

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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. **Roll Call:** Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. Ex-Officio Dexter Brown. **ABSENT:** None.
3. Persons to Address the Committee.  
There was no one to address the council.
4. Parish President & Finance Reports:  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Caryn, the new Finance Director started yesterday, she will have the Finance Report for the next full council meeting. If we get it before, we will e-mail it to you all. She will have it up to date. We will have the Budget to submit to you all at the next full council meeting. We can start meeting with the council members when you all are ready to discuss it.  
The town of Palmetto, Road District No.5 and the City of Opelousas Police Department is asking for one of our old trucks that we have at the yard. We brought some new trucks so we have some salvaged vehicles. They are asking if we could give them each a truck. They are not worth a whole lot. It is up to the council. Road District No. 5 told me that they need one and they know it will not be the best thing, but they need something to help them over there. The town of Palmetto does not have anything. The Police Department is asking for something to transport Trustees whenever they are doing work.”  
**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned**, “What kind of value are you going to place on those vehicles and how are you going to go about that?”  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “They are not worth much, they are finished.”  
**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated**, “Road District No. 5 actually helps out with Parish Expenses.”  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Road District No. 5 has helped us a great deal on digging ditches, for instance, Dry Bayou. We over laid it and they came back and did the ditching work for us. It is a joint effort between the district and us. It is working out pretty good. I would like to continue that progress.”  
**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated**, “My question, in order for us to give that piece of property to those entities, do we have to have a value?”  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “I don’t believe we have to have a value. It is going to be surplus property from the parish.”  
**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated**, “I am not opposed to giving it, I just would like to know what are the steps and the process of us letting them have it.”  
**Councilman Harold Taylor stated**, “Mr. Bellard, why don’t we just do an Intergovernmental Agreement and loan it to them.”  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “That is fine, whatever works. I am good with it.”  
A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to authorize the Parish President to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with the town of Palmetto, Road District No. 5 and the City of Opelousas Police Department for the use of Parish Government Salvaged Vehicles.  
**No Action Taken.**  
**Councilman Harold Taylor stated**, “The question came up, who is going to do the repairs, I think the Intergovernmental Agreement would transfer the repairs to the entity that we loan it to.”  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Garett, can you write that up in the Intergovernmental Agreement?”  
**Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated**, “Yes, if I have the names of the entities, I can do the rest. E-mail them to me.”  
**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “And they will take them as is.”

**Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “On the loaning of those vehicles, who would be titled as the owners? For instance, we loan them our vehicles and they would get into a traffic crash, who is the owner and what insurance would be responsible?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “All of the vehicles have insurance on them, I hope, I know they do, that is what would take over. It would be turned over to the insurance company if there is a crash, if there is a lawsuit.”

**Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “What I am saying, would we be responsible if we loan them that vehicle.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Yes, they would sue everybody.”

**Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “I think it would be a good idea to revisit that.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “Is it legal for us to donate those vehicles?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “We could now loan equipment to other entities such as municipalities.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “Donate, give it to them, is that legal?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “We can sell it to them. I will have to look into that. I know that we can sell it. We can loan it.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “I think selling it probably would be better than getting rid of it and not having to be responsible to pay the insurance or be responsible for it. If you could look into it and see what is the least amount we can sell it for.”

**Public Works Chairman Jimmie Edwards stated,** “Why don’t we Surplus it Mr. Bellard and give it to an auction and have them auction it off, then everything is all clear.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “That is what we are doing with the rest of the equipment. I know we did it in the past, 911 gave us a vehicle in the past when we first became a Parish Government. They just turn around and Surplus a piece of property, donated it to the Parish and that is how it was done. I think the same thing should apply here. We are all Government Agencies, I will Surplus the property because it is not needed anymore and we can just donate it to the entities and be done with that.”

**A Sub-Motion** was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021** authorizing the Parish President to sell the Parish Government Salvaged Vehicles for one dollar (\$1.00) to the Town of Palmetto, Road District No. 5 and the City of Opelousas Police Department. All repairs and insurance will belong to the new owners.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red., Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: Easton Shelvin.

**Motion forwarded.**

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “I withdraw my motion.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to accept the Parish President & Finance Reports.

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

**Motion carried.**

5. Authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act for 2021 Funds, Agreements to include: St. Landry Parish Tax Assessor, Eunice City Court, Eunice City Marshall, Opelousas City Marshall and Opelousas City Court.

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned Parish President Jessie Bellard,** “Do you have all the paper work in order for this?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, **November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021** authorizing the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act for 2021 Funds. Agreements to include: St. Landry Parish Tax Assessor, Eunice City Court, Eunice City Marshall, Opelousas City Marshall and Opelousas City Court.

**No Action Taken.**

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned,** “Is it in our packet Mr. Bellard or do you have it in your packet?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “No you all have it.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I have not seen anything from Opelousas City Court or the City Marshall. All I have is Eunice, again like we had last week or two weeks and Ms. McGovern’s.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “It should be in your packet because we made the copies today.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Do you have it Ms. Sherell?”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,** “They did not give it to me yet.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I have the City Marshall of Opelousas. I have everyone except the City of Eunice. That is the only one that I am missing. The City of Eunice, not the City Marshal or the City Court. The Mayor stated he would have it for me tomorrow.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** “Mr. Bellard, do you have everything that is listed?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I have everything that is listed, the only thing that is missing is the City of Eunice and that would be for the Liberty Theater.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “In my packet, I have Mr. Darbonne, I have Ms. McGovern and the City Court of Eunice. I am going to ask at this time that we bring this back up at the Full Council Meeting.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Hold on, I have all the information. I will get you the copies, I don’t why you don’t have it tonight but I have all the information.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “We had that two weeks ago.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I will put my name on the record as saying that I have everything I need to pass these Intergovernmental Agreements. If you all don’t have them tonight, I will have them for you all at the Full Council Meeting so we can pass all of this.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Mr. Bellard, when we did the appropriations on the ARA money, your administration was going to promulgate rules other than the rules for the ARA requirements, have we done that?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “That is in the Intergovernmental Agreement. Garrett put it in the Intergovernmental Agreement.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “Before a second is called, I have a question. I want to understand. You have all of the paper work on St. Landry Parish Tax Assessor’s Office?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “The City Court of Eunice?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “Eunice City Marshall?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “Opelousas City Marshall?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “Opelousas City Court?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Those are the only ones listed on this paper. So those are the only ones that we are forwarding.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “My motion stands.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to forward to Regular Meeting Held on **Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021** to authorize the Parish President to Sign the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act for 2021 Funds. Agreements to include:

St. Landry Parish Tax Assessor, Eunice City Court, Eunice City Marshall, Opelousas City Marshall and Opelousas City Court.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: Jerry Red Jr. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: Easton Shelvin.

**Motion forwarded.**

6. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments for a three-year term to the St. Landry Parish Economic Development (SLED). (01-01-2022 – 01-01-2025).

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned,** “Did one person resigned on this Board?”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,** “No, these are five appointments.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,** “How are these members selected? Do we select them or are they nominated and we just confirm?”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,** “These are selected by the Council.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021** authorizing the

Council Clerk to advertise for five appointment for a three-year term to the St. Landry Parish Economic Development (SLED). (01-01-2022 – 01-01-2025).

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

**Motion forwarded.**

7. Discuss whether Tri-Part Care is currently operating as a Group Home in Sunset, LA.  
**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated**, “I think they are operating at this time as a home for unrelated people. A Group Home living there. We do have an Ordinance on the books that was passes in 2014 that could be applied to this situation, although I don’t know if it would fit in there. The next item on the agenda is a Group Home Ordinance that the council can pass. It stands up to the Federal Housing Act Prohibition against Discriminating against people with disabilities. It only applies to homes where you would have convicted sex offenders or convicted felons living there. Do you all have any questions in particular?”  
**Councilwoman Vivian Olivier questioned**, “How do we know what kind of people they have living there? They say they are not drug addicts, it is just a home for people that are working and they need a place to live, that is not what it is.”  
**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated**, “In regard to the Fair Housing Act, if you have a home with people who are formally substance abusers but they are no longer abusing substance, they are considered people with disabilities and you can’t discriminate against them by passing an ordinance not allowing them to establish that home there. If you have people whom are currently substance abusing, they are not seen as people with disabilities. If you have people there who are convicted felons with a criminal record or a convicted sex offender, they are not listed as someone with a disability under the Federal Law, The Fair Housing Act. You can have an Ordinance in regards to that. The Ordinance that is placed before the council now, that can be introduced two weeks from today, does not violate the Federal Fair Housing Act which prevents you from passing a local law that discriminate against people with disabilities.”  
**Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated**, “So can they operate where they are right now?”  
**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated**, “If the Parish Government chooses to, they can file a lawsuit to apply the ordinance that is already on the books or this new ordinance to try to shut them down.”  
**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated**, “At the last meeting I taught, I could be wrong but I just want to understand, I taught the council had requested that we would not give any type of permit for any kind of home there. Basically we wanted it to be closed. In their process of trying to get a permit or trying to make us understand what they were developing there was a Group Home that was not even open yet and it was actually in full operation. Where are we with that? We are creating this Ordinance, I get that. Everything that was in operation before they came here for any type of permit or anything is still good to go?”  
**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated**, “It appears they don’t intend on applying for a permit. They do have people that are unrelated to each other living there at this time. It is up to the council whether or not they want to file a lawsuit to apply the Ordinance that is already on the books or this new ordinance that we are going to pass to try to shut them down.”  
**Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated**, “In other words, they don’t have to have a permit?”  
**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “Not at this time.”  
**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated**, “Mr. Garrett, I don’t understand how, if we pass an Ordinance, that you could stop something that is already in place. The same thing happen in Sunset a couple of years back, across the street. There was a place that opened up, you were not here, but the council probably remember, it was open up and then we came back and the Full Council so taught that we were passing an Ordinance to stop them from operating, but that still could not happen because we all were going to be filed a suit against us letting us know that we could not do it. So tell me how this place can open up without a permit, when this council, who suppose to be the acting body of the parish, they can still operate without a permit. I believe everybody that is opening up a business should have a permit. I am only saying, if something happens. Like I said before, about two years, in my district, we had people walking the streets around 12:00 o’clock at night. We don’t know what is going to happen. All I am saying is, if you have thirteen council members that wants to make sure that it is good for everybody living in St. Landry Parish, the least that could be done is make sure that these people have a permit. I know, at my house, if I am living in a place and somebody wants to open something..... and you know what is so bad, number one, we don’t have zoning. That is bad for the parish. I think that is something that we need to look at, zoning for the Parish.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “The way this ordinance reads is, if you are currently operating one of these homes or if you are going to open up one of these homes in the near future, you will have to go and get a permit from the Parish Government. That is the prohibition, if you have people living there, one or more, who is a convicted sex offender or a convicted felon, then they can’t operate there. It is up to the council to shut them down in that case.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “That is my reason why you should have a permit.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “I understand that. The Parish Government, if they choose to, they can file a lawsuit to shut these people down. You have an ordinance on the books and you will have another one on the books. It is up to the council to decide that.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Well the council have already spoke last month. We said you can not open without a permit. How do you tell us that they can work without a permit. So what are we here for?”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “I just want to understand, on the agenda, it is saying to discuss the investigation whether a half-way house was open. Was an investigation done?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes, we did an investigation. As per the council’s instruction from the last meeting. Mr. Lewis went out along with two deputies. They did an investigation as to what is going on at that residence. The only persons that was present were the owners of the property. We did a surprise inspection, that took place, everything was fine. I went out there Monday night this week. I meet with the Pastor and everybody there to get a better understanding of what they do over there. According to Pastor Jacob and Pastor Eugene, they are going to accept applications from people who want to be more into their Ministry Program. One of the things that I have looked at and Garrett and I discussed it was a half-way house, because they are leaving a drug rehab and they are going to another house. That is not true. According to Pastor Jacob, they are leaving the drug rehab center and they are going to work out in the community for six months, then they can apply to come into the house. The half-way house part of the deal does not apply according to what we looked at.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “A half-way house is before you finish your probation, the Judge orders you to live there for a while. That is what a half-way house is. In regards to a person who had substance abuse issues and they use to abuse substances, they are seen as having a disability in regard to the Fair Housing Act and you cannot discriminate against them by having a local law regarding that.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “The residents, even though they are not calling it a half-way house, they are not using it as a half-way house, they are using it almost like a RB&B to stay while they are working. My question, because the neighbors have concerns, is it any way that it can be a time limit or a restriction of how many people reside there?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “In regards to what Ms. Nancy is talking about, we did contract the Board of Health because of the sewer conditions. I know they have some kind of limit, but eight people in a house is not going against that because the house is large that it was made to hold a lot of people. That is not even a consideration.”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “In other words, what we are saying, they are not operating now? We don’t have anyone living there? If I remember correctly, when the people who lived in that area came before the council, they said there were guys actually living there. It stays on my mind the young man who came before this council and said he has five daughters and he had a concern because there was one of those guys in the back yard looking toward his home where his five daughters live. I had a concern for that. We are saying now those people does not really exist after that man came and said that they were there?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Whenever I went out to the location we asked that question. According to the owners of the property, they said, the only people that were there prior to this were members of their band and the church. They are not opening until November 20<sup>th</sup>. They only have one application in right now.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “Who will hold them accountable of the residence that will be staying there? Again, will we do an investigation or a pop up check? I know you are saying that we cannot discriminate on disabilities but what if they relapse?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “If you are a convicted sex offender or a convicted felon, the Federal Government does not see you as having a disability in regards to.....

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “No, I am meaning once they have moved in, taken resident and they relapse back into alcohol and drugs but they are contracted for 90 days or whatever the contract if far, will that fall back on us?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “If they relapse, I would think they would be removed from the house by the owners and they are no longer seen as having a disability if they relapse.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin questioned,** “So, we won’t be responsible for any of that?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “No.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “If we go back into our memory and we look at their presentation, it was all about these guys being rehabilitated, running for public office, sitting down as Engineers, becoming attorneys and today they are either going to become a Priest or a Minister. I really am concerned with the fact that they don’t have an occupational license or any type of permitting going on and no monitoring and their stories just don’t match. It makes no sense. They have changed the whole program to fit into exactly what they want to do. They came here, made a presentation about how great it was going to be and most of that comes back as none of it is real. So, I have a concern with that.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “This is my take on it. I told them that I would not live next to them. I was very truthful with them. I would not buy a house and move next to them, not saying that they are not doing a good deed, I just would not do it. I feel sorry for the people that are living next to them. Unfortunately, for us, we have to go with what is in black and white. I do not see anything in there where we can prohibit them from operating the way the ordinance is written. That is my opinion. It is up to you all on what you all want to do.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I understand where you are coming from. I am going to ask that one of those members that live in that neighborhood come up to the mic and speak. I know you all have some input on what is going on because we are not there 24/7. Please give us some input.”

**Mr. Tucker Lavergne, 203 East Lake Drive** addressed the council. He stated, “I live right across from this house that we are discussing. Regardless if they are in operation currently or not, I did not go into to check, I don’t know and they don’t have vehicles. They are all counting on Michel and Victoria to chauffeur them around. I can’t say if they are in there or not. The point is they plan to be in there very soon. The last meeting, one of the Councilman said their stories did not match. I was here when one of the members asked a direct question, I think it was you Mr. Red, you asked, do the resident have a drug problem. His answer was a flat no. I am not going to sit here and call him a liar, but the only way to get into that home is if you had a drug problem and you are very recent history. So, do they have a drug or alcohol problem or they an addict, currently when they walk into that house, I guess the answer is no that day but they were very recently, I think 12-18 months they have to go thru this program and then they come here as the next step. I don’t know the definition on line but half-way houses, when your half-way in the real world and half-way out. They are half-way out of the recovery program and half-way into the real world. If they were able to step into the real world without any help, they would go and do it. They are not capable of that at that time. I am all about giving people a second chance. I think what they are doing is a great thing, I would ask them to look at all of the vacate property right next to their church. It is nothing but open field right around their church. They are not hurting for funds obviously because they paid a pretty penny for this facility. Why somebody would want to come and sneak under all of your noses, mind too, being a neighbor, and try to come in and do this without anybody knowing. The only reason we found out is because people were trespassing on our property. I went knock on the door, they tried to do this without anyone knowing. The only reason you all know is because we came brought it forward. We all have young children, this facility is right next us. I know some of you came out and viewed the lay of the land. I can not stress how close this is. I can play catch with them. We all have young children, some unborn. My wife is recently pregnant. For me to raise these children next to this, bothers me to no end. If they are supremely successful, 99.9% successful, they are turning over 6-8 residence every six months, over a few years, if they are 99% successful, it will be one that relapses or break the rules. What do I do then? Put this on record, I will defend my family to the upmost as any of you all will. I know at some point, if I stay living there, there will come an instance that will not be pretty and it won’t be fun. When they break the rules, what do we do? Do I call 911 and wait for someone to come. When you relapse you are not in your right mind. They don’t have a vehicle to transport, what are they going to do, I am the closest house. They will come looking for drugs in my medicine cabinet or money to go get drugs. It is a home for only men, what about the addicts who were Porn addicts. They told me some maybe porn addicts that are here. There is no women there and these men are cooped up. We have our wives in the neighborhood. I understand that you have to go by the letter of the law, but believe me they have stated a different story to me and to you. Every time that someone gets a story, it is different. Now you are saying that there will be 6-8 members and they will be 18 months sober. They have told me 12 members, they will be coming out of this program and they will seek them out. Only a select few people they will seek out. Now they will receive applicants. You can’t apply if you are being sorted out is my point. Everywhere I look it is a different

story. Once again, there were multiple questions and I don't have it all written down, but from the last meeting when me and my neighbors were here to speak, the questions that you all asked and their answers did not match what they have told me. The Pastor told some of his congregation that they went and knocked on the doors and shook hands and everyone is okay with it. That is a flat out lie. None of my neighbors were aware of this. Why would we say okay and let's be friendly, no. I am all far helping people, but not in my back yard. I am pleading with you, it is a shame that I have to be here defending myself to try and raise my family in a safe place but there have to be a way that we can restrict this. There have to be regulations. There are laws for a reason. There is nothing to hold these people accountable. When they break the rules the first time and it is recorded. If you have three infraction, you will shut them down. Well there is no rules and regulations for this type of home because they stood up here and said we don't fit in your box. You have to fit it in your box. They said we are not a group home, we are not a half-way house, we are not a recovered home, we are not this, we are not that. I am not on the legal team, you are. You have to be able to put them in a box. Just because they said they don't fit something, it can't be that easy for them to say we don't need a permit. I don't believe that."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "According to Pastor Jacob, I asked a question about the name Tri-Part Care Group, He said only for the LLC portion so in case they get sued. I asked about the occupational license, he said they are not selling anything and it is not a business. Unless we can prove otherwise, I don't know what else we can do. I don't have a problem doing a surprise inspection but the problem is, that is private property. Unless we have some probable cause to go on people property, I am not going."

**Mr. Tucker Lavergne stated,** "I see in your faces that you understand me and you are with me. This is not the wild wild west anymore. This is 2021, there have to be some type of law ordinance. Section 24-33 Ordinance No. 2014-011 on the St. Landry Parish Municode Library. This is something that seems good to me."

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** "I think that is something that includes half-way houses."

**Mr. Tucker Lavergne stated,** "Is that the one that you said the freedom act does not apply to because it discriminatory?"

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** "Like you said, they will have to be able to fit into a box. Counties thru out the state have tried to do is pass local laws to regulate these group homes. What the Federal Government does with the Federal Laws, they block that because they have the fair housing act which say that a lot of these people are deemed to be disable because they have substance abuse issues and they are no longer using illegal substances. You can't pass local laws to do that. This is something that counties and parishes have always tried to do, pass these local laws and they have been blocked by the Federal Government, these federal laws trying to protect people that have disabilities, they deem people with substance abuse problems to be disabilities. If you have a half-way house which houses people with disabilities, they were using substances, they are no longer using substances and they are seen by the Federal Government as having disabilities and you can't pass a local law against then. That is the situation now. We want to help you. You could file a lawsuit, just file it to see what would happen, although it is not a good idea if it is a frivolous lawsuit. That is the situation as far as a local community trying to pass local laws and the feds come and block them with their laws."

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** "Mr. Lewis, Mr. Bellard advised us that you went to that house? Do they have some bunk beds in there?"

**Mr. Richard Lewis stated,** "There are 8 bunk beds."

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** "I was told there were some bunk beds in there by one of the neighbors. I just wanted to know if you have seen that."

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** "You said it is not a business, who feeds them."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "According to Pastor Jacob, Our Savior's Church will be taking care of them."

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** "It is still a business, a church is a business."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "Well maybe so but according to them, they will not be collecting any money from the people that will be staying there."

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** "That is just for them to stay there for nothing."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "The LLC is to protect them."

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** "I am like this gentlemen, if it's that good, why don't they have it next to the church?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I did ask that question, their answer to me was, if the neighbors want to buy then out, they would be more than happy to move by the Church and they want \$2,000,000.00.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “Do they have any restrictions in the neighborhood? Any homeowners restrictions.”

**Mr. Tucker Lavergne stated,** “They are not a part of our 16 acre homeowners association. The Church bought a 16 acre part and the neighbors bought the other 16 acres.”

**8. Group Home Ordinance.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-016 (Sponsored by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier.)**

**AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE INDIVIDUALS, A BUSINESS ENTITY, OR AN ORGANIZATION TO APPLY FOR AND OBTAIN A GROUP HOME PERMIT FROM ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT IF THEY OPERATE A GROUP HOME WITHIN ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA**

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “On the 2014 Ordinance, you all placed in there that you have to have a 75% approval from the resident that is living with-in 1000 feet. I would like to see that in there.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Yes we can add that into this ordinance.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “May I make another suggestion, we need to promulgate some sort of administrative rules on what we require. Like, we need to get a background check on each of the persons that are in this facility perhaps to see if they are sex offenders or criminals.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “In this Ordinance, Group Home is defined, because there is no legal definition of it, as a place where you have one of more convicted sex offenders or one or more convicted felons, so that way it does not come into conflict with the Feds and the Fair Housing Act. This Ordinance defines it as that so it does not come into conflict with the Feds.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I have a copy of the ordinance. Ms. Vivian will be the sponsor of this ordinance. You will add on the section that Mr. Bellard asked about, the 75% of the residence have to agree. This Ordinance will be introduced at the next full council meeting, Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.”

**9. Discuss any other business.**

None.

**10. Executive Session to discuss Opioid lawsuit.**

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to move into Executive Session to discuss the Opioid Lawsuit.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Oliver, Wayne Ardoin, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion carried.**

**11. Adjourn.**

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to adjourn the Administrative Finance Committee Meeting and go into Executive Meeting to discuss the Opioid Lawsuit.

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

**Motion carried.**

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