

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup>, 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. Roll Call: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.  
Ex. Officio Dexter Brown. ABSENT: None.
3. Persons to address the committee.  
There was no one to address this committee.
4. Public Works Report:
  - a. Update on Adjudicated Property in the Parish  
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "On Adjudicated Property, we just mentioned that earlier in the meeting. In 2019 we sold for \$2,346.00 in property, in 2020 we sold \$4,118.50 worth of property and in 2021, year to date as of October we sold \$32,250.00 worth of property. We are still in the process of cleaning properties thru out the Parish. We are cleaning them and putting them up for sale. The money comes back in and we clean some more. We are keeping it going and getting everything cleaned up. We did some in Eunice and we are in the process of doing more in Eunice. We did two properties in Opelousas, we are cleaning them up and putting them up for sale because people are wanting them. It is on going."  
**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned**, "Mr. Bellard, on properties that we have sold, how long does it take for the owner to get that paper work?"  
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Once the council says we are accepting the bid which we did, at that point, depending on the amount of years that the property was adjudicated. If the property was adjudicated 3 years or less, it has to be advertised for six months."  
**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated**, "I understand that part. A person was asking me how long will it take for them to get their Sole Paper."  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "They have to do their leg work now. They will have to hire an attorney and that attorney will follow the process for the rest of the way. Once the Attorney do their part, it could be six months or as little as sixty days. Property that have been adjudicated for over five years is a sixty-day process and property that have adjudicated for over three years is a six month process. It is up to the owner who is buying the property and how fast they want to proceed after that. Once they do everything, they have to sign an Affidavit, bring it to us, we will file it with the Clerk of Court and it is released to the people. The way that the law is written, it is so confusing. But it is three years, six months after five years, it is only two months or sixty days."  
**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned**, "Is there any way that we can shorten the process with the Blighted Property?"  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "I would love to do that. It may be something that the council will have to take into effect. I would like to see that it does not take long for grass cutting. If we send out a letter and they do not cut their grass, we will do it and charge them. Taking down somebody's house, I do not understand giving them that time frame, because that is different. Just to go cut the grass and clean up that area, that should not take as long. Maybe Garrett can give us more insight. It does take a process, but on the grass cutting, I would like to see that shorten up a lot. By the time we do all that stuff, it is out of control and it will take a tractor to go and cut the grass. I will get with Garrett to see if we would have to revise the Ordinance. I would be more than happy to bring it back to the council and have it revised."

b. Update on Road Work throughout the Parish

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We are digging ditches every single day. We have contractors digging. This year alone, we have spent \$1.2 million dollars roughly. We just opened Bids last Friday for another \$1.3 million thru out the whole parish. Every District has a Contractor. Each District is roughly 50 miles of roads to be dug. We are hoping to get it done by the end of the year. I don’t think it will be done because of the weather but we are trying. I would like to get the funding from the ARA Program spent this year. If we can’t due to the weather, we can extend it beyond. That is what our goal is.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “I have a constituent that called me today. On Lofton Street, the ditch needs to be dug.

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The P.O. has been signed for Lofton Street and Statesman Street. With the weather last week they could not start. It was supposed to be started last week.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “They started on Statesman Street last week. Thank you.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere** questioned Parish President Jessie Bellard about the Black Gold.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We have some at the yard. I am not sure if they have anything more for us but we do have some on the yard. I did order, No I did not order the machine yet, but I forgot the actual legal name for it, but it is a packing machine. When we start pouring like we did on Collins, the machine will pack it down and place the material where it will last longer. It is a process. The black gold will be used to mix it in and make it harder and pack it in.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “If anyone have constituents that live off of HWY 182 North. They are doing the highway, the constituents had some concerns about their mailboxes. The State will replace all mailboxes. I just want to let you all know so you can pass it on to your constituents.”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry** questioned Parish President Jessie Bellard regarding the status of Collins and St. Amand Rd.

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “They are not working on those Roads now. They will be back on them as soon as it dries up good enough. That water from the rain actually went over Collins. We need to pick it up a little bit more. We will pack it before we put some more material. When we pack it, it will make it wider on top. Then we will have our two lanes again.”

c. Update on Phase 5 Smooth Ride Home.

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We are still in effect right now with the Smooth Ride Home. They are still doing Moreau Road but they should have been finished yesterday. We did Beverly Road and Dry Bayou Road. We are waiting on the final numbers to come back on that. It should be a \$300,000.00 savings on that. Once we get that back we will start another phase to try to get some work done.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned the Phase for Rachal Lane.

**Parish Jessie Bellard stated,** “The P.O. has been signed for Rachal and they will do a short portion of Hollier Road.”

d. Update on Anointing Drive.

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I know Mr. Lejeune had a question about that last meeting. It is 4,305 feet of actual road that needs to be taken care of. Since our last meeting, Solid Waste has instructed Waste Connections to put their trash containers at their house. The trash trucks are going down there to pick up the trash. We won’t have that big problem. We have not started any work on it yet, but they are passing to get the trash in front of their homes.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “I have been getting calls that there are Dumpsters there. They have not started the trash cans in front.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I was instructed Monday that they were able to move them back. We will definitely start working on that to make it happen. I just wanted to let you know that it was 4,305 feet.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin** questioned the payments from the Taxing District.

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “This phase of money will be paid out of ARA. It will be broken down in five groups and we will have five different

contractors. District 9 and 10 are together. District 11 is by itself, District 12 and 13 are together and District 7 is by itself. We have them grouped up for the amount of mileage of road.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin** questioned if that comes under the Professional Services

**Parish President Jessie Bellard** stated, “That is correct.”

**Chairman Dexter Brown** questioned, “Mr. Bellard, on Annointing Drive, they have two side streets that have dead ends, are they included?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard** stated, “Yes, they are included.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor** questioned, “Mr. Bellard, on Bids for the various districts, how does that compare to the non-bids we did previously?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard** stated, “Most of them are the same about price, 375 a foot. Some are at 450 a foot, depending on how much digging needs to be done on each location. We put out a packet, they went look at the road and they bided base on what they had to dig to make the grade. One of the things that we are making sure of is that every contractor is working with instruments to keep the slope going in the right direction. We had an issue in District 7. I won’t say that it was done wrong, maybe I would say that it should have been done a little bit better. With the instruments we can fix that problem. That was part of the bid process.”

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry 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.**

5. Update on Tri-Part Care Group Home in Sunset, La.

*Item discussed earlier in the meeting.*

6. Authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for Repair of the Helipad at the St. Luc French Immersion and Cultural Campus.

**Councilman Coby Clavier** questioned if this was Government Property and why would Parish Government be putting funds into Helipad.

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain** stated, “There is a case law from the Louisiana Supreme Court which allow these public funds to be used to make repairs to a private property if it is for a public purpose. If the cost used to repair it is reasonable related to the public purpose. In return for repairing the Helipad at the St. Luc Center in Arnaudville, the Hospital Service District #2, which is Opelousas General Hospital will be able to land the Medical Helicopter there as needed. There are only two Helicopter Landing Pads for Hospital Service District #2. There is one at the South Campus and one at Prudhomme Lane at Opelousas General Hospital. There will be one in the Arnaudville area, if someone is injured, ill or in a car wreck, they will be needing to be air lifted to a hospital. Hospital Service District No. 2, which is a Public Hospital created a non-other authority of the Parish Government which will be able to airlift people to the hospital. That is an exchange for the Parish using Public Resources to repair the Helipad at the French Immersion Center in Arnaudville. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement would be signed by the French Immersion Center by our Parish President and by Albert Semien, the Chairman of the Board for Hospital Service District #2, which is Opelousas General Hospital.”

**Councilman Alvin Stelly** questioned the cost for this Helipad.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I did not do anything. I wanted to make sure that we had approval of the council before I would move forward. I can look into the cost for it. From my understanding, it won’t cost much to get it the way it used to be. The funds will be coming out of funds that was dedicated for that hospital.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated he will get a cost for the repairs for the Helipad and present it to the council for the next Regular meeting dated **Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021** to Authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for Repair of the Helipad at the St. Luc French Immersion and Cultural Campus. The Parish President will provide the council with the cost for the repairs.

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. Forward all applications received 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 Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021** all application received 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. Forward all Applications received 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 Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021** all application received 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. Forward all applications received 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 – 10-02-2021).  
A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021** all application received 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. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments for a one-year term to Fire District No. 7. (11-18-2021 – 11-18-2022).  
A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021** all application received for two appointments for a one year term to Fire District No. 7. (11-18-2021 – 11-18-2022).  
On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.  
**Motion forwarded.**
  
11. Update on Debris pickup in the Parish. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).  
Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned the update on the debris pick up in the Parish.  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “We got an approval to pick up the debris and we got an approval to bring it to the Landfill. Now we have to get an approval from DEQ and FEMA to Chip the wood. We decided to just burn it because we have two sites, one in Lawtell and one in Sunset to go and burn. No matter what we do, we have to wait on approvals to get things done. They started picking up and the shut us down because of the chipping. Everyday they are chipping as Solid Waste. Because we are picking up Debris, that have to be permitted a different way. It is own going. Van and Richard Leboeuf are working on that to get it done.”
  
12. Discuss cleaning of Culverts. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).  
**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated**, “As you travel thru-out the parish, there are many culverts from the different storms that are simply clogged with debris. If we could get some type of system set up to get some of them cleaned, it would help elevate some of the flooding problems that we are having.”  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Everyday our new culvert cleaner is cleaning culverts. What we are trying to do is go ahead of the ditching crew. We have so many contractors working. They were in the Broadmoore area today cleaning culverts. We only have one man and one machine. He is working every single day cleaning the culverts. It is a neat machine. The front part of that hose shoots jet water forward. When it gets in the culvert, it shoots the jet water back at 2000 PSI and it runs it all the way thru the culvert.”

13. Discuss who is responsible for making repairs of Road Service in the City of Opelousas, bringing it back to what it was before the waterline was repaired. (Chairman Wayne Ardoin). **Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, "I am having some problems in Royal Gardens and behind Lafon Funeral Home which is in District 9. The City furnishes water to these people. When the City goes and do the repair work of fixing water leaks, they fill it up with Limestone and it is left behind. I am asking Garrett to please look and see if we are responsible for placing the Asphalt back or the City of Opelousas is responsible for placing the Asphalt back. If we need to place the Asphalt back, we need to get that cleared with the city so we won't be waiting on them. I have people calling and complaining that they come and dig and they repair the water leak and they fill it up with Asphalt and they do not return. Then they call me about the bumps in the road."

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated**, "I will look into it but I have to ask, is it inside of the city limits?"

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, "It is outside of the city limits. They are furnishing city water to these constituents. I have an issue because they are calling with an issue. It is not good for the neighborhood. *I am asking that you find out if the Parish Government or the City of Opelousas is responsible for repairing the streets after a water leak have been repaired.*"

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated**, "I am having the same situation on McNeese Street. I have spoken to the Mayor about this situation. The Mayor has acknowledged that they should repair the road after they have repaired broken water lines, but the problem is when Mr. Bellard have graciously agreed to offer some assistant if the Mayor needs it."

14. St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District proposes to modify an existing Type II Landfill by increasing the largest area requiring final cover from 40 acres to 58 acres. The facility is located at 417 Solid Waste Road, Washington, St. Landry Parish. The hearing will be held on Thursday, October 28, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the Town of Washington Town Hall, 405 N. Washington Street, Washington, LA.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That was something that was brought to our attention to give to the Council to approve at the next Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It is just to give us Public Notice of what is happening.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021** to authorize the St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District proposes to modify an existing Type II Landfill by increasing the largest area requiring final cover from 40 acres to 58 acres. The facility is located at 417 Solid Waste Road, Washington, St. Landry Parish. The hearing will be held on Thursday, October 28, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the Town of Washington Town Hall, 405 N. Washington Street, Washington, LA.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

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

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated**, "The School Board is having a shortage of mask, is there any way that we can assist them?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "We don't have extra mask. Van has ordered more. They are getting hard to get. He did order some Monday to take care of the Court System. We are doing a lot of Jury Selections now. I can get with Van to see if he has anything extra to help."

Councilman Coby Clavier stated, "Will we be seeing a Grader soon, the roads are dried up."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "Yes, we have three of them working right now. Tomorrow night the Solid Waste is having a meeting. They took RFP's for the new contract starting next October. I just wanted to let the Council know that I was invited to go and speak tomorrow night. They are asking me to support the RFP for a local provider, a local business owner here. Lavern's Trucking submitted a bid. They were the next lowest bid. The lowest bid now is from Waste Connections whom we have now. I will be asking Solid Waste to not give it to Waste Connections because of their past performance. I will be asking them to award it to Bayou State Containers that is owned by the Lavern's who is a local contactor, a local person in our parish. We will give them a shot. With the new contract, they have a lot of stipulations in there where we can hold anyone accountable from that point on. I am just letting you all know where I sit on it. I know everybody is getting the same complaints I was

getting with the last trash collections agency. This is a local guy, I want to give him a shot. That is my take on it and I just wanted to let you all know where I am going.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “I have been told that they are starting the research work on the Broadband and the Cable in some areas. This will be coming soon, hopefully within another year.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I had a meeting yesterday with LUS. St. Landry Parish, Evangeline Parish and Acadia Parish are the only parishes in the state of Louisiana that was able to apply for this National Teli-Communications Grant. It looks very good. It is \$50,000,000.00. It will take care of many of our problems in our Parish. It is not going to fix everything but it will give us a good foot print to start with. LUS and Allen Cable is on that Grant. LUS came in yesterday and we talked about the Gumbo Grant. Whatever holes that were left from the first Grant, we will apply for that with the Gumbo Grant. There are still other sources of Revenue but the next phase is going to happen by the end of this year as far as awarding the grant, we are applying. It looks like every part of our parish will be promised some good internet service at their homes. It does not matter if you live in a Rural area or not.”

**Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Our Regional 3 Meeting is rapidly approaching. It will be held on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If anyone is interested in donating any type of prizes for our door prize, please contact our Council Clerk and let her know what prize you would like to donate. Hopefully our COVID number will be down and we can have the meeting.”

16. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry 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**