeting live on Facebook."

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to accept the Public Works Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

6. Discuss Broadcasting Facebook Live on the St. Landry Parish Government Website. (Councilman Dexter Q. Brown).

Chairman Dexter Brown stated, "I placed this on the agenda due to our COVID Pandemic situation. We have some people with multiple handicapped condition and the elderly who have underlying medical conditions who may not be able to get around and I thought it would be a good idea to Broadcast on Facebook Live. It can go out to anyone that can log on to our Facebook Page. We have surrounding parishes that advertise and broadcast their meetings live. We are Public Officials, this is a Public Meeting and I think this would be a very good idea to broadcast Facebook Live." Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "It is a good idea. Just keep in mind to get ready for the ugly comments. When you know you are doing your best some of the comments can be very rude. You will have to be prepared and have big backs when comments come across that are not positive and let the negative comments roll over." Councilman Coby Clavier stated, "There is always something negative and positive with everything. I think with this, there is more positive than negative. You cannot help the comments, the comments will come. Some people cannot physically attend the meetings and this will allow them to follow what is going on in their local government where their tax dollars are being spent. I think it is a positive thing that we really need to start. You can watch any other parish. I think we are a little behind and we need to move forward."

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, September 15th, 2021** to approve the St. Landry Parish Council to Broadcast Facebook Live on the St. Landry Parish Government Website.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

7. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments for a four-year term to the Lawtell Gravity Drainage District No. 11. (10-02-2021 – 10-02-2025).

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, **September 15th, 2021** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments for a four-year term to the Lawtell Gravity Drainage District No. 11. (10-02-2021 – 10-02-2025).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

8. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments for a four-year term to the Faquetaique Gravity Drainage District No. 1. (10-02-2021 – 10-02-2025).

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy to forward to Regular Meeting held

on Wednesday, **September 15th, 2021** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments for a four-year term to the Faquetaique Gravity Drainage District No. 1. (10-02-2021 – 10-02-2025).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

9. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments for a four-year term to the Eunice Gravity Drainage District No. 9 of Evangeline and St. Landry Parish. (10-02-2021 – 10-02-2025).

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, **September 15th, 2021** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments for a four-year term to the Eunice Gravity Drainage District No. 9 of Evangeline and St. Landry Parish. (10-02-2021 – 10-02-2025).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

10. What is the possibility of having a Cul-de-sac on Wichita Lane? (Councilman Timmy Lejeune).

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Mr. Bellard, I don’t know if there is enough property, but could you at least look at Wichita Lane and see if they could make a Cul-de-sac there. They have some people that have purchased some property there and they have small children, my concern is for the bus that passes down that road, it cannot turn around. Could you look at it and see the possibilities.” Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes, I can get with William Gerald and have him go look at it. I will also get with Garret to see if we can come up with something. I am assuming that we can, it is just a matter of enough property.”

11. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned Parish President Jessie Bellard regarding the sandbag distribution at the Yambilee Building. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We were prepared. We gave out an estimated 15-20 thousand sand bags. We did the entire parish. We shipped to Municipalities because it was closer for our people to go and pick up sandbags at those locations. It went well, our plan was in place and we were ready for what we thought was coming to us. We were very fortunate we missed it. We had five or six trees that went down. Overall we were very much spared. The Sheriff helped us out with his Trustees, Chief McIendon helped with the traffic on HWY 190. It was really a good effort among everyone”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned Parish President Jessie Bellard regarding the status of the Debris pick up in the Parish. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We finally got an approval. The landfilled permit is effective today. The monitoring firm is from New Orleans and they have to come and begin the monitoring part. They estimated an additional \$200,000.00 to do the job and complete everything. We will begin as soon as the monitoring firm get here. I have your list that you have provided to me.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned if we will assist New Orleans with any support due to Hurricane Ida. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “There is nothing with the government, I am helping on the side with some other organizations. We have not committed our Government Resources and we were never asked for our Government Resources. We were requested for shelter on Sunday night, we did what we had to do to get them ready. We did not have to place anyone in our shelter but we are able. We have Shelter at the Yambilee. I have contacted the Pastor in Eunice, Word Ministries at the old Walmart, we have those building available also. In Melville, the gym was offered but I am not sure how many people it can hold. Plenty of people have called and wanting to help.”

12. Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to adjourn the Public Works Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE
KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK**