

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>st</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. Councilman Coby Clavier led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.
3. **Roll Call:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. Ex. Officio Dexter Brown. **ABSENT:** None

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry requested to amend the agenda to discuss the replacement for Mr. Charles Lafleur whom has passed away.***

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to amend the agenda to and an additional line item to discuss the replacement for Mr. Charles Lafleur from Fire District No. 3 whom has passed away.

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

**Motion carried.**

4. Persons to Address the Committee.  
There was no one to address the council.
5. Public Works Report:  
Parish President will provide the council with the bids on drains.  
Councilman Coby Clavier asked Parish President Jessie Bellard for assistance to widen Beck Miller Road.  
Councilman Jerry Red Jr. asked Parish President Jessie Bellard for assistance to grate and place material on Brenda Lane.

***Recording was started late in the meeting.***

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy 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. Update on debris pick up throughout the parish. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).  
**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned,** “Mr. Bellard, can you give us an update on the debris pick up throughout the parish.”  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “As of right now, FEMA is still holding back on giving us approval but DEQ is moving up and will go out and approve those burn sites. The debris was picked up in bulk last year. I will say it like this, the money make was picked up last year, the bigger stumps was left and we are having to pick that up. The contractor will lose money by going all the way to BEGGS. DEQ have to approve the burn site, so we will do it that way. We will pay it out of the Central Service Fund and hopefully get reimbursed by FEMA at a later date. That is all we can do right now.”  
**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned,** “So the process hasn’t begun yet?”  
**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The process have been ongoing. DEQ have to approve the burn sites. This is been a ride and a half. In the future, we do have contracts in place now. When it comes to debris removal, any event that takes place we won’t have to go thru any more processes and we won’t have anyone telling us what to do. We have the contracts ready to go. In an event that takes place, immediately the next day we can begin picking up.”
7. Discuss the status of the Broadband Grant for St. Landry Parish.  
(Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned Parish President Jessie Bellard regarding the status of the Broadband Grant for St. Landry Parish.

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Tomorrow morning I have a meeting in Crowley regarding this matter. As of now, we should find out this month if we are receiving the grant, that \$50,000,000.00 from the National Tel-a-Communications Grant. There are only four parishes that applied for it. St. Landry, Evangeline, Acadia and St. Tammy Parishes. We feel like we have the best plan out of them all. We will get some money out of the deal, exactly how much, I don’t know. We are in line to get some of that Gumbo Funding. I think we will be set pretty good within another year from now as far as a plan and actual implementation of Broadband in our Parish. Parish wide, not just in one region but the whole parish. I will have more information tomorrow after our meeting.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr.**, stated, “Now with the Broadband, I remember at the Regional 3 Meeting when they spoke and gave us an update, my main thing is, the people that will be doing the ground work to get it spread out all over the parish and they said the deadline was December 31<sup>st</sup>, do we have to get them in here before then?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “No, actually the \$50,000,000.00 Grant that we applied for has already been applied and we will have an answer in December. The Gumbo Grant is applied for by the actual contractor. We won’t apply on our behalf, they will apply for us. LUS is applying on our behalf, Allen Cable is applying and Starr Communications that is coming out of Marksville is coming down to the Melville area, Palmetto area and Acadian Broadband. AT&T, Charters and all the rest of those big companies automatically apply for anything that they can get their hands on. That will be a big dog fight that will not be easy. It is what it is, that is how it is set up.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr.**, questioned, “Could we have them all working all over the parish because we have dead areas all over the place?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “The way that the Gumbo Plan is designed is for the unserved and underserved. They use to be unserved was 25-3 and now the underserved is 120 which is a lot better than what we can ever imagine. If you are underserved, you have a better shot at getting better internet than what you will have inside the town. Most municipalities already have internet and some service. Even if they apply for it, we will be able to beat them on that category because a lot of the rural areas have none. I think we are in good shape either way it goes. After this round of Gumbo money, there is some more money that is coming around. Whatever we miss on these two grants, we will apply for something else that will fill in the gaps.”

8. Discuss adding a Three-Way stop sign at the corner of School Road and Summner Road. (Councilman Jerry Red Jr.)

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I placed this on the agenda. I spoke with Mr. Barry Soileau at Public Works. He called me and told me at the intersection of School Road and Summner Road it would be great if we could put a 3-way stop because of all the accidents and the speeders that travel on School Road. We put this on the agenda so we can start the process. We will have to do an Ordinance in order to do this. At the full council meeting it will be on the agenda.”

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** to introduce an Ordinance to place a 3-way stop sign at the corner of School Road and Summner Road.

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 two-year term to Fire District No. 1. (12-20-2021 – 12-20-2023).

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** all applications received for two appointment 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.**

10. Forward all applications received for five appointments for a three year term to the St. Landry Parish Economic Development (SLED). (01-01-2022 – 01-01-2025).  
A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** all applications received 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: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.  
**Motion forwarded.**

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain. He stated,** “If a person is resigning off of a SLED Board, it is suppose to come back to the council so the council can appoint someone else in their place. Is that correct?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “That is correct.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “I am looking at three names that are up for re-appointment. I don’t believe that anyone of them came thru this council for an appointment when the other people left off of the board.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “They are suppose to come before the council and the council can appoint an applicant.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “That is what I thought, Ms. Sherell, can you check that out for us and give us an update at the next full council meeting.”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,** “I definitely will.”

11. Discuss starting the procedure of abandoning Antoine Lane. Public Works Director has been notified and has photos. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).  
Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I have a road that is right off of Old Spanish Grant. It is a one lane road that goes in and it dead ends at an old house. There is no dwellings down that road. It is a one lane road that have cider trees on the right side and woods on the left side. Like I said, you go to a dead end and it ends up in a swamp. I was asked to try to get some material placed on that road so they could get thru the swamp, the low area. The lady that owns the property placed some posted signs. If nobody can go down this road which has not been work on in years, I have spoken to Joe Leger about it one week after I was notified about it. Joe said he remembers going down that road years ago. The road has not been touch. Barry, our Public Works Director went to take some pictures of it the other day, I am asking that we start the proceedings to abandon that road. It is not doing us any good to have it on file as a road, that way, no one can approach us to do any work on that road. It is just an abandoned area and people don’t live back there.”  
A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** to introduce an Ordinance to begin the proceedings to abandon Antoine Lane.  
On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.  
**Motion forwarded.**

12. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for a five-year term to the St. Landry Parish Agricultural Arena Authority. (01-18-2022 – 01-18-2027).  
A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** authorizing the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for a five year term to the St. Landry Parish Agricultural Arena Authority. (01-18-2022 – 01-18-2027).  
On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.  
**Motion forwarded.**

13. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for the remainder of a four year term expiring on 09-04-2022 to the East St. Landry Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1.  
A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, **December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** authorizing the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for the remainder of a

four year term expiring on 09-04-2022 to the East St. Landry Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

14. Discuss adding speed bumps on Wisdom Road between addresses starting with the 500 Block to HWY 190. (Chairman Dexter Brown).

**Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “I was approached by several individuals wanting me to start the process of adding speed bumps on Wisdom Road from the 500 block heading east and it makes a curb and it heads north going to HWY 190.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “I am just asking, we just recently did speed bumps in my area. I know you are supposed to get a petition to start the process. You have to get a partition before we can do anything in the council.”

**Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Yes, Garrett spoke to me regarding this matter and he has already started the paper work.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “The first thing that needs to be done, The Council Clerk have to send a survey to each household of a registered voter on that road and give them ten days to return the survey either for or against. After 15 days from when the survey was sent out, the clerk shall count the votes. If 75% or more are in favor of the speed bumps, then it is referred to the Public Works Director to give a written recommendation to the council. The public works director is in favor of the speed bumps, then a public hearing has to be held and notice have to be sent to all of the registered voters on that road as to the date and time of the public hearing. The first responders in that area have to be notified, also the sheriff and the local fire department in that area. The surveys are sent out. If 75% of the registered voters are in favor, then it is referred to Public Works. If Public Works is in favor, then a Public Hearing has to be held where people can have an opportunity to come before the council and give their opinion on the speed bumps. If all of those things are done, then the ordinance can be passed adding that as one of the streets with speed bumps in St. Landry Parish.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Garrett, I know we amended that ordinance so the law enforcement and emergency vehicles don’t have to approve it right?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Right, it is not dependent on approval by the first responders, they just simply give their opinion and the council considers their opinion but the council does not have to follow their opinion of the emergency first responders.”

**No Action taken.**

15. **Public Notice for Crestview:** The project is a New Construction family-oriented development with a Community Facility and Supportive Services. There will be 40 New Construction Townhomes. Crestview will have 4 - one bedroom/one bathroom, 20 – two bedrooms/two bathrooms and 16 - three bedrooms/two bathroom units. The owner is competing for 9% Tax credits provided by Louisiana Housing Corporation.

**Councilman Coby Clavier** questioned Legal Counsel if any action was required for this Public Notice for Crestview?

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “If any action is required it will need to be forwarded to the full council meeting. The action that the council will take is once the project is presented by the engineer they can reject or approve this new construction. I am not sure of what point in the process it is at right now but if the council wants to take action they can forward it to the full council meeting two weeks from today.”

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, **December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** authorizing a Public Notice for Crestview: A New Construction family-oriented development with a Community Facility and Supportive Services. There will be 40 New Construction Townhomes. Crestview will have 4 - one bedroom/one bathroom, 20 – two bedrooms/two bathrooms and 16 - three bedrooms/two bathroom units. The owner is competing for 9% Tax credits provided by Louisiana Housing Corporation.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

**16. Fire District No. 3.**

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “At this time I would like to take the opportunity to inform this committee that Mr. Charles Lafleur, who served on Fire District No. 3 Board, starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, passed away on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. His son is asking to serve the remainder of his dad’s term. His term expires in January 2024. His son’s name is Gregory Wayne Lafleur. I would appreciate it if we would allow him the opportunity to replace his dad.”

**Councilman Coby Clavier stated,** “Mr. Duplechain, in this certain situation, we can just approve this guy wanting to take his daddy place, it doesn’t have to be advertised?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “I think the council have to advertise the opening and then choose the best applicant. His son may be an applicant, the council can take that into consideration. Everyone have to be given a fair chance to be on that board.”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “I taught that in the past when it is a family member requesting and there were no conflict of interest, this committee have in the past approved some persons to replace others. I don’t think that it is fair to do it for some and not the others.”

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** “I had the same situation. You all voted that down to give somebody else a chance just like Mr. Duplechain said.”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “It is not the same situation. If I remember correctly Mr. Stelly, it was your son-in-law that you wanted. I think when they checked with Ethics they said it was a conflict of interest. This man wants to replace his dad.”

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** “A conflict of interest, my son-in-law is not. By law he is not. You all voted that down.”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “It is not about trying to pay back for what someone did. It is about doing what is the right thing.”

**Councilman Coby Clavier stated,** “I just want to bring back the point that our Legal Counsel just stated, I think we need to follow what he just told us the procedure is. I think that is in our best interest.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Eventually it will need to be advertised. The son maybe an applicant and the council can take that into consideration.”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “So, we can do it for some and not for the others. I did not go back into the records but I remember some who came before this council to replace a family member and they were allowed to do so. We just did not do it for your son-in-law Mr. Stelly. I will find it out and I will bring it back.”

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly for forward to Regular meeting held on **Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one seat for the remainder of a two year term to Fire District No. 3.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “Mr. Bellard, you and I spoke this week about the Shooting Range. I know you told me that you spoke to Mr. Boudreaux about the signs. I wanted to know if we can make a Resolution if he does not provide a sign or can we can provide a no trespassing sign or some kind of sign saying that it is closed.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We can’t go on private property and put up a sign. The place is closed and he instructed me that he was going to do what he had to do by blocking the gates but we can’t go on private property and put up a sign.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “That is fine, I was just asking a question. The second thing I would like to discuss is, Choupique Road off of HWY 31, since we spoke about abandoning roads and I never brought it back to you, it has been a while and I want to know if you ever checked into it. There are several houses there. It seems to be abandon and nobody knows why. There are at least 10 homes on that road. Could you check to see if you could get it operating again? The people are having to cut thru another subdivision.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “She has it written down and we will ask about it tomorrow.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “Mr. President, on that shooting range situation, is there any way we can get them to get a dozer and level the dirt or sand or whatever it is. Request that in a letter to them to prevent people from going there and continually using

that facility. Just at least a letter to them, I know we can't do it but can we request a letter to them."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "The council took action on that by Resolution. At that time Mandy was acting president and she sent them a letter. Nothing after that took place. The closed it down. Again, it is their property. That will be up to Garrett if we can do that. I think we may have to go to court to do something like that. We just can't go and do that unless they agree to it."

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** "Just a letter of safety request. I know we can't do it personally, I get that. The Parish Government cannot go there and tear it down. I understand that. But just sending a letter. I remember so well the people right down the road, across the field from there, they were shooting at their house, they were breaking windows. Can we at least send a letter of request? They don't have to honor the letter but at least we will let them know that there is a very big concern and a safety issue there."

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** "Yes, we can always send a letter."

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** "It would seem to me that the preamble of the constitution of the United States, State of Louisiana and our Home Rule Charter says that it is a duty, an obligation of Government to provide for the Health, Safety and Welfare of its Citizens. When we have a shooting range that has already been brought to our attention that we have had serious issues by our sheriff and we ordered it to be closed, we would have the right to put a sign on anybody's property that affects the health, safety and welfare of the citizens. Mr. Bellard can we get our Legal Counsel to weigh in on this?"

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** "I think the last time that this came up we had a meeting with the Sheriff. Probably the first thing we would do is send a letter and the second thing is, we would have a meeting with the Chief of Port Barre P.D. and the Sheriff. That would be the initial step and that would probably take care of the problem. I think that is probably where we would start at. I think we started step one and we don't go to step two unless we have to."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "That was my point. There was never a step two and it was never ordered to be shut down by this council. The minutes reflect differently than that. I think what it came down to, you all had a meeting with the association and they decided that they would keep it closed. It stayed at that level and nothing went further than that. At this point, you all have to take some kind of action if you all want to take some kind of action to move forward."

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** "Since I brought this up, I am not trying to force or make somebody do something but I am going to trust that Mr. Boudreaux spoke to you and said that he was going to provide some safety measures. I am willing to wait to see if he is going to do that. He also said at the meeting that he was going to put up a fence, if you all remember. I am willing to give it some time. I was just asking to reinforce that, if we could provide a sign. I got a phone call a few weeks ago because people were shooting. It was in my district and part of Gil's district and they were shooting and these houses were getting hit. If we could wait about a week or two or they would put something up for safety measures, I am good because the public will know that it is not in operation. Other than that, I think maybe we could come back if they don't do it and then we could move forward with trying to get legal action."

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** "I would do like last time, schedule a meeting with the Sheriff. I went to the Sheriff's office and attended that meeting. Is Opelousas Police Department not running that place?"

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** "It is the Association, it is not the Police Department. It was never them. It was always the association."

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** "I remember going to the Sheriff's Department and attending that meeting. That seem to produce results unless they continued firing the guns and I did not know anything about it."

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** "Well they did not know about it, they are not at fault 100% because they did not know that somebody was still occupying and going there to shoot with no supervision. The problem is, that person did not know because that was nothing to say that it was closed."

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** "The Sheriff's Department is one of the Executive Arms of the Government. I would schedule a meeting there if a letter does not do it. That seem to produce results last time. It should be a collaborative effort between

the Sheriff and the Council and the President, all of them together. It is private property. We all need to move together on it.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “I spoke to the Sheriff, he is familiar with this situation. I think what Mr. Lejeune have recommended is to send a letter and I think that it is a good idea. He said that we need to send a letter. He said he can’t get involved unless.....”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “When you talk about private property Unilateral Action is really not the way to go. It needs to be a Collaborative Effort with the Sheriff, the Police Department, the Council, the Parish President and the Government because it is private property.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I will get back with them Mr. Chairman.”

17. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.  
None.

18. 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**