

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6th, 2021
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LA**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Chairman Wayne Ardoin called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Councilman Timmy Lejeune led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation to order.
3. **Roll Call:** Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune. Ex-Officio Dexter Brown. **ABSENT:** Vivian Olivier.
4. Persons to Address the Committee.
 - Mr. Luke Nixon addressed the council regarding his campaign for the U.S. Senate Seat.
 - Mr. Michael Hankins addressed the council regarding complaints about the Retreat House in Sunset. He stated the facility is not a treatment program nor is it a half-way house. The facility help people get back into society. He invited the council to visit the facility.

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “What kind of facility is it?” Mr. Hankins stated, “The facility is a Ministry Center.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “What kind of men do you offer into the facility?” Mr. Hankins stated, “Men just like me, I don’t really know how to describe them other than that. Men that had a past that they are no longer following. I was a drug addict for ten years. I was a burden on society. In December, I am graduating from UL with my business degree.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “So, I am assuming, some of the men that you take in possibly have drug problems?” Mr. Hankins stated, “No they do not have a drug problem nor do they have a alcohol problem. They are not experiencing those problems anymore when they are with us. I would not have anyone in the home that I would not trust near my wife or with kids. These are people that are starting a new life and they are no longer dealing with those issues.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “But I did hear you say in your past you dealt with problems.” Mr. Hankins stated, “Yes, in my past, I was a drug addict for ten years.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “So you would not take anyone with drug problems?” Mr. Hankins stated, “No Sir.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I have never heard of your place, where is it located?” Mr. Hankins stated, “Fantastic, That is the point and you would not know because it is exclusive. It is not publicly advertised. We do not put up signs and we do not advertise on social media. We are located at 475 S. I-49 Service Road. We have that big pond in the front. The fact that you have not heard of us is fantastic because we are doing our job.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Is that the place the McCormick’s use to own, is that the place you are talking about?” Mr. Hankins stated, “I am not sure, it is near the Biker Barn, the place that they are tearing down.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Bottom line, what is the issue, what is the problem? Why are you here before the council?” Mr. Hankins stated, “It is a miscommunication. There have been a rumor flowing around that we are a treatment facility. That is not what we are. I am done with treatment facilities, I love them, and I have worked for them for seven years. I am moving own to a different stage in my life. I want to clarify exactly what we are. Complaints have been filed about what they think we are. Some people are upset about it and it has been my hope to clear the air and make sure that everyone knows what we are not. We are not a treatment Center. We have men only and we are helping them to get on their feet.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “How long have your facility been open?” Mr. Hankins stated, “We just stated in July.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Am I understanding you correctly, these are men who may have once had an alcohol problem or a drug problem, but they have been delivered?” Mr. Hankins stated, “That is correct.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “How many people live in that house and how many people can you house?” Mr. Hankins stated, “Right now, it is me and my wife and we can house eight people.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I understand what you are telling me about this place. You will try to place them back in society, get them a job, have them move on and start a new life. How are you going to pay those bills?” Mr. Hankins stated, “That is a fantastic question. That is really why I am in this program. I am starting a new model for transition style homes like this that the funding is not based off the residence that live there. The reason why we are starting this is because I have been in drug and alcohol treatments for a long time. They have nowhere to go. If they experience freedom, a lot of the time, they end up in a sober living house right in the same room as someone that is coming in off the street. The problem is, the people that are coming in off the street are being used to fund a lot of these homes. So people like me, that just need a place to go where they can save up a little money so they can get up on their feet. That is really why I am here. I am trying to solve that problem. The way it is funded, our local church is helping fund the initial part, the home itself is going to be funded by the business that I start to fund it. The model is not depended on the finances of the people that live there, only early on is it depended upon the finance of the local church. Then moving forward it is totally self sufficient because of the business that will help fund that facility. Over the last 2.5 years, we have ran a business to help fund an entire treatment facility with a budget of \$186,000.00 dollars. We were able to get a business going that was in the words of Warren Buffet, able to be ran by a ham sandwich. It is very easy to run the business and it funds the facility. This model is going to make us able to be completely selective on whom we bring in. I say ‘No’ more than I say ‘Yes’. It is very exclusive and it is just for the people that I want to make copies of, people like me.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “It is very admirable what you are doing. You mentioned you don’t require a permit, is that the issue, a permit?” Mr. Hankins stated, “I am actually not too sure what the issue is outside of the complaints. There was an Ordinance filed that we would need a permit.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “This Ordinance has been effect since this year. It addresses Group Homes like you are talking about and it does require a Permit.”

Mr. Hankins stated, “Under the definitions of each one of those categories, we do not fit under those definitions because each one of them involves some form of State Licensing which I was unable to obtain from the State Licensing Board because we do not fit into any of those categories.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Well, that is your interpretation, Legal Counsel, what do you know about this?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It is not a Treatment Facility and it is not a Half-way-House. What this Gentlemen is describing is a text book definition of a Group Home. In order to open the Group Home, there have to be a fee of \$500.00. He will have to come before the Council, which is what he is doing now and he has to sign a permit requesting to be able to open the group home. The Council does not have to permit it. That is why the Ordinance exists so you can come before the council just like you are doing now. You are describing a very well run Group Home. Group Homes are very necessary and very beneficial to the people who lives there if it is well ran. It is up to the Council. They do not have to permit you to open that Group Home.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Is there an issue to get a permit?” Mr. Hankins stated, “No, I would be happy to permit it if that is what the law requires. For us to get a permit, it would require us to change the definition of what we are in a way. I know the argument is kind of semantics where it is being defined as a Group Home. We do not house people that necessarily need it. These are people that don’t really need us. These are people that we are hand picking to bring into this community to be leaders in the community. We are not housing the homeless.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, “Who owns the Group Home?” Mr. Hankins stated, “Tri-Part Care Group owns the Group Home. They are from St. Landry Parish and I am the One Employee with Tri-Part Care Group.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated they have some from the facility that would like to address the council.

- Mr. Eugene Risner, Pastor, Our Savior's Church addressed the council regarding the Retreat in Sunset. He stated, "We are affiliated with this Ministry that is happening and going on. I want to make sure that I am able to share our heart. What Michael stated is absolutely true. I spoke to the Parish President and I know we are spending money on increasing the size of the jail. That is where we are. We are running kids to drug courts. What an incredible opportunity that we have to actually make a difference. The young men that are going to come into this facility will be vetted by Pastors and Community Leaders like you. As we are talking about this you are thinking right now of a young man that you may know, saying if he had a shot like this. I can see a day in the future where some of these young men in this very program are probably going to be sitting right over here counseling some of the other young men in drug court saying we want to get you into some treatment, we want to get you drug free and give you an opportunity to get back into this community. We found Michael and his wife, Victoria. We saw the hand of God on their life and the Testimony of how you saw a changed man and the Power of what Jesus Christ can do in a man's life."

Chairman Dexter Brown questioned, "What is the maximum amount of time a person can stay at that facility?" Pastor Eugene Risner stated from three to six months.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Councilwoman Vivian Olivier contacted me about one month ago regarding the home. We called Pastor Eugene and we discussed it with him and his staff. What I had in front of me was Section 24-33. Our Ordinance that was passed in 2014. According to that Ordinance, she does not meet anything in that Ordinance. I am looking at something here that I just received from Garrett and it does not have an Ordinance No. It was something that was possibly passed in 2019. I am unclear about the Group Home part of it because it does not state that in our Ordinance that we have on Municode. I am just confused on this because this is the first that I have seen on this Group Home Ordinance that was passed before I returned. I don't have no time nor do I have a date on this Ordinance to tell me when it was passed. I am not quite sure what I am looking at right here."

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Bellard, can you try and finalize this with Pastor Eugene and his group of people and also Garrett to see if we are not violating this Ordinance that we have a copy of right here. It was passed in 2019 according to what I have here. I don't see any signatures. If Ms. Vivian, who is not here tonight, who represents that area, brought it to your attention, now these people are here, so would you please try to accommodate Pastor Eugene and Mr. Hankins so we can get some clarity with our Attorney. If they are doing the right thing, they can proceed, if they own the Parish any money for a permit, would you take care of it."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "I am looking right here. Ordinance No. 2021-016, An Ordinance to require individuals, a business entity, or any organization to apply for and obtain a Group Home Permit from St. Landry Parish Government before opening and operating a Group Home within St. Landry Parish. I remember this because it was in my district. We had men walking down the street at midnight. That is why we are very cautious about giving a permit for a group home. That is why I asked these questions. What kind of home is it? Is it dealing with men that have alcohol problems or drug problems? You said no. I still want to make sure before I put my name saying yes I agree with it. I want to make sure. Under our guidelines that we passed, you do need a permit. If I am in order, I would like to make a motion to forward to the full council for a vote."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We don't have an application yet"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "A motion can be made to forward it to the full council. By then an application for a permit should be filled out for the council to review. The President will know who owns it, who is attempting to open and he will have the address information. The Information will be available for the Full Council Meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 20th, 2021** to

review and/or approve the Permit Application for Tri-Part Group Home that is located in a residential area in Sunset La.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

- Mr. Brent Hollier, Speck Engineering addressed the council. He stated he is available for any questions that the council may have regarding the Preliminary and Final approval for Lots 1-9 on Begnaud Road Subdivision. He stated Begnaud Road is located on the South side of the Parish on the I-49 Service Road.

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Jacob Jarrell, The Parish Engineer has submitted a certificate of completion for the council’s review.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday October 20th, 2021** the Preliminary and Final approval for Lots 1-9 on Begnaud Road Subdivision.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

- Mr. Jarrod Landry addressed the council regarding the Tri-Part Group Home in Sunset. He stated, “I personally have no problem with the work and the effort that is being put in this project. You have my full support. The problem I have is that Tri-Part is within 1000 feet of my home. I just finished construction and I moved in a couple of weeks ago. The concern that my wife and I have is that Tri-Part is within 1000 feet of my home and we will have eight residence that will be staying there from 3-6 months and there will be another eight people that will come in. I don’t know who these people are. From what I have been told, these people have prior drug and alcohol addiction. They will not have transportation and they will be limited to walking distance. My wife and I have kids, in the event that they can’t get where they have to go and they get a relapse, what is it to stop them from breaking into my home and break into my prescription cabinet or liquor bar. I want my kids to walk out the back door and enjoy being in the country. That is why I moved out of Lafayette and move to Sunset. I do not feel secure and confident. I do not know the people who are a part of this group. I do not know their standard or policies. I have nowhere to go to hold them accountable if there is an issue.”
- Mr. Tucker LaVergne addressed the council regarding the Tri-Part Group Home in Sunset. He stated, “I live directly across from the house in question. We are more like 200 feet from the Tri-Part Group Home. Michael and Victoria Hankins invited me into their home. I have no issue with them. They seem like great people. They are not my issue, it is the people who are not compliant is what I have a fear of. The eight people that will be living in the home may not have an issue now but they have had prior issues. I know you keep asking questions to get clarity but from my understanding from Michael is, they only way they come here is because they have had prior issues. I am fine with helping people, I think everybody deserves to get help. The issue I am having is that it is in my back yard about 200 feet. I have lived in St. Landry Parish most of my life. I went to college and I have returned. My dream was to live in that area and build my dream home. This has definitely dampened it and I am extremely concerned. I am worried because there is no security on sight.”
- Mr. Shawn Johnson addressed the council regarding the Tri-Part Group Home in Sunset. He stated, “Thanks for taking the time to listen to all of us. Just to reiterate what everyone is saying, I think the passion the young man had, it had us all listening. I am in total support. It sounds like they have an amazing operation. Pastor Eugene gave a heartfelt speech about what they are doing. You would be a terrible person if you are not on board with what they are doing. I think that is a straw man’s argument for what they have going on. To lift up what Michael Hankins said earlier, ‘I want to create more of me and these men are just like me,’ well they are not like him yet. The might end up like him but they are not just like him yet. They are trying to bring these men along to get to a point to where they are just like him. Yes, we are all on board. You would not be human or a Christian if you do not want to see people come to know the Lord. I am thankful that God gave us laws, He gave us the Church, He gave us laws and ordinances that are written down on paper for us to follow. To build a straw man argument of doing good does not negate the fact that we have laws that help protect my three young boys and the other kids that we have got that are several

hundred feet away that we can literally see outside in the back yard as we are standing there. They have come on to our property and fished. I have had to shoo them-off at times. This is an issue that we do not want to have to fight and we should not have to fight because we are protected by laws. It makes us feel like bad guys. It was a bad idea not to come and knock on our doors and ask us if we approve. It was a bad idea not to get the permit to snake by these rules just because you did not follow the exact law to be able to get slid thru something like this. We are in support of Our Savior's Church and what they do. They bring people to Christ. We are in support of Our Savior's Church in helping the Homeless and the drug addicted. We are also in support in the laws that help to protect my family. We can be in support of all of those. I feel like your vote should be in according."

- Mr. Baxter Saucier addressed the council regarding the Tri-Part Group Home in Sunset. He stated, "Thank you for giving us the time to speak. Like my fellow neighbors, we are very much in support of helping the community. This is a residential neighborhood. I would invite Pastor Eugene to put this facility next to his home. All of a sudden, overnight without approaching us, without asking approval. It is a residential neighborhood. I have five daughters. I have work my whole life to have the home that I want to raise my six children, five daughters and one son. My five daughters cannot go outside in my back yard with these men staring at them. My wife and children no longer feel safe in our home. I have worked with many people and businesses. My wife is in the medical field and we know that statistics show that 2% of drug addicts rehabilitate successfully. We can all put on, let's try, let's do good for a little while but if every six month I will have to worry about the next 8 young men who come from problem past, whether my daughters are safe in my back yard. I cannot live like that. I have played by the rules, I have paid my taxes and we do everything that we are supposed to do. We were never approached about this regardless of how much the influence can be to do good as my neighbor said. We should be playing by the rules. Now my family do not feel safe in my own back yard. No one contacted me."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, "Mr. Baxter, you made a comment that your children cannot go in the back yard because of these guys. Are they currently living there?" Mr. Saucier stated, "Oh there have been several strange young men there for the last few months yes. He said it is just him and his wife but there have been plenty young men. We have had to run some of them off. My self included. I know the story you heard from them. I am telling you the truth."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "That came up to the council about 4-5 years ago when Mr. Fontenot gave the people that had it before you all, I guess. The permit was \$14,000.00 or \$15,000.00 if I remember correct. What was it before, was it a Rehab." Mr. Baxter Saucier stated that Rehab facility is across the highway, it is not the same place. It was a little bit of confusion earlier. That was Larry Leger's property and it was originally Mr. McCormick's property that was sold. Similar things happened, I understand that this Ordinance in 2019 was put in and my understanding is that you are supposed to have 75% of the neighbors approval of signatures. We were told by several of the Church members that the Church has been going around saying that they have talked to everyone. No one has ever approached and asked what we taught and how many daughters do I have. I can't even go out of my back door without them standing there on the other side of the pond watching my family, morning, noon or night."

5. Parish President & Finance Reports:
a. **August Budget to Actual Report**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Amanda Cain is at a conference this week. She did submit the Financials for the council to review. We welcome calls or comments next week from the council. She will return on Tuesday because Monday is a Holiday."

b. **Contract Renewal with Burn's Maintenance Group.**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The Contract Renewal with Burn's Maintenance Group is the company that cuts the grass on behalf of SLED or CSLED. We recently signed a contract with the state to pay us. I need to get an approval."

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 20th, 2021** to authorize the Parish President to sign the renewal Contract with the Burns Maintenance Group. ***Parish President Jessie Bellard will present the council with the total amount of the Renewal.***

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

c. Capital Improvement Plan for St. Landry Parish Airport 2022.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Every year we have to submit the Six Year Capital Improvement Plan for the St. Landry Parish Airport in order to get Federal Funding if there is anything allowable. We are asking for \$3,900,000.00 over the course of the next five years.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Easton to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 20th, 2021** Authorizing the Parish President to sign the Six Year Capital Improvement Plan for the St. Landry Parish Airport.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

d. Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Funds.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The Agreements we have with the municipalities and other agencies thru the ARA, are those Intergovernmental Agreements that you have in front of you. **We have the Opelousas City Marshall, Opelousas City Court, we will have those in our hand before our next meeting.** We will have the Tax Assessor, The Eunice City Court, The Eunice City Marshall. We will have some more coming in. We meet with them last week, so they are coming in daily.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 20th, 2021** to authorize the Parish President to sign the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act for 2021 Funds.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

e. Update on Grant Road.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I did meet with Entergy today. I spoke with Garrett also. We are waiting on Colonial Pipeline to call us back. Their issue took place about 1-1/2 – 2 years ago. Unless they agree to honor the damage that was created back then, I don’t think we have a leg to stand on in a lawsuit. However, Entergy has agreed to pay what they have to pay. It will not be a very large amount but it will be what we can do to fix the problem at hand. We are still working with the Pipeline Company for the other damages. Garrett can elaborate a little more.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “You will have to Sue within one year. We have Entergy on that but probably not Colonial Pipeline. I am in contact with both entities on a regular basis and we are going to get that road fixed one way or the other.

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “That is the Road in District 9. They were doing construction and they damaged the road. The constituents on that road want their road back to the way it was before the companies did the damage.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “In reference to the August Financials, the Committee would like to meet with Mr. Cain when she returns to discuss the August Budget to Actual Financials Report.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We will have the budget ready to be looked at and hopefully introduced before the next council meeting. At that same time, maybe we can meet with each councilmember in groups and discuss the Financials and the Budget.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Would you contact me and let me know and I will let the Committee know. If any other councilmember would like to

meet, as long as we don't have a quorum. If we have a quorum, we will have to call for a special meeting."

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to accept the Parish President & Finance Reports.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

6. Update on the status of the Opioid Lawsuit and how far has it advanced. (Chairman Wayne Ardoin).

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Duplechain I thing that has been about one year to one year and a half. We have not had any other news on it. You see some news releases sometimes where the state may have collected some money. I just want to know where we come in.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Morrow and Morrow Ryan and Basset is representing the Parish Government in that lawsuit. They are not here this evening. I will pass this item to the Regular Meeting in two weeks and urge our clerk to send an invitation to Pat Morrow to attend that meeting.

No Action Taken.

7. Update on the status of the Plant in Cankton La. (Chairman Wayne Ardoin).

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "This is another item that has not resurfaced lately. Mr. Dupelchain, have you heard from this gentleman, Mr. Bill Goudall. The man that came and gave us information about all of this pollution that was right outside of Cankton in 1993.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated. "That is item No. 9 on the agenda. I am in contact on a regular basis with our Environmental Attorneys. The Environmental Lawsuit is going well. They requested that they show up two weeks from now at our Regular Meeting. The Lawsuit is in Federal Court right now. There is an issue that the other side took up on an appeal a procedural issue to Federal Court of Appeal. They took it up from that. Our lawsuit is right now before the United States Supreme Court and they will decide that issue and it will continue onward in Federal Court. That is where it is. I am Optimistic by what I am told by Mr. Godell about this lawsuit and he would request to show up two weeks from now to give us an update."

8. Authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the Application by the Board of Commerce and Industry on the Industrial Tax Exemption Program Application with AIRE Louisiana, LLC for 2022.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I have a packet that was given to each of you. I have Mr. Bill Rodier to answer any questions dealing with this program."

Mr. Bill Rodier addressed the council and stated, "Let me walk thru the overview of the packet that was given to you all. The location of this project will be by the Louisiana Wholesale Drug on I-49 in Sunset. If you can picture Louisiana Wholesale Drug Company and the softball field, there is a parcel of property for sale, that will be the location that they are looking at to place this Manufacturing Facility. They are looking to go thru and finish the permitting process in the year of 2021, begin construction in the year of 2022 and complete the facility in Mid 2023. Building Material is the problem for any type of building right now, that is what is slowing everything down. This time fame may not be accurate. It is just depending on the availability. A quick summary of what is happening with the Industrial Tax Exemption Program. Some of you maybe familiar with it and some are probably not. In 2016 John Bel signed into a Governor's mandate that the Industrial Tax Exemption Program which previously went to the State Louisiana Economic Development. If a company was a manufacturer, they would submit an application to LED and LED made sure that it was a complete application. They would submit it to the Board of Commerce and Industry, which meets mostly monthly but not every month at the State, If the Board of Commerce and Industry approve the application prior to 2016, they would notify the Assessor, at that time it was Ryan Duplechain, and said this property is exempt from Property Tax completely for all the buildings and all the equipment for five years. It was renewable for an additional five years. Now John Bel has dictated that the rules have changed, that there is local authorization to authorize this to go forward. It is a little bit different, so this is what is in your packet right now. The Board of Commerce and Industry received the application for this project. An estimation on this project is about a \$60,000,000.00 project that they are

looking to build. It is going to be creating somewhere in the neighborhood of 55-65 full time jobs. Those jobs are going to be paying somewhere in the middle \$40,000.00 to the middle \$60,000.00 salary ranges. What has changed about the program is the board of Commerce and Industry is required to send a major taxing bodies in St. Landry Parish a notice of 30 days to respond that this project have been submitted to them. So The Parish Government, The School Board, The Assessor and the Sheriff's office have all gotten notice that this project is coming into play. If you do not do anything with this project within 30 days, your non response is a sign of consent to the project. It is important that a decision is made on this so you can indicate as St. Landry Parish Council what you would like to do. The other big change to this program that gives you a say, it is no longer 100% exemption on the building and the equipment. It is an 80/20. If you agree to the Industrial Tax Exemption Program for this project, you would be exempting 80% of the cost of the investment in this project and the taxes associated with it for five years and it is renewable for a second five years. You would get 20% of the revenue of the project. That has changed, that is part of what John Bel put into place. Same with the School Board, the Sheriff and the Assessor. Does anyone have any questions?"

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "When is the deadline to get it approved?"

Mr. Bill Rodier stated, "I don't know the exact date, I can get that information to you. We can bring Sherry up and she can talk about the numbers. If we are assuming it is \$60,000,000 investment in this project, which it is sort of a mid- range, they are giving us some high's and some lows to get this project up and running. Before we get to the numbers, let me explain what I know about the project. You can see in the packet that you have the type of facility that they are looking to construct. You may have seen an article in the Advocate last week and the Advocate called this a Tire Recycler. I am absolutely assured by everyone associated with this, it will not be a tire on this. The way this process is explained to me, this is not a carbon black plant, I can tell you that, they have one in Ville Platte, this is not that. The way this process is explained to me, and it is going to work, this plant is going to get loads of chipped rubber that come to the plant, like you see in your packet, a fully enclosed production facility. Those loads of chipped rubber will be unloaded inside of the plant and placed into a production process, I am not the expert on this, it is just what I know, the first part of the process is, they will take any remaining steel that is part of any tire that came to the plant, the steel will be extracted from the rubber. They have a chemical process by which they extract the liquid. They take the liquid out of the tire, the liquid will actually be converted into a green process to Ethanol Fuel. They will take that highly dried rubber compound and it is placed into a grounding system. The final product will be fine pellets which have multiple uses. Those will be the two end products with the production facility which is what they are looking to do. I am told by the permitting agencies and the companies and everyone associated with this project that it is completely green. There are no omissions and there are no environmental concerns. That is the first concern that I had, making sure that it was environmentally friendly. If you all want to review this and get more information before your full meeting, I will be happy to sit down or get on conference calls with these people, whatever you want to do. I want us all to be comfortable with this project. Just to go over the numbers, they do have \$60,000,000.00 in the project. Sherry's team had actually done some numbers. In year one of the project, your 20% that you will be collecting on that project will be an extra \$6,599.00. This is a \$60,000,000.00 estimate and it could go up a little. What you would actually be giving up is the 80%. You are not actually giving up anything because we don't have anything right now. The 80% figure would be \$26,399.00 assuming that is the way that this project played out with the numbers. The company is supposed to close on the property this month. I have been told by the company that they want to make sure that they were going to get the incentives because it is competitive. They are looking at other sites. Before they close on that property, they wanted to make sure that they were going to have an assurance on the incentives that they are trying to get. You are the first governing body. Sherry and I have been talking about this often and Jessie and I have talked about it. I am supposed to meet with Patrick Jenkins after this meeting and I have not yet spoken to Bobby Guidroz of the Sheriff's Office. You are the first Public Entity that we have come forward with to explain the process in this project. That is the summary that I have and I am happy to answer any questions that I can."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, "Did they clean the sight for the new facility?"

Mr. Rodier stated, "No, the grass is still overgrown there."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, "What will the pellets be used for? Will it be used for private sale? Mr. Rodier stated, "I don't know all of their target markets for the Ethanol or the Rubber Pellets. I can imagine that there is a broad market international for

those products. The amount of truck traffic that will be generated by bringing supplies in or taking supplies out. The numbers that the company is comfortable with is between 15 and 20 trucks in a day that would be coming out of the location.” Bobby Ardoin of the Daily World questioned but it was not heard on the mic.” Mr. Rodier responded, “In total Bobby, but don’t quote me. I think that it is 20, I want to say 23. That is a deep lot, it goes back a long way. The company plans to leave a natural buffer on the backside of that property. It will be a significant distance from anything residential in the city of Sunset.”

Ms. Sherri Zeringue McGovern, St. Landry Parish Tax Assessor stated, “It is 24 acers. The total taxes on that property is about \$1,300.00. Based on \$60,000,000.00 and the calculation of depreciation, you are looking at \$86,000.00 in taxes per year. Some of that property is in the city limits of Sunset and some of it is not. They have applied for a Tax Exemption.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 20th, 2021** to authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the Application by the Board of Commerce and Industry on the Industrial Tax Exemption Program Application with AIRE Louisiana, LLC. for 2022.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

9. Update on Environmental Lawsuit.

This Item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

10. Forward to Regular Meeting the Preliminary and Final approval for Lots 1-9 on Begnaud Road Subdivision.

This Item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

11. Discuss if Civic Source is still selling property. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere.)

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned Parish President Jessie Bellard, “Have Civic Source sold any property lately and she questioned when will their contract be discontinued.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I mailed them a letter on Monday. Everything that came in the last three years is in your packet. I want to make sure that we are clear on something. Civic Source sells the property as an agent. You will always see our name on it as the seller. You will not see Civic Source. Everyone one of the properties that we are selling comes before this council. Every last one of them. That is not a doubt in my mind that when Civic Source sells something, it comes to me, I bring it to you all, then it is signed and then it is recorded. In 2019 we sold \$2,346.00 worth of property, in 2020 we sold \$4,118.00 worth of property and this year we had \$32,250.00 worth of property sold. We are working and it is getting done and I can assure you all that it is getting done correctly.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Mr. Bellard, can you run those numbers by me one more time.” Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “In 2019 we sold \$2,346.00 in 2020 we sold \$4,118.50 and year to date we had \$32,250.00.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “How did we get to sell \$32,250.00. Did we sell that thru our own worker in Parish Government and not Civic Source?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Civic Source have sold some. Here is the problem. Looking at the numbers, and I have talked to Mandy, I did not see any checks come in thru Civic Source or anything. When Civic Source sell a piece of property, it is sold at \$5,000.00 or less, that amount goes to Civic Source. That is what their cost is. They keep that money because that is their cost that is associated with their contract. Now that cost will be given to local attorneys. We will sell the property like we did the last time and we get \$5,000.00 for a piece of property. That money now comes to Parish Government instead of Civic Source. It is being done in house. The legal work is being done by local attorneys and not people from New Orleans. That is the difference.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., “I want to thank you for the work that you and Mr. Lewis is doing. I think you all are doing an outstanding job.”

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

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned the time clock that is not working in the Council Chambers. He asked Sherell Jordan, Council Clerk how long has the time clock been out.

Sherell Jordan, Council Clerk stated, "About three months, it has been a while."

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned if the time clock could be fixed?

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The thing with the time clock is, across the board, all of the software that was being used for the time clocks are no longer being used. When I got back here, all of a sudden that went out. Upon speaking with Mandy and the New Software Company that we will have with the accounting system it will bring this back into effect. In the meantime, we have been using a regular card clock like in Public Works.

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Have our Council Clerks been using that?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We can get one for them."

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 20th, 2021** to authorize the Parish President to install a new time clock in the Council Chambers.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

13. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to adjourn the Administrative Finance Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Vivian Olivier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

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