

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, 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. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation was said earlier in the meeting.
3. Roll Call: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier.
Ex. Officio Dexter Brown. ABSENT: None.
4. Persons to address the committee.
There was no one to address this committee.
5. Public Works Report:
 - a. Update on Adjudicated Property in the Parish.
Recording was started late but Parish President Jessie Bellard updated the council on Adjudicated property.
 - b. Update on Road Work throughout the Parish.
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We are still digging ditches across the parish. We got help from District 7. We are digging ditches on Hebert and other roads. We appreciate the help from the Drainage Board.”
 - c. Update on Phase 5 Smooth Ride Home.
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Smooth Ride Home is basically complete. We are just waiting for the final inspections to be completed. I received a text that a contractor had gone on someone’s property. We will check to see if everything is taken care of, but the roadwork is pretty much all done.”
Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Mr. Bellard, “Would you please give us the future plans as far as the completion of Collins Lane and St. Amand Road.”
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We did raise those roads up. The rain that we have been having has held things up. We will widen the top of Collins Lane a little more. Barry is getting more material and more Limestone to widen the road because when we pulled the road it came up to one lane or maybe a little more than a one lane, but he will widen up the road some more so it can be better. St. Amand Road, we still have to bring it up some more because water is still getting on top of that road.”
Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “So we are working on widening Collins Lane back to where it was?”
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct, yes.”
Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned, “Do you have any idea on how soon this is going to be done?”
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We are having trouble getting material right now. We cannot get any more rock. As far as gravel is concerned it is impossible, far ever reason we can get limestone and that is at a slow pace. As the material comes in, we are trying to put it on the road.”
Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “How long do you think it will take to complete Smooth Ride Home, Phase 5. I still have some roads that need some work done.”
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The Smooth Ride Home Project is basically complete as far as the roads being done, it is just a matter of going back to do the inspections and doing their samples. Once that is complete then we can look at some other roads. I don’t think they would want to do them in the winter time, but I will get with the Engineers and see what they say. If we can do more, we will do more as the money comes in.”
Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, “Do we have an 18 Wheeler with a Gravel Trailer?”
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We do but there is something wrong with the dump on the back. They can haul but they can’t spread.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, “Can they get gravel at a gravel pit?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Everything is on bid. In the absence of a bid, yes we can. We buy everything thru Acadiana Shell right now.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I use to haul gravel for 30 years and you could go to any gravel pit and buy gravel.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “With us, the Government, you have to go thru a bid process. With the absence of them not being able to supply the gravel puts us in a different category, so maybe we can. I can look into that.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Mr. Bellard, when the initial list was put together in 2014, there were a whole bunch of roads on the list. Each time they revised it, some of those roads were no longer on the list. Is it at some point where these roads that supposed to have been done will eventually get paved?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I think every road will be done at some point. For example, Beverly Road. We did Beverly Road because it cost so much money to maintain the road. Every year we would just dump money on a road that would lose the material. We paved that road to stop the bleeding. We are trying to look at it as an investment standpoint as well as stopping to spend a bunch of money with material. We have a lot of those roads in the parish right now that we are looking at doing. It is just that the tax comes in every month as you know and we are hoping to get to all of them as soon as possible, but yes, the list that you are talking about, at some point, they all will get done.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned, “How many years do we have left in the Smooth Ride Home, Is it 8 or 9 years?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It matures in 2029.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I know that you have mentioned earlier that you would try and get more construction work done before the first of the year. Are you saying now that the contractor is not going to do anything after the first of the year after this Phase 5 is done?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They will do what they can, they can not make any promises. The winter time is a tuff time to do roads. They will do whatever they can when they can. They won’t stop doing it, it just won’t be as fast as what we have hoped to be done.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “The roads that was discussed prior to that, will they be go into next year?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am hoping for the first quarter of next year we will start doing some more, like a Phase 6 Program.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to accept the Public Works Report.

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

Motion carried.

6. Forward all applications received 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 Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 17th, 2021** all applications received for two appointment for a one-year term to Fire District No. 7. (11-18-25021 – 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.

7. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments for a two-year term to Fire District No. 1. (12-20-2021 – 12-20-2023).

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 17th, 2021** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments for a two-year term to Fire District No. 1. (12-20-2021 – 12-20-2023).

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. Discuss Sewer and Storm Drain Project in the Royal Gardens Subdivision to possibly put as a Capital Outlay Project of \$645,000.00. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I asked Mr. Jarrell to do a study on the sewer drains in the Royal Gardens Subdivision. It would cost a lot of money. Mr. Jarrell came back with a figure of \$645,000.00. I am asking that this council contact the Legislative Body and see if it is not too late for us to ask for the money thru a Capital Outlay Project. It is like Mr. Bellard said earlier, there is a sewer district that was built right across the canal from Royal Gardens. These people are still paying a monthly fee to have their sewer taken care of, whereas there is a possibility that the city would take these people into that sewer district which is right across the canal. They would probably have to pay, but yet these people are tax payers. They not only have sewer drainage over there, but they have storm drains that was put in about 40 year years ago. Now the storm drains are caving in and it will cost a lot of money. I taught maybe that we could have gotten some of the Rescue Money, but Jessie don’t look like he wants to move off of it. We will have to go another route. I am asking that this council bring it in as a Capital Outlay Project.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I have submitted \$2,000,000.00 in Capital Outlay Drainage for 2022.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Could this be considered for other areas also? There are other areas where they have these sewerage companies charging people a rate and ever so often they are increasing the rates.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The \$2,000,000.00 that I have requested from the State was for drainage. It would take care of Royal Gardens because it is more of a drainage issue. When it comes to the Sewer Districts, that is a different ball game but I did request \$2,000,000.00 for drainage in our parish.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “You will give us a copy of that Mr. Bellard?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I would like for the committee to bring it to the full council so it could be ear marked for that project.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “They pay a monthly fee for the sewer or drainage that they have within their subdivision?”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “They have a Sewer District there. There were some people in Plaisance that had the sewer district at one time. It has changed hands about 4 times since I have been here. They have storm drains in that subdivision like the storm drains in the city of Opelousas, which is not sewer there, it is storm drains. It just takes in the water when it rains and it all drains to a lateral which boundaries right close to this sewer district. It is not connected. The sewer and the storm drains are not the same thing. Some people that move in are starting to connect. It is just that the engineer, when they find out about it, they try to alleviate that problem. I am asking that this council present it to the Legislature.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “It won’t have anything to do with Sewer?”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “No, it is just Storm Drains.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I remember very well, we had that discussion when they changed the rates on all these sewer systems.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “It is sort of like what Ms. Mildred is talking about. These people have it and the thing about it is these people are paying. When they go up on the fee, either you stay tied onto it or you are on your own. You will have to put a sewer plant.”

Councilman Coby Clavier questioned, “It is just storm or is it sewer and storm?”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Storm.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 17th, 2021** to authorize the Parish President to allocate \$645,000.00 from the \$2,000,000.00 Capital Outlay for Drainage 2022 Fund to repair the Storm Drains in the Royal Garden Subdivision. Parish President to present the council with a copy of the \$2,000,000.00 that was requested from the State, allocating \$645,000.00 that would be ear marked for the Royal Garden Subdivision.

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. Update on persons to address the council on blighted property demolition.
- Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “This should be in front of the full council. We sent out letters to them to come before the full council to show cause as why we should not clean up their property.
- Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “We will not take any action on this because it is automatically going to the full council for action to be taken whenever the discussion comes up in two weeks. Can we find out if everyone have received their letter?”
- Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “What we do, we send out the letters and ask them to come and show cause.”
- Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “At this point, we don’t know if anybody have responded.”
- Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Following that Blighted Building Ordinance, Sherell sent out four Certified Letters to the four people who have blighted buildings. All four certified letters came back. One of the constituents passed away, and the other three are alive and they were given November 17th, as the date to come here if they want to contest demolishing their blighted building. The four certified letters plus the Certificate of Mailing was recorded by Sherell with the Clerk of Court all in accordance with the ordinance. So far we are on track in compliance with the ordinance to take care of these blight buildings. It is scheduled for the full council meeting two weeks from today.
- Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Did the certified letters go out to the right place?”
- Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Yes, it has to go to the last known address. The tax assessor website is where you get addresses for property owners.”
- Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “My question was, was it mailed to the wrong place? We forwarded this since October.”
- Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “The original address came back stating no such address because those addresses did not exist. To go to the last known address it has to be an actual address. Sherell got the address from the tax assessor’s website and sent out certified letters. All the certified letters were accepted and received and came back signed. So they received their letters. One person has passed away and the other three are still alive and they were given November 17th as their day to show up here.”
- Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “My reason for asking, you told me that it was mailed to the wrong place. Apparently the first letter was mailed to the wrong place, so she got it right the next time.
- Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “She did, she got the correct last known address the second time.
- Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “That was the hold up.”
- Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,** “The first address that it was sent to was the address that was given to the council in the meeting. They did not have anyone living on that property. When we mailed out the letters to that property, that is why it came back undeliverable because no one lived there. It is an abandon property. I went on the Assessor’s sight and got the address and I mailed it to the mailing address that is listed on the Assessor’s sight and everyone received their letter. The first address was the one that stated in the recorded meeting.”
10. Discuss the possibility of widening Beck Miller Road. (Councilman Coby Clavier).
- Councilman Coby Clavier stated,** “Mr. Bellard, I really would like for us to consider looking at widening Beck Miller Road. It is highly traveled from 190 to 91. It is a very narrow road. It looks like a little room on each shoulder to widen it a foot or two on each side or one side. It is not a long road.”
- Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will ask Carl to go and look at it in the morning.
11. Discuss the proper procedure and laws for a dangerous dog in St. Landry Parish. (Councilman Coby Clavier.)
- Councilman Coby Clavier stated,** “There was this constituent that contacted me via e-mail. She actually lives in Ms. Vivian’s District. She brought to our attention a dog that is in our parish that is dangerous. It has already caused some accidents in another parish or two. It has attacked a kid and hurt a kid. Now this dog is in our parish. Mr. Garrett stated he has information on dangerous dogs in our parish and he is aware of it. I would like Mr. Garrett to speak about our ordinance or laws concerning dangerous dogs in our parish.
- Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “One of the things that I do for the District’s Attorney’s Office is handle dangerous dogs. If a dog bit someone and they report it to Law Enforcement, they take a picture of it and they produce a police report and gather evidence. They send the evidence to the district attorney’s office and they assign it to me. I file a Civil

Lawsuit to have the Judge declare the dog to be a dangerous dog. If the Judge declares the dog to be a dangerous dog, it has to be kept inside the house or inside of a fence. It has to be on a lease if it goes outside. It has to be registered and vaccinated. You will have to post signs where the dog is kept stating that it is a dangerous dog. If it happens again and the dog bites someone else, then you can file a lawsuit if you choose to, to have the dog declared a vicious dog. If the Judge declares it a vicious dog, then the dog has to be put to sleep.

Councilman Coby Clavier stated to Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain, “Can I send you the information that I have regarding this dog and you can see if it is registered in our parish or known to be a dangerous dog in St. Landry Parish.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Yes you can.”

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

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I know we started the Animal Ordinance, where do we stand with it. It does include information about vicious dogs?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They are still in the process of reviewing it. The one that we had was so large that it had too much stuff in it. Katie is working with our Animal Shelter to get it minimized and put in place. Once they can get together. She has been working a lot of cases lately but she is working with Terry.”

13. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly 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**