

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022 @ 6:00 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 20th, day of April, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. Chairwoman Vivian Olivier called the meeting of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
- II. Councilman Timmy Lejeune led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.

III. ROLL CALL:

Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. Ex Officio Vivian Olivier. **ABSENT:** None.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin Requested to Amend the Agenda.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to amend the Agenda to:

- Introduce Ordinance 2022-008, the Revised Group Home Ordinance
- Authorize Ms. Melba Primo to replace Mr. Larry Primo whom as resigned at Constable in District 11.
- Go Over Resolution 009-2022, this Resolution is in reference to the Larry Primo for Shannon Ortego Bernard to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Primo.
- Change item #5 on the Agenda. Authorization of a Preliminary & Final approval of Godchaux Subdivision. Our Engineers has a prior meeting, he is expressing to move item 5 of the agenda to item. #1 on the agenda.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

IV. CONDOLENCES:

Councilman Jerry Red Jr.: Dolores Ann Charles Batiste, Nalva Guillory, Gerald Collins, Paul Bryan Edwards, Susan Elaine Savoy, Gerald Joseph Jackson, Reggie Winbush.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere: Thelma Mae Brown-Davis, Paul Bryan Edwards, Mary Lena Tyler, Susan Elaine Savoy, Mary Lynn Tyler, Rosemary Richard, Joseph Nathan Davis, Matthew Fuselier, Reggie Winbush, Sidney ‘Trudy’ Clark Sr., Lois Guidry, Mary Louise ‘Lois’ Charles, Leola Pitre Bellard, Mary Verlia Lewis, Albert Mayon Sr.

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry: Michael Wayne Goodley, Clarence ‘Pop’ Collins, Sidney ‘Trudy’ Clark Sr., Wilton Hunt Jr., William Dudley ‘W.D.’ Fontenot Jr., Loretta Vidrine Roberie, Paul ‘T-Paul’ Dupre, Mary Emma ‘Maw Maw’ Lee Plumber, Jalen Ethen Hill, Florida Lee Brown, Elnora Sam Esprit, Junius Lee Kennerson, Frederick Frank, Myrtle Marie Green, Susan Elaine Savoy, Paul Bryan Edwards, Thelma Mae Brown-Davis, Dolores Ann Charles Batiste.

Councilman Alvin Stelly: Ms. Joe Portier, Jeanette O. LaPorte.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin: Michael Cormier, Jane Robin Solar, Norma Jane Landry Moran, Michael Adolphe Stelly Sr., Julie Guilbeau Comeaux, Mary Hazel (Godeaux) Carriere, Leon James Arnaud, Harold Lejeune, Thelma ‘Chic’ Labbe Manuel, Jason Charles Borne, Violet Burleigh Cushman, Grace Speyrer Smith, Johnnie Joyce Reeves.

Councilman Dexter Brown: Florida Lee Brown, Nalva Guillory

V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:

District Attorney Chad Pitre addressed the council. He stated, “Thank you Madam Chair, Councilmembers, I am Chad Pitre, District Attorney, St. Landry Parish. I will be very brief. I

am here to introduce to you Mr. Kevin Ardoin who is the Executive Director of the Acadian Crime Lab. Along with Mr. Ardoin is Mr. Chester Cedars, St. Martin Parish President. They will briefly discuss the plan for a new Crime Lab in New Iberia. We are not asking for you to take any action here tonight, we are just here to update you and tell you the needs of the facility and the importance of the facility. The Acadian Crime Lab serves not just St. Landry Parish, but it serves eight parishes here in Acadiana. We are one of eight. This facility is essential to prosecuting serious violent criminals. It is essential it is very important. Without it we would not be able to keep our Citizens safe. They handle the evidence for the rapes, the murders, the drug cases and many others. They also testify in court, they certify the evidence, they analyze the evidence and it is an essential part of the Criminal Justice System. The DA's Office depends on this facility and all law enforcement in the parish depends on this facility, the Sheriff, the Marshall, all the Municipalities and the State Police, We all utilize this facility in New Iberia. They not only analyze key evidence in these crimes but they also testify in court. For example, last Holy Thursday, right next door in the court house, their Analogist, their Criminologist testified and helped us to get a conviction on a second degree murder of a man who killed, stabbed and burned his wife. We could have not done that without these wonderful technicians and criminologist at the Acadia Crime Lab. It is in an essential part, most folks don't know a lot about it, they are always flying under the radar. With that being said, I would like to introduce Mr. Ardoin or Mr. Cedars at this time."

Mr. Kevin Ardoin addressed the council. He stated, "Good evening to everyone. My name is Kevin Ardoin and I am the Lab Director with Acadian Crime Lab. I really do appreciate your time. I know that you all are very busy and you all have a lot on the agenda so I appreciate you listening to what we have to say today. Thank you to Mr. Chad Pitre for getting us here. One thing I want to add, we do serve eight parishes. Our Governing Commission is made up of twenty-one members. There are eight Sheriffs from those eight parishes, Four District Attorney's and eight Parish Government Representatives. Sheriff Bobby Guidroz, DA, Chad Pitre and of course Jessie Bellard who is allowing us to be here tonight are three of the members on that twenty-one person commission, again we serve you. Our current facility is what I am here to talk about. The major need to update and improve the facility and the capital outlay project that we are currently in, I will update you on that as well. We are located in New Iberia. 5004 W. Admiral Doyle Drive. That is our location in New Iberia Louisiana. We have a metal building that comprises our building. We moved into this building in 1989, at the time it was about 4000 square feet. It was an oilfield rental type company so we retrofit this building to be a crime lab which can be very challenging and it can be problematic when you are retrofitting something you will always make concessions on how you operate. For example, our lounge is made up of an area where we take in evidence, whether it is blood evidence or drug evidence. Next door is a table where we eat and a kitchen where we prepare food. We have a lot of issues like that and that is problematic. The main issue that we have with it is the condition of the facility. We do have a metal roof that we try to do an acrylic coding and do some maintenance on it because this metal roof is over thirty year old. Rusting is still showing thru. We have a lot of leaks, a lot of issues and a lot of problems with it. I have a major concern if we did get a Hurricane Laura or Hurricane Ida to hit us directly, head on, it may be severely compromised or even blown off. I do have severe concerns for it. We take in 6000 cases a year from the eight parishes and we house that. We have a lot of specialized equipment, so of it cost \$100,000.00 apiece. We have had leaks on some of this equipment. I do have severe concerns. We have some h-vac issues, some other humidity issues that we have as well as flooding that our lavatory did sustain back in 2016 and almost again back in 2019 and we still have concerns that maybe will happen going forward. As far as our Capital Outlay Program and where were are at in it, we currently have \$2,000,000,000.00 in Priority 1 Funds and \$2,000,000,000.00 Priority 5 Funds. Those funds are mainly working towards the planning of a new lab. We are contracted with Architect Design Studio, a local firm in New Iberia. We also have consultant expert call Crime of Design that is assisting the local firm. We are well into the planning and we hope to complete the planning by the end of the year. Right now we are hoping for construction funds thru Capital Outlay, that is ongoing, of course our challenge will be to match. I just wanted to give you all an update on where we are at and the extreme need for a new lab and for a new facility. The new facility will really increase the efficiency and the effect in which we can do our work and the flow. It can also increase staff to try to address the rising cases that we continue to have in our eight parish areas. We believe this is an important project and a very important venture. We serve law enforcement in these eight parishes, ultimately we also serve the victims of this community in trying to get to the truth, whether to exonerate or to find guilt. That is what our purpose is.

Again we appreciate your support. Mr. Chester Cedars who is the President of St. Martin Parish Council is also President of my commission for the crime lab. He is here to also speak on behalf of the crime lab.”

Mr. Chester Cedars addressed the council. “He stated, “Thank you Kevin. First off I see Mr. Ardoin and Mr. Taylor, we are not going to talk about water okay, just the crime lab. I think that Chad and Kevin said it all. The Acadian Crime Lab which serves eight parishes in our area, the Acadian area is a critical component of the criminal justice system. When we talk about our crime lab, the first thing that comes to mind is that it is a functional entity used for criminal investigation and criminal prosecution. It does more than that, more people believe it or not are exonerated as suspects from crime thru the work of the crime lab than people are implicated. Suspects are arrested, people of interest quote-unquote become suspects in a crime and evidence is accumulated and submitted to the crime lab. Sometimes the work of the Chemist and the Biologist in the crime lab exonerate people as frequently as they implicate them. It is a critical component. It is very essential. What is happening now is our area both population wise and based on the age of the facility is outdated, that is just a fact. Work needs to be done because we have to make sure that the lab stays accredited, number one, the National Accreditation Committee that Governs Crime Labs. Secondly, we have to make sure that they become effective and efficient in the processing of evidence. The longer somebody sits in jail before they go to court, the tougher it is on everyone, on that individual who maybe sitting in a jail cell, the prosecution, the victims of the family, so the quicker you can get evidence into process it and get the case ready for trial or to exonerate or it maybe somebody that may not be guilty of the offence. The quicker you can get all of this done, the better justice that you will have. The quicker we can get people out of jail or get them to DOC Custody so that we, the local governing authority aren’t paying that cost. It is just a process, the major capital project to update our crime lab is a process. The first step we have to take is to educate the public. That is why we are going to all of our parishes and explaining to them exactly what the crime lab is and what it does, what it can do and what it ought to do. I frequently say this in a lot of the appearances that I make, we are sort of operating our criminal justice system, especially from the crime lab perspective, in the year 2022 with a 1950 model. We really need to get this thing up to date. So some of you may be wondering why is the Parish President here, well I am also a retired prosecutor, I have prosecuted for over 20 years. I know a little bit about both angles, I know it from the Parish Government prospective as well from the Prosecutorial perspective. Thank you all for the opportunity. I know you all have a real busy agenda.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned Parish President Chester Cedars. He stated, “Exactly what do you need, what support do you need from us?”

Parish President Chester Cedars stated, “Right now what we want to do is just import to you the information relative to the crime lab. At some point we may come and request a resolution of support for our Capital Outlay Project. We want to go ahead and just crystalize all the issues. We taught the best thing to do is come and introduce ourselves. We will be coming back with a little bit more details, a little bit of more information. Tomorrow we are meeting with representatives from Senator John Kennedy’s Office. Just to let them tour the facility but we will come back to talk to you all again.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “To all the speakers that are in the audience, each speaker will have at least five minutes to speak on any particular topic at hand that is on the agenda. I would like each speaker to refrain from using any type of vulgar, obsessive, abusive or offensive language whenever the come up to speak. If that occurs we will ask that you be removed from the meeting. Please adhere to it. Thank you all very much.”

Mr. Charles Cravins addressed the council. He stated, “Thank you Madam Chairman and good evening to all of you. I will take about thirty seconds to acknowledge the work that the Acadiana Crime Lab does. As they come back and address you, I would like for you all to pay close attention to what they do. Everybody knows how important DNA is today, well there would not be DNA processed for these prosecutions and to exonerate people as Mr. Cedars said if it was not for the crime lab, so I just ask you all to pay close attention when they come. Of course you all know that is not my primary purpose for being her tonight. My primary purpose for being here tonight is to talk about the monument that is on the Northeast corner of the courthouse square. When I first came here I told you all several things. I told you that I come here out of a spirit of love. I just want to expound on that just a little bit. Some people might say, why don’t we just get along, just go along to get along. Certainly getting along is our ultimate goal. Really, it is more than getting along that is our ultimate goal, it is for us to truly love and respect each other and treat each other with dignity. As I said the last time I was

here, we can't have that kind of understanding unless we see each other as equal. We treat everyone with dignity. The first time I was here, I told you all that I was not thinking about spending public money to move that statue but I have to take that back. When I think about dignity, first of all I thought someone was going to come and claim it and I did not want it so I just wanted to get it off the Courthouse Square. I certainly taught that the people who want to preserve it would have been willing to pay for that. Right now it does not appear that way. I mentioned dignity, if it cost \$15,000.00 to move this monument that is going to be about fifty cents for every African American resident of this parish. We spend money on a lot of things. I would think that the price of dignity is above fifty cents per person. We have come a long way in this parish. Someone ask me last time I was here, why now? One of the reasons for why now, I have to say that the person who asked me that, when I first talked to him about this monument, they said I pass by it every day and it has got to go. We understand that I would have brought it up but I just did not want to open up a can of worms. One of the reasons for why now is because many of us sitting here, the people that have come before you, Judge Vanessa Harris, all of these folks, all of the Opelousas City Council, all of those members that come here last week, the Mayor, the Chief of Police, their parents could not come here. We are here because our parents could not come here. Even those courageous people like Joshua Pete and Marion White who would have come forward, did not expect to be successful, but we came here believing that we are going to be successful, as a matter of fact, your fellow councilmember think so much of you that I spoke to one African American Councilmember before I came here and that person told me the vote will be unanimous to remove that monument. That is how much they believed in you all. Now they might have been wrong but they believed in you, they believed that you believed in equality. Another thing I said that day was that, this is not about destroying history, our history is our history. Nobody here is at fault for putting that monument there, but remember we talked about sins of commission and sins of omission. To leave that there would be to not do what you can do today, to not do what you can do today to uphold the dignity of all the citizens of St. Landry Parish. Thank you all."

Mr. Lincoln J. Savoie addressed the council. He stated, "Madam Chairman, Councilpersons, my name is Lincoln Savoie and I am a United States Retiree, 22 years of Active Federal Service, a Korean and Vietnam Veteran. I come here tonight hopefully with a resolution to give to you to set aside the situation with this monument. We have got 5500 Veterans in this parish, those are the figures from the Veterans Administration. I would venture to say as past state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I know in this parish we have got an access of 50% who are Combat Veterans. During any war from the Civil War to the present time, we have asked Civilians to help us with information. I for one know for a fact that the information in Korean Vietnam helped us win the war with the information provided by these Civilians, yet, I see know no statue, I see no letters of anything posted any place recognizing our Civilians who helped our people win these wars. I have a suggestion to the council, I am asking you to consider this, set aside the resolution 007 that you are going to vote on tonight, set it aside on a temporary basis, go out into your jurisdiction and find a post where Veterans meet and talk to the Combat Veterans and ascertain from them if in fact the information that they received in cooperation with the local residence and civilians if that was not an asset in making that successful job completed, dating back from the civil war to the present time, you see people here in uniforms, they rely on information from their constituents in St. Landry Parish. Therefore it is nothing new. Once you have satisfied the needs that you have gone to a VA, a Veterans Post and ask them the question about their cooperation from the civilians. I suspect that you are going to come back with sufficient information in dedicating one plate on that statue to allow the St. Landry Parish Veterans honor guard and the Combat Veterans to re-message that plate. The message would be, in honor of all civilians who assisted the military while involved in securing safety in America and abroad during periods of unrest simply put. The Citizens of St. Landry Parish remain grateful. I suspect very strongly after you have talked to a Combat Veteran you will have realized that the Civilians should be recognized and they can be recognized. All of this could be put to rest if you would have a resolution that would allow the veterans of this Parish to re-message that particular plate. Thank you very much. Congratulations. See you on Memorial Day."

Mr. John A. Lamke addressed the council. He stated, "Madam Chairman, Councilmembers, ladies and gentlemen my name is John Lamke. I have done many things in this parish for many years now. I find the timing of this, I taught we were all getting along, our parish was moving forward, our city is moving forward, things are happening. For this statue to now be used as a wedge or something to say that it is coming between us, it is causing trouble among our people, the statue has been sitting there for 120 years as I understand. As I

remember in history the civil war started because the south wanted to succeed from the north because they did not agree with all of the constitution and stuff and yes, slavery was drug into it I understand that, slavery is something that goes back to the beginning of time. Even during the civil war, there were wealthy families of color that had slaves. I don't believe slavery is a good thing, I never did. I am not prejudice in any way, in fact Mr. Charles Cravins, I have known his family for a very long time and I count them as some of my best friends. My question is this, if we are going to move this statue, where does it stop? If you go into the Myrtle Grove Cemetery, there are civil war soldiers buried in that cemetery. What are we going to do with them? Are we going to leave them? Are we going to dig them up and place them somewhere else? Already north of Myrtle Grove there is a Jewish Cemetery where the Jews were buried. They had a large population of Jewish people at one time in the parish. Were they not good enough to be buried in the grave with the whites? I don't know the reasoning for that and I can't say. I think we are mixing some issues and looking at some things that we just really don't need to make issues out of and we will get along and we can get along, we do. That is all I wanted to bring out so you can keep some of that in mind if you decide how you are going to vote on this. If we move it, where does it stop? Where are we going to put it? I thank you for your time."

Mr. Robert Voitier addressed the council. He stated, "I understand that I have five minutes, I don't like that. The issues that we are dealing with take a lot longer than that. First thing I want to say is I want to call an executive session, whoever needs to do that, I want to ask you all to call for an executive session tonight, how about it?"

Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated, "No Sir, we are not going to do that."

Mr. Robert Voitier questioned, "Why?"

Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated, "I don't have to give you a reason. We are just not going to do it."

Mr. Robert Voitier stated, "Well that is kind of keeping with the monument stuff."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Madam Chairman, Point of Order. Mr. Duplechain would you address the reasons why we have to go into executive session where he is off base tonight."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "If we have to discuss the job performance of an employee or if we had to discuss legal strategy for a lawsuit we would go into executive session. But this evening, I don't think we have any of those issues which would allow us to go into executive session. The law is very clear on that, executive session is very specific. We can't do it anytime we want to because it is an open meeting. So the meeting has to be open to the public unless there is a specific reason which would allow us. We have to be allowed to go into executive session by the law."

Mr. Robert Voitier stated, "Madam Chairman, I sent you an e-mail and I tried to call you twice yesterday. Did you get those messages?"

Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated, "Yes, I got them. But I told you that we were not going to go into executive session. You needed to fill out a slip and you had five minutes to talk."

Mr. Robert Voitier stated, "I believe Mr. Duplechain said something about a lawsuit, right Garrett? I don't know what the exact verbiage is. I am drafting a partition. A partition is a lawsuit for a Declaratory Judgement on the issue of ownership. Nobody knows who owns that thing. The things that were said here were opinions but they are not facts. So we need to get a judgement on that and I am going to ask for one. I am also going to ask for an Injunction to leave the monument, don't move, don't modify it in any way. Pursuant to that, I will ask for a temporary restraining order to shut all of this baloney down because we are in a twilight zone. We got people before this discussion even got even started, there were council members and there is no need to name them, telling me, Oh no Bro, that thing has got to go and I am not changing my mind. You can do that. I don't think it is right and I asked a question why and I was told because it is the right thing to do with no explanation. Essentially, what you are doing is exercising the powers of your office arbitrarily in your saying you are going to vote a certain way and I say why and the answer is because I can. I don't like that. Now the deal is here like the council, you have councilmembers, you have constituents that is like me. We have a bunch of land up in the north part of the parish, so I am a constituent and I believe that it was Mr. Dexter Brown last time that explained he takes this job seriously, I do what my constituents want. I represent my constituents' interest. My council member knows my wishes but he says he will vote in the opposite way. The only reason I can see, and I asked for an explanation, is that because he wants to. That is what he wants to do. That is not his job. His job is to do what his constituents want to do. If he is going to do what he wants to do and not what I want

him to do, he may have a conflict of interest and they order recuse himself from the vote. That is something to think about. What Mr. Cravins said, love, love of what? He did not say that, what it was. Equality, everybody in here is equal. I don't think anybody in here that does not see that. Dignity, Ancestors thoughts, whatever these dead people were thinking some time ago, that is all a bunch of high line stuff but what I really think that was and I may be wrong, it was just old stinky political speech, that's all that was. I have so much more to say. That is why I don't like this five minute deal. I am going to ask for more time because I have things to say. By your rules, you are preventing me from saying them and I don't like it and I think that is wrong."

Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated, "There is a lot of things I don't like, but we have to do it."

Mr. George Gremillion addressed the council. He stated, "Good evening everybody. Here in South Louisiana we respect our elders, we take care of them and we are with them for the rest of their lives. When our elders pass away we honor them and how do we honor them we bury them. We give them tombstones, we give them grave markers. A lot of time you all have passed by a cemetery and you will see families paying homage and praying for their loved ones who have gone on in life. Over fifty thousand men served Louisiana during the War Between the States. They went and fought in battle across the United States. Many of them were killed in battlefields and they were buried in mass graves. Ten minutes south of here is a confederate mass grave marker for our boys from Texas. Up in Shiloh Tennessee Battlefield Park there is a mass grave of Confederate Soldiers. Those guys do not have headstones, they do not have grave markers and their families do not know where they are buried. The wives, the daughters and the sisters have put together their funds and their effort and they constructed this monument down town right here to honor or have a place for them to go to say thanks to remember their loved one because they are never going to see them again. There is one example of a Soldier out of Avoyelles Parish, I can't recall his name, but he was killed in 1864 in the Battle of Wilderness. His body was shipped back to Avoyelles Parish but he was lost in transit. His parents were waiting for his body to come home but he never made it. They have no headstone. If you read the inscription on this monument, it says in loving memory. In loving memory. When all you guys in the audience, councilmembers, you go out and see your parents and your grandparents' headstones there, you can go and remember them. There are a lot of families who cannot say that. That is why this monument is here. It is a memorial, it is to our war dead. I thank you for your time."

Ms. Melanie Doucet addressed the council. He stated, "Good evening. I want to address a couple of abandon properties on the street that I live. I spoke to Ms. Nancy at great length and she did ask me to present photos of the problems that reoccurring. I don't know who I need to give them to. (*Photos were handed to the council*) The first property has been abandon for ten years, the second property has been abandon for five-six years. The second property, the owner comes and cut the grass once a week during the summer but if you look at the pictures the front of the house is completely falling off. You can start to see the interior wall. We don't know what else to do to get these properties seen about.

Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, "What district are these properties are in?"

Ms. Melanie Doucet stated, "District 2. This would be on Gulino Street on the Washington Highway.

Parish President Jessie Bellard questioned, "What is the address?"

Ms. Melanie Doucet stated, "The first property is 120 Gulino Street.

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "Did you get in contact with our Parish President and Mr. Richard Lewis?"

Ms. Melanie Doucet stated, "Yes, we have been. This has been going on for years and years.

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "That is basically what we do. Our Parish President, Mr. Bellard is trying to get your attention, could you give him all three addresses.

Ms. Melanie Doucet stated, "The first property is located on 120 Gulino Street. The second property is located on 163 Gulino and the third property is located on 171 Gulino Street."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Madam Chair, I will take care of that. I will get the pictures from Ms. Doucet."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "The Parish President said he will take care of those three properties for you and we will be getting in contact with you."

Ms. Charisse Guidry addressed the council. She stated, "Good evening council, I am not going to take much of your time. I know this has been a lengthy process but I am here to address the monument issue. Sir, that was dignity, I just want to applaud him for speaking up. It got kind heated and emotional but that is what dignity is. We will have people that will vote

for it and we will have somebody for defacing it and we have people for removal. Everybody has their opinion. Tonight I would like to offer a suggestion that is to me would be the fairest thing to do and that would be to initiate a Referendum and have it in November. Take it to the ballot and let everyone speak their own mind. Bring it to the Parish, a Referendum. I am sure you all are all aware but I proposes to initiate that movement and everybody will have their say and we won't have to worry about which councilmember is doing what and who think that they are lying. We don't need any more drama in this parish, we have had enough. I am very active politically with the school bonds that were out of control and I don't want this to turn into something like that. Coming together as a community I think that is the fairest thing that we can do.

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "I think this woman has a good point if we bring it in front of the voters. Let the voters decide what they want to do with the monument. Nobody will have to throw us under the bus for the way that we are going to vote. That is what is going to happen with this. The council will be thrown underneath the bus."

Ms. Charisse Guidry stated, "I think so and I see that is where it is going. I am conservative but I can respect everyone's opinion with dignity. This is not about hate. We are in 2022 and I really do not feel in my heart that people are still hashing this out, I just don't. The hate is not there. I have many friends from all different cultures and they have different opinions. This is not a color issue, it is an honor issue but I want to keep the hate out of this because that is enough. It needs to stop. So let the voters in the parish speak. That is my suggestion."

Mr. Don Leger addressed the council. He stated, "Madam Chairman, members of the council thank you for three minutes. First thing, I would like to express my opinion about a Referendum, no, I don't remember a Referendum to put the thing up there so I don't see why we need one if we are going to remove it. It is in your hands what to do in your front yard. I would ask that the council, whatever they decide to do, they would do something now. Make a decision tonight to do something instead of having it at another meeting and come back to talk more about it. I would that we could end it right now and tonight. I am surprised at the number of well-educated people who don't seem to have a grasp of history. You can call it the war of northern aggression, you can call it the war of the state, the civil war, you can call it what you want. Look back at the facts, the southern states succeeded from the union. They tried to break the union that is what we hold dear today. They lost, they lost miserably and they were defeated. That war is over. Their complaints are long gone. The idea that we are doing something to dishonor Veterans, I think is blurring the picture unnecessarily. With all due respect Mr. Lincoln, I have a lot of respect for you and the organizations that you are with but I think that you will agree, every Veteran that we honor out at the memorial, that is someone that died, gave up their blood and their life for their country, that is not the people that were fighting against their country, was it? There is a distinction here. We are not talking about memorial. You call it whatever you want. I just wish that the council would come to a decision tonight and do something about it."

Mr. Tommy Dejean addressed the council. He stated, "Thank you all very much for your time. I will flip this thing over about what to do tonight. I got a copy of the Charter. I am not so sure that we even know who owns the monument. I don't think that you can remove the monument by resolution, right Garrett, I think you have to do it by Ordinance. If you look at 2-10, it says, an act of a council having to enforce the law shall be by ordinance. An act requiring an ordinance shall include but not limited to those in which. Number 10 says, dispose of any immovable property owned by the parish as getting rid of land. Number 11 says, convey, whatever that means, or lease or authorize the conveyance or lease of any land or property of the parish government, so it requires and ordinance. I don't know, when you all get rid of equipment, don't you all have to do that by ordinance. Am I right? Well this is what this says. Just keep that in mind, a resolution is an opinion, it is not a force. It does not give you any legal right to do something. It is just an opinion. I don't know if it is a recommendation to Jessie Bellard to do it, I don't know, that have not been investigated. My first argument is exactly what this lady said, this should be coming to a public vote. Let me tell you why. You all ran three years ago or two years ago, you all did not run on this issue because it was not an issue to run on. It will be an issue when you run again, no matter what you do today. Whether you want to keep it, dispose of it or whatever. You will run on it for those who will run for reelection. It will be the prime issue in your campaign. But we are in between the elections. You did not run on this issue, Wayne I voted for you based on the roads, drainage, economic development and the airport. That is what we all voted for you for, we did not vote for you to make this decision, not unless we had a say in your election. This is aggravating both sides of the isle on this thing. The only thing that I can say is look at St.

Landry now. That is the only pole that you can look at and the comments of the people who want to vote on this. You have parish wide propositions all the time, you just had one for the School Board Tax. This is not something that you cannot do. You can have a parish wide proposition. You can put it on the November Ballot. You have the Federal Elections, Congress, Senate, Municipal Elections, Mayor and School Board. Unlike the school board tax, you will have a big turnout, which is a fair thing to do in November. You have to have that proposition to the Secretary of State on June 22. You have four meetings to this, you have a Committee Meeting in May where you can have Garrett draft a proposed proposal, may be some counter proposals. You can look at them on the May Committee meeting. You have a Regular Meeting in May, you can hash it out some more, you have a June 1 Committee Meeting and you have a June 15 Regular Meeting. You have four meetings to come up with a proposition by June 22. That way, everybody gets to vote for it and everybody gets a say unlike what we have right now. It is not your fault but I would super surprised if someone would say raise they hand and say, you know what, when I ran, my goal was to keep the monument or my goal was to remove the monument and the public have not had a chance to vote for you based on that feelings, we just don't have it, we are in between. You go up for re-election in 2023. We need a proposal today and you can do it. By the way if there is a run off and there will be in December the dead line to put the proposal is in October, don't ask me why it is so far ahead, that is what the clerk tells me. You all have plenty of time to come up with a proposal. A fair proposal, a proposal that is fair to the public and let them vote on it. That would be the fair thing. Someone needs to make a motion. Again I want to caution you about this resolution, I don't think a resolution gets you anywhere with removing that monument. That is my opinion. Thank you for your time."

Ms. Lena Charles addressed the council. She stated, "Good evening Madam Chair, Councilmen and Councilwoman. I think this is the third month this has been on your agenda. It is time for you to take the responsibility and make a decision. I have supported decisions that you have made in the past because I believe that you are taking the best interest of the Parish. I am a chairperson of a lot of different organizations and we are moving St. Landry Parish forward from the cultural side to the economic side. This is an offensive situation that needs to be put to rest. Any progressive parish or city has taken this action that you are about to vote on tonight, Lafayette, Shreveport and all around in the State of Louisiana as well as in the nation have made these hard decisions. This is a small parish but we went to be a progressive parish. We have all of these folks that have talked before and at the meeting before was talking about their ancestral heritage and how they felt good about what it represents. This is not what this monument represent. It represents a division, it represent the worst of the worst of us at the worst of time. The last time I stood before you, not last meeting, but the meeting of last month was to remind you that the war was about slavery. It was economic as well but it was slavery. My ancestors are the reason I can stand before you can attest to that. There is no monument to talk about the suffering of what they went thru and how they came thru. We are one parish, we are not going back and asking you to resurrect any or put a monument, we are just talking about how it is an offensive thing when you look at the referendum that you talked about here today to put for a vote. There are some sins of the parish that you would not want to bring up from a referendum of a vote. Parish Council voted for the Sun-Down Laws. That was after slavery to continue to hold African Americans in slavery. They could not own anything nor could they walk the streets. You don't want to go back, we want to go forward. Guess what, it is not on the Federal Books and it is not on the laws of the land, it was a law of St. Landry Parish voted by the parish Police Jury. You have authority, you have the permission by the vote of confidence that people voted you in those position. You have all the votes that you need and all the positions that have gone before you whether they were good decisions or bad decisions, they took that authority and I rely upon your authority tonight to make the right decision. You why, because we know better now, we can do better. That is what I am about in working with St. Landry Parish and all the things that we are involved in, and I know you are as well. We know better and it is time for us to do better. To keep delaying this keep dividing the folks and putting all situations offer side and jeopardizing the good quality of life that I am really trying to promote for St. Landry Parish. Thank you so much, I appreciate the time."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "I want to say a few words. I believe in what you are saying but I have to agree with Ms. Guidry and Mr. Dejean. We will be running next year. Lets' say I vote yes, all of those people that say, you should not have voted yes, is going to vote against me. If I vote no, all of those people that is going to be just the opposite. So why not give that to the whole parish and let them vote on it and lets' be finish with it."

Ms. Lena Charles stated, “Dragging it out is not a solution. They elected you to make a decision.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “This is throwing the council underneath the bus.”

Councilman Coby Clavier stated, “Point of order Madam Chair.”

Ms. Lena Charles stated, “Thank you Ms. Vivian, you all have a good night. Appreciate you all.”

Ms. Shala F. Buller was called to address the council. Before Ms. Buller spoke,

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Ms. Vivian this is not going to be in your district. It is kind of a unique situation. I don’t know if Jacob is here or if he left. They will be submitting a subdivision for approval or to start the process. Before they can get to that point, they have a 600 feet piece of property from where the road starts and where their property starts. It is a right-of-way now. In order for them to purchase the right-of-way the land owners that are allowing them to have the right of way to get to the 60 acres in the back, they want to know if we will give them a variance on that road from the state highway to what is going to be a parish road after it is completed. It is just an initial step. I think it will be 30 feet because that is all they have, there is no other way to get to their property in the back, that is the only piece of property that they can purchase and the people won’t let them purchase it until they are assured that will give them their variance on that piece of road.”

Ms. Shala F. Buller stated, “Because we are land-locked. We do have a 20 foot right-of-way for utilities that are already into effect by SLEMCO but the road, they won’t even consider letting us buy it unless we have a definite amount that we could get 30 feet rather than 60 feet because they said they don’t want give up that frontage. We don’t want to sue anyone.”

Councilman Coby Clavier questioned, “Who owns that property where we are talking about to access your property?”

Ms. Shala F. Buller stated, “It is privately owned.”

Councilman Coby Clavier stated, “The people that own that land are they okay with giving access to the land that you are proposing?”

Ms. Shala F. Buller stated, “We did have a right-of-way at one point but then he change his mind. We have two other routes that we can get to that property, but we have to buy that property and neither one of them wants to give 60 feet.”

Councilman Coby Clavier stated, “I am just asking because I own 9 acres. The only way that I can get to my 9 acres is drive on a private drive. My parish road stops before my property. But, we have an agreement between the three property owners that we maintain it so I can access to my property. That is why I was asking.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Clavier, the only thing that is different with this is because it is going to be subdivision and our Ordinance requires for them to have a black top road to do it. From point A to point B is where we have an issue at and it is not owned by Ms. Buller and her family right now. If we give the variance then she can make a black top road on her own property but it will only be 30 feet wide. It is not going to be the 60 feet wide like we have in our ordinance. Without that happening there is no way for them to get the subdivisions built in the back.

Ms. Shala F. Buller stated, “It will be eight homes. It is some of our friends and family. We are already in contract and we have no option. We have to buy it. We did our Environmental Test, we check for land level to make sure that nothing floods. Once we build we won’t flood anyone else either. Now we have no option, we have to buy it but we need a right of way passage. We were told that we could sue for one but we don’t want to do that. We understand that is their property and they don’t want to give it up but if we could get a 30 foot passage.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Here is another issue. We will have a Parish Road in the back, we will have the same thing like we had on Anointing Drive and like we had in District 9 where people have to bring their trash to the road and we will have an issue. If we allow a variance, I think it will alleviate the problem and we will be able to have a parish road from the front all the way to the back. They can have public access and the trash collectors can go back there and everybody can have service back there so they won’t have to bring their trash to the road.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I will ask that this come to our next **Public Works Meeting** and have Mr. Jarrel or whoever she has hired as the Engineering Firm so we can get with them and see where we can go with this item. We don’t want another Coteau De-Fleur or anything like that. We want to be fair with this lady but we want to be fair with the other family that is involved and the people that are going to buy the property. If they have to bring their garbage to the road like we have on Coteau De-Fleur, it is not a pretty sight. We just

want to be fair to the people. I am going to ask that it be brought up at our next Public Works Meeting in May.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “That easement of 30 feet that you currently have...”

Ms. Shala Buller stated, “We don’t have it, we are trying to purchase it.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “You are trying to purchase it, so you have zero easement to that property at that location?”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Madam Chairman, A point of order please. We are in the public comment section. We are not in an official meeting until it is on the agenda. If you will get with Mr. Bellard, he will tell you when the next committee meeting is and the committee will be sitting right here and you can make your presentation. They will ask questions and they will take a position on it and send it up to full council. Lets’ do that, we need the engineer on this to advise us on some stuff. Thank you.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “We don’t need to take action on this matter. We will add this item for discussion at our next **Committee Meeting dated May 4th, 2022.**”

Mr. Robert Voitier addressed the council. He stated, “There is an issue I want to raise. It is nothing to do with the monument. There is a lady who is a Doctor, she came before the city council, this might get pointed to the city, maybe it is not a parish issue, but I think what she is doing is, she is seeing patients and scheduling them for abortions in another parish. I am not sure about that but I am going to be sure before I say anything else. You know this monument, the civil war, Jim Crow, Lynching, blah, blah, I did some research from 1882.

Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “Mr. Voitier, we will have to go on with this meeting, where are you going with this?”

Mr. Robert Voitier stated, “Well ma’am, I am raising an issue.

Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “But you are going back to the statue. You have already had five minutes on the statue now we.....”

Mr. Robert Voitier stated, “Ma’am, I am trying to calm down okay.

Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “You are trying to calm down, I am trying to calm down too.”

Mr. Robert Voitier stated, “Well good, that’s a good thing. Sometimes there are times when getting stirred up is a good thing as long as you don’t stay that way. My point is, I did some research. Louisiana Right to Life. Ben Clapper has a state wide thing. I think since 2012 that woman who has an office on Union Street, right across from Ivan’s Key Shop, either committed or facilitated 15,000 abortions. If that is not an issue of the public, I don’t know if Opelousas has 15,000 people in it anymore. That is some bad stuff that is going on in this parish and that is why I am bringing it before the parish council. I want it to stop.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “It is in the city.”

Mr. Robert Voitier stated, “Yes, that is what I was told. So what does that mean it is in the City?”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “You go to the City Council Meetings. That is for the City.”

Mr. Robert Voitier stated, “Okay, how about the Airport? It is in the City to I think. Enough for that so if the council votes and says go to the city, I will go to the city and if the council wants to take it up and do something about it, I think it would be great but if you want to point to the city, I am fine with that.

Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “I think you ought to go to the city.”

Mr. Robert Voitier stated, “That is what I don’t understand. This Referendum thing that is a way out for all of you all.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Point of Order. Please speak on the subject you were supposed to speak on Mr. Speaker.”

Mr. Robert Voitier stated, “Well, there is this thing the first amendment. Any way I am saying.....what am I saying?”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Madam Chairman, please let’s move on with the meeting. Mr. Voitier, out of all due respect to you, please let us move on with our meeting. We have a long agenda and you had your time to speak. So please let’s move on.”

Mr. Robert Voitier stated, “With all due respect Mr. Councilman, I have one minute and eight seconds left. I am tired of this. The way it works, you folks are public servants.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Let him have a seat please.”

Mr. Joseph Tyler addressed the council. He stated, “Madam Chairman, Councilman, Councilwoman how are you all doing this afternoon. I was brought here because they brought up the subject of my home being demolished and stuff. They said that if I could not get it done they would do something to redeem or whatever. I am in the process of getting it torn down. I

have a door stop in my way which is a water leak in the front of my house in the street. I have been after the city for several months to try to fix it so I can get in there because the yard is really saturated and no one can get in there with equipment to get the job done. That is the door stop of where I am with it. It is not that I don't want to tear it down, I am trying to get it torn down but I have been behind them to try to get it fixed and I am getting the same answer, they are behind schedule and they don't know when they can get to me so they can fix that leak so I can get in there to do my job."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "Mr. Tyler, could you get with Mr. Richard Lewis. He is our man that goes around. He is with Code Enforcement. Maybe you all can come to an agreement and he can contact the city to see about when they can repair the water line and offer you a little more time."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned "Do you all know anything about this?"

Mr. Joseph Tyler stated, "The only thing that is holding me up, I have been behind the city for several months. The leak is in the street. I am in the parish but I have city water. I talked to the people at the city, I went to see the Mayor. I am getting the same answer from them. I have been talking to the water department, the people that do the water works and the people that fix the streets. I have a work order there and that is all they keep telling me, they are putting a work order in but when they can get to me, they cannot tell me that. I can't turn the water off, it is a leak on their side. It is a pipe that is burst in the street that they have to dig up and fix."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Thirty days, would that be enough time to get that taken care of?"

Mr. Joseph Tyler stated, "It would have to be up to the city because it is their job to fix the line."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, "How long have this been going on?"

Mr. Joseph Tyler stated, "It has been going on for a while like several months, better than six months. I just got the letter about a week or so ago."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Madam Chairman, "Mr. Tyler could you please tell us your address."

Mr. Joseph Tyler stated, "1620 Gladys Street."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Mr. Tyler is one of the six individuals with the Blighted Property that the parish decided to go forward with. Three people got their Certified Letters. One of them is here tonight which is Mr. Tyler. The other three people are going to get their letters for the May Full Council Meeting. We have three of them tonight and they we will have three in May. We sent out Certified Letters, three of them did not come back but we do have three who are here for the blighted property. The council will need to vote to go forward with condemning the property and then removing the building. But we have three of them for tonight."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I have a problem with that. What I would like to know is, if the city is at fault of not allowing him to get to his property to remove that structure then how is it that we demand that he does it immediately because as we all know there are leaks all over the city. If it is saturating his yard and he can't get in with equipment, then maybe he needs to come with evidence that he did report that to the city and he is waiting on the city."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "That is the decision of the council."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "If you all don't mind we can give him more time. I will get with the Mayor in the morning because I have to get with him on some other issues and we will try to get this resolved. I don't think that it is fair, like Mr. Lejeune said, to require somebody to do something whenever they physically can't. I am definitely in favor of just giving him more time and we can look at it and get a better assessment on it."

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to have the Parish President update the council at the **next Committee Meeting** held on **Wednesday, May 4th, 2022** on the meeting with the Mayor regarding the water leak on the Blighted Property located at 1620 Gladys Street, belonging to Mr. Joseph Tyler.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown

to approve **the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 16th, 2022** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to approve the **Special Meeting Minutes from March 29th, 2022** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

VII. PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- **Update on Adjudicated Property in the Parish.**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The Adjudicated Property, we are opening bids on May 5th, 2022, 6:00 p.m. down stairs in the courthouse suite 34. We will have those bids and we will bring them to the council with the list at the Regular Council Meeting in May."

- **Update on the Public Works Report**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We are bidding out Raiders Road and Grant Road for overlay in those two areas. That will be coming up in the next couple of months. We should have all of that in place pretty soon."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, "Do you have any other roads coming up besides that?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Not on bid but we have other stuff that we are doing by the dollar store."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Another thing is an update on the Precincts. I know you all met last Thursday. Sherell, did you give them my list of what was given to us yesterday, those 99 precincts? I think the only one that was left off was the Opelousas Junior High Precincts. Did that get taken care of do you know?"

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "That is in my District. I have a problem with that. Our Demographer, he works for us, he is not supposed to take anything out if the council is not in favor of it. He took that out of my District and I told him to put it back in."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I don't think it is even on the list right now if I am not mistaken."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "That goes in District 1 and I just want to make sure that he puts it back in District 1. I spoke to Councilman Dexter Brown. I made sure that the Demographer put it back."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I just wanted to get an update on that. I just want to make sure that we don't lose the ball or we don't drop the ball any kind of way down the line so that way this year on the November Election we are back to the way that we were before. Where everybody having their precincts in place. I think we were at 92, they dropped down to 53 now we are back up to 99 precincts. I just want to make sure we don't wait for the last minute and make something not happen."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Mr. Hefner and I have been speaking. I also have a precinct that I am adding to mine that I am going to have split because I have too many voters at that one particular place. He and I will be finding a polling place and we will get back to you on that. I also lost some but I want to maintain. I had 8 but I have gone down to 5."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I would like to make sure that we have a plan in place for the May Meeting so we can be done once and for all and then move forward. I don't want to miss the deadline for the November Election."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "If I am in order, I am going to ask that Ms. Sherell to contact Mr. Hefner to set up a date and have another meeting like we had last week so that we can finalize this list that was given to us tonight. So get a date with him and we set it up any way if it is done during the day or after our Public Works Meeting or our Committee Meeting."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Is everybody else District fine?"

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "There is a problem with my District. I have one of my polling place with two precincts that were left out and give to another district but I did speak with Mr. Hefner today and told him of the errors. I found two errors on the list that he

provided that did not match with what the council had and what I had. He said we will get it straight but mine is not correct either.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Ardoin, do you mind amending your motion to where he comes to the next Finance Committee or Public Works.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I have no problem with that. We want him in the evening but we want to make sure that he has an open date. First of all we have to talk with him. That is my motion that we get with him when he comes back.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “I spoke to Mr. Hefner and Mr. Red today. Our Districts butt up to each other. We will fix my variance to try to get it as close to 5% as possible.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I have a question, since this will affect the School Board Members also, shouldn’t they have the opportunity to sit on this final plan that we are getting ready to do?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I think they are welcome to come to the meeting whenever it is set but the final say rest with the council.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “So it is not necessary that they be a part of this?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I think they need to be a part of it but I think for the most part they have been. At the same time we keep on pushing the ball down the road and I don’t want this November to come around and we have the same problem that we had the last election.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I totally agree with you, I don’t mean to push it down but I was just asking that whenever we address this again, would it be in order to have them be here because this involve them as well.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We can invite them to come to the next meeting.”

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to invite Mr. Mike Hefner and Members of the St. Landry Parish School Board to our next Committee **Meeting held on Wednesday May 4th, 2022.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The next thing that I have is the Blighted Property. Mr. Duplechain, did you discuss the Blighted Property. I was outside. I wanted to make sure that I don’t miss it.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Yes, Certified Letters were sent out. Eltra Jordan received hers, Michael Brocato signed for his and Joseph Tyler was just here so he has obviously signed for it. We have three that did not come back yet. Ruby Thomas, Sue Ellen Vidrine and Matthew Steen II. I think the motion by the council was to set all 6 for the May Meeting. According to our Ordinance, the three that did not come back will receive Regular Mail for a full council meeting in May We should be able to get everything on board for our May full council meeting with the six Blighted Properties.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “I would like to get an update on the property on McNeese Street. Mr. Lewis had mentioned that the lady was going to clean it. I understand that she has not cleaned it. Are we going to be sending her a letter now?”

Mr. Richard Lewis was not clear on the mic.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We gave people time. If they don’t use the time wisely, then we will go ahead and do what needs to be done.”

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to accept the Parish Presidents Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

***Items passed through committee.**

1. Discuss the removal of the Confederate Monument and what its replacement will be.
Councilman Coby Clavier stated, “Based on all of the comments here tonight and based on a lot of comment I have read on line I feel you all would agree that has taken enough of our time discussing the statue that has been there for 100 years. Why don’t we just sent this to the Fall Election, that is my motion to send this to the Fall Election and let the whole Parish that are registered voters vote on this. It gets it off of our back and we don’t have any consequences coming from our election. I think that would be the smartest thing to do and let the whole Parish vote on this and we will be done with it and lets finish talking about this tonight please. We have spent enough time on it. That is my motion.”
Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I second his motion.”
No action Taken.
Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I believe that we were put in order to make a difference for the people that put us in office. I believe that we need to make our own decision. If you don’t get put back in the seat, you don’t need to be there. I would like to make a Sub-Motion that we adopt this Resolution if we can, because I have asked you this in the Committee Meeting and you told me that we could do a Resolution. Now do we have to do a Resolution or does it have to be an Ordinance?”
Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I believe it can be done by Resolution. If an Ordinance is needed, one could be drafted and introduced but we have never used Ordinances before to convey trucks or land or adjudicated property or anything else, so why would it be any different for the monument?”
Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “So you said, you believe, now do you believe or do you know? I am curious. Because whatever decision that we make, I want to make sure that we are making the right decision. We are not going on head knowledge, we are going on what we know. So do we need an Ordinance or can we use this resolution?”
Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “If the council wants to be absolutely certain we can draft an ordinance and pass it. We have never used an Ordinance before to convey property. This would be the first time.”
Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “My reason for saying this, when we checked in the courthouse there is no documents showing anything about this monument. Zero.”
Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “There is no documents showing who owns it. It was donated to the parish and it was erected on the parish property and it has been there for 102 years. If anyone wanting to come forward to present evidence that they own it that would be fine, but no one is doing it. That would have nothing to do as to whether or not the Parish Government decides to let it remain or to move it from the Courthouse Grounds.”
Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “This would be my Substitute Motion that we go with this Resolution if I can get a second. If we don’t have a second....”
Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, “I will second it.”
Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Could you read the Sub-Motion please?”
Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “The Sub-Motion is to vote on the Resolution that is already on the agenda.”
Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “To discuss, that is all you have?”
Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “We were discussing but Coby made a motion to vote on it with the people and Mr. Red made a Sub-motion to vote on the Resolution that is on the agenda.”
Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “And the Resolution read, read the resolution, I think Mr. Taylor asked you to read the resolution. What is the resolution?”
Council Clerk Sherell Jordan read the Resolution from the agenda.
Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “My question now, Mr. Bellard, who will pay for the removal if this Resolution passes?”
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “As of right now we have nobody that has come forward to pay for anything. It will be at the expense of the Government I believe. I also have nobody that gave us a price yet on what the cost will be. I met with somebody today and it will take him a few day to give me a price. Nobody wants to touch it. That is the bottom line.”
Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “If you have the authorization to remove it, who owns it? If the parish owns it and the Sons of the Confederate Veterans have a location to place this monument, then would you give it to them?”
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Here is my problem. Number one, the question has come about as to who owns the monument. Our attorney is telling us that we own it. So if somebody wants it, I still have to come back to the council to give or to whatever donate

that piece of property. Same thing with the Pick-up Trucks. We donated one to Palmetto, anyhow it is a movable piece of property I still had to come to the council because I am not selling it we are donating it, so I still have to come back to the council to donate the statue to whoever wants it. I can remove it but what am I going to do with it?" If you all want to donate it to a specific organization, I say do it now so it can be done with if that is what you all wishes are. If you all just say remove it, I don't want to spend \$15-\$20 thousand dollars to remove it and park it somewhere and have to spend some more money to do it again. That is my only issue."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I would like to add to both of these or I don't know how it would be legally done but if we are going to give it to someone I would surely like it to be to the Confederate Veterans.

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I agree, I can add that in my motion."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Either or. If it goes to the ballot and it would be wishes of the parish to leave it or remove it. If it is to be removed then it would be donated to them and removed to locate wherever they have property."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "The Resolution is to remove it and donate it to the Daughters of the Confederates."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Well it would be to the sons of the Confederate Veterans."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "If you don't mind Mr. Red, add both of them, the Daughters of the Confederate Veterans and the Sons of the Confederate Veterans."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "If you want to do that we can add that too. Either the Sons or the Daughters of the Confederates."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Bellard, if you remove it, where are you going to put it until they come and pick it up?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I would like not to have to do it twice."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "It is sort of like a wedding cake. The more you move it, it will be broken. That is what I am concerned about also."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "So the motion you all want to pass tonight is to remove it and give to the Sons or the Daughters and at that point we will remove it at one time or donate it."

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, "Will we be removing it out of the Parish or will it be anywhere in the Parish?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It won't be on Parish Property."

Councilman Coby Clavier stated, "That is all unknown, a Sub-Motion is on the Floor to vote."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Article 7 section 14 of the Louisiana Constitution allows the Parish Council to donate it for a Public Purpose. If it is donated to the Sons of the Confederacy or the Daughters of the Confederacy it would be for a Public Purpose. I don't know where they would put it but that is the Clause in the Constitution that allows the Parish to donate it."

Councilman Coby Clavier stated, "We are voting on a Sub-Motion made by Mr. Jerry Red. I had a motion on the floor but we will vote on the Sub-Motion first. That is what we were doing."

A Sub-Motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to **Adopt Resolution 007-2022** and donate it to the Sons or the Daughters of the Confederates.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the Confederate monument in the Northeast corner of the St. Landry Parish District Courthouse square, which was erected and dedicated on February 22, 1920 by the Louisiana Division U.D.C. and the Gordon Chapter U.D.C., shall be removed from the St. Landry Parish District Courthouse square.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that St. Landry Parish President Jessie Bellard is hereby authorized to proceed with the removal of the Confederate monument from the Northeast corner of the St. Landry Parish District Courthouse square.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. NAYS: Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

The Sub-Motion has now become the Main Motion.

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to **Adopt Resolution 007-2022** and donate it to the Sons or the Daughters of the Confederates.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the Confederate monument in the Northeast corner of the St. Landry Parish District Courthouse square, which was erected and dedicated on February 22, 1920 by the Louisiana Division U.D.C. and the Gordon Chapter U.D.C., shall be removed from the St. Landry Parish District Courthouse square.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that St. Landry Parish President Jessie Bellard is hereby authorized to proceed with the removal of the Confederate monument from the Northeast corner of the St. Landry Parish District Courthouse square.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards.

NAYS: Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

2. Vote to appoint one appointment to the South St. Landry Community Library District for the remainder of a five year term set to expire 04-01-2024. Applicants are: Shaterral Johnson and Bruce Beebe.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., to appoint Shaterral Johnson to the South St. Landry Community Library District for the remainder of a five year term set to expire on 04-01-2024.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

The votes were as follows

Councilman Jerry Red Jr.	Shaterral Johnson
Councilwoman Nancy Carriere	Shaterral Johnson
Councilman Easton Shelvin	Shaterral Johnson
Councilwoman Mildred Thierry	Shaterral Johnson
Councilman Harold Taylor	Bruce Beebe
Councilman Gil Savoy	Shaterral Johnson
Councilman Alvin Stelly	Bruce Beebe
Councilman Wayne Ardoin	Bruce Beebe
Councilman Dexter Brown	Shaterral Johnson
Councilman Timmy Lejeune	Bruce Beebe
Councilman Jimmie Edwards	Shaterral Johnson
Councilman Coby Clavier	Bruce Beebe

3. Authorize to delay the Occupational License for Ms. Asterta Espree and extend permission for them to operate for another 30 days.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize the delay of the Occupational License for Ms. Asterta Espree and extend permission for them to operate for an additional 30 days.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

4. Discuss pricing for a Fire Proof Safe to store Council Meeting Minutes. Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have to tear down the old storage building behind Community Action. It is rotted and full of Termites so we are going to tear that building down. My plan is to build another building in its place to store files. In that facility we can do a Fire Proof Section for the records and whatever else that needs to be secured instead of spending money on a safe. We can just build a building and make that fire proof in a certain

section. In that section only the keys will be given to the council clerks for them to have access to their records.”

No Action taken.

5. Authorize the Preliminary & Final Approval of Godchaux Subdivision Lots 1A, 1B and 1-8 located off Courtableau & Mouille Roads, Port Barre, LA 70577.
A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., to authorize the Preliminary and Final Approval of Godchaux Subdivision Lots 1A, 1B and 1-8 located off Courtableau & Mouille Roads, Port Barre, LA 70577.
On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.
6. Update on cost of replacing windows at the St. Landry Parish Courthouse.
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “On the Courthouse windows it is out for bid right now. We should have that back in a couple of weeks. I am not sure what the cost is going to be but it will be less than what we anticipated hopefully because we will keep the frames in place and just take the window inserts out and do the bronze like we have on these windows here. The Bronze Aluminum to cover the old and have bronze window frames to match this building and match the old Post Office across the street. It is out on Bid right now.”
Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, “What about any interior repairs?”
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We are hoping once that is done everything is sealed. We are also doing the roof from the state money that we got last year. Once the building is secured and sealed then we will tackle the inside of the courthouse. Right now it does not pay to look at the inside until we get the outside secured. That is our next move.”
Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Will you give us an update at the next Committee Meeting.”
Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes, I will give you all the prices that it will cost on the bid.”
7. Update on Solid Waste new trash pick-up contract. Invite Mr. Richard LeBouef and the four appointed Solid Waste Commissioners to our May 4th, 2022 Committee Meeting.
Councilman Coby Clavier stated, “Madam Chairman, do we really need to invite them to come. He is very responsive to phone calls or any board member is also. They are very responsive to phone calls.”
Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I believe I made a motion and Mr. Lejeune seconded that. I don’t believe Coby was here at the Committee Meeting. That is for them to come to the Committee Meeting in May. So I will make that motion for them to come in May.”
Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Being that Mr. LeBouef is here tonight. Mr. LeBouef, do you foresee any problems with the new garbage collection people where your people need to come and explain. They have explained to you all what they are going to do, am I correct?”
Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “It was not about Mr. LeBouef. I believe Mr. Lejeune want our Commissioners to come and speak before the council. Is that correct Mr. Lejeune?”
Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I did.”
A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to invite Mr. Richard LeBouef and the four appointed Solid Waste Commissioners to our next **Committee Meeting held on May 4th, 2022.**
On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Dexter Brown, Jimmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. NAYS: Harold Taylor, Wayne Ardoin and Coby Clavier. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.
8. Authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to send a letter to the City of Opelousas in reference to De-Annexation of the St. Landry Parish Airport.
Parish President requested to table this item on the agenda.
No action taken.
9. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for the remainder of a four year term to East St. Landry Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 that is set to expire on 11-18-2023.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for the remainder of a four year term to East St. Landry Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 that is set to expire on 11-18-2023.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

10. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to the Public Works Commission District Six for a four year term. (06-16-2022 – 06-16-2026).

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to the Public Works Commission District Six for a four year term. (6-16-2022 – 06-16-2026).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

11. Authorize sending a letter to Representative Dustin Miller, Senator Gerald Boudreaux, Mr. Shawn Wilson of DOTD and Senator Bob Hensgens asking for any help in expediting the overlay of Reconstruction of LA HWY 178 from Shuteston 182 to HWY 182 in Sunset.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize a letter to Representative Dustin Miller, Senator Gerald Boudreaux, Mr. Shawn Wilson of DOTD and Senator Bob Hensgens asking for any help in expediting the overlay of Reconstruction of LA HWY 178 from Shuteston 182 to HWY 182 in Sunset.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Nancy Carriere. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

IX. ORDINANCE TO BE INTRODUCED:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-006 (Sponsored by Councilman Coby Clavier)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 44-3 TO ADD MCCLAIN GUILLORY LANE WITH A SPEED LIMIT OF 15 MPH

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT McClain Guillory Lane will be added to St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances Section 44-3 with a speed limit of 15 mph;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT all other provisions of St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances Section 44-3 shall remain unchanged and have the full effect of law;

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-007 (Sponsored by Councilman Jimmie Edwards)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 44-3 TO DESIGNATE A SPEED LIMIT OF 30 MPH FOR ROZAS ROAD

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances Section 44-3 will be amended to designate a speed limit of 30 mph for Rozas Road;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT all other provisions of St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances Section 44-3 shall remain unchanged and have the full effect of law;

Revised Group Home Ordinance

Definition

Residential facility – Any place, facility or home operated by any person who receives therein four or more people who are not related to such person for supervision, care, lodging and maintenance with or without transfer of custody. This shall include but not be limited to group homes, community homes, maternity homes, juvenile detention centers, emergency shelters, halfway homes, addictive disorder facilities and facilities for the mental challenged.

Parish Permit Application for Residential Facility

In addition to meeting the requirements of state and federal laws and regulations and to better ensure that these requirements are met to commence, continue or otherwise engage in the operation of any type of residential facility as defined in Sections 1 in St. Landry Parish, each facility must request, obtain and maintain a permit from the St. Landry Parish Government office. An application must be completed and submitted to St. Landry Parish Government along with permit fees and required documentation which includes but is not limited to:

- Street address of facility
- Property description
- Mailing address
- Phone number
- Specific nature of facility
- Number of persons facility is seeking to house
- Description of how the facility will address its occupants health care needs
- Copies of appropriate federal and state licenses and/or permits
- Certification that the facility is fully handicap accessible
- Certification that the facility complies with all requirement of the Louisiana Fire Marshalls Office.

Once St. Landry Parish Government deems the application packet complete, the permit request will be forwarded to the St. Landry Parish Council for initial review and placement on the agenda of the next council meeting. Thereafter, the permit request shall be set for public hearing for final approval and issuance if the Council deems the requirements in this Ordinance, the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter, and the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances, have been met.

Requirements

- a) Fencing – For facilities housing twenty (20) or more persons, fencing is required. Fencing shall consist of a chain link construction at least eight (8’) in height, shall be completely lighted and shall have an open security zone of one-hundred (100’) feet on each side of the fencing. No shrubs, trees, obstructions, or impediments to vision shall be located within this security zone. Lighting for the security fence and the security zone must be provided from dusk until dawn.
- b) Security – facilities housing twenty (20) or more persons are required to provide twenty-four (24) hour security services for the facility.
- c) Signage – If the facility houses any person convicted of sex offenses or violent crimes, a sign shall be posted at each entrance of the facility on a sign with at least a four (4’) foot by six (6’) foot surface with four (4”) inch lettering as to notify and inform the public of this fact. Language to be displayed on the signage referring to convicted sex offenders and violent criminals must be pre-approved during the application process. This signage shall be in addition to any other signage required under state and federal law.
- d) Supervision – A supervisor must be on premises twenty-four (24) hours per day based on the number of people housed at the facility:

<u>Supervisors on Premises</u>	<u>Number of Persons Housed</u>
One (1)	One (1) to Twenty (20)
Two (2)	Twenty-one (21) to forty (40)
Three (3)	Forty-one (41) to sixty (60)

One additional supervisor who lives at the facility and works there as his/her full time occupation is required for each additional person, up to twenty (20) persons housed at the facility after sixty (60).

No supervisor shall have ever been convicted of a felony grade offense in any jurisdiction. An average of one (1) or more full- time live-in-staff person/supervisor shall be on staff for each twenty (20) persons housed at the facility.

- e) Health Care Access- The facility shall provide its residents with regular access to health care providers.
- f) Handicap Access- The facility shall be fully handicap accessible and shall comply with all federal and state requirements for equal access to handicapped individuals.
- g) Clean and Sanitary Premises- The facility must maintain clean and sanitary conditions and shall be inspected and approved by Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Department of Public Health, prior to opening and on a regular basis thereof.
- h) Flood Zone Restriction- No facility can be constructed in a federally designated flood zone without first obtaining approval of the United States Corp of Engineers.
- i) General Liability Insurance Coverage- The facility must maintain general liability insurance coverage with an insurance company licensed to do business within the State of Louisiana in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 per incident and \$5,000,000 in aggregate coverage.
- j) Criminal Activity Deterrence – The owner and operator must maintain the facility in such a manner as to curtail any criminal activity by persons housed at the facility.
- k) Centered on Property – If the facility will be newly constructed or if within reasonable means by renovation of existing property, the owner and operator of the facility shall house its occupants in center of the property where it is located.

Issuance of Permit

Prior to issuance of a permit hereunder, the St. Landry Parish Government shall first set a public hearing and in connection therewith publish a notice of the public hearing in its official journal. The public notice shall include:

- Municipal address of proposed facility
- Voting district of the proposed facility
- Date and time of hearing

Permits issued for Residential Facilities shall be for a period of five (5) years. Within six (6) months of the permit’s expiration, a permit renewal must be sought by the owner of the facility. The renewal process shall be the same as the process for the original permit.

Grounds for Revocation of Permit

Any facility that fails to meet the requirements of this article shall have its permit revoked by St. Landry Parish Government. The permit holder shall be provided notice of a public hearing at least ten (10) days in advance of such hearing. The notice shall clearly state the violations or requirements that the facility has failed to meet.

If any occupany of the facility is convicted of a criminal offense or there is a evidence that criminal activity has resulted and this criminal conduct or criminal activity has resulted due to a breach of the permit holder's duties and responsibility as provided in this article, then the facility is subject to have its permit revoked as outlined hereinabove in this section.

General Penalty for Violation of Code; Continuing Offenses

In addition to civil sanctions, as provided by law, any person, corporation, company, partnership or entity, who owns and/or operates a residential facility required to be permitted shall be guilty of a separate criminal offense for each day of operation and shall be subject to punishment.

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "What Group Home Ordinance are we operating on now?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They are operating under the old Ordinance. The old Ordinance gives us a little bit of trouble because we don't have the right to go on their property and request information, one being the sex offenders located in the house. We don't have the right to go on their property and ask those question. The new Ordinance will be a Permit Process and it will provide a service.

Chairwoman Vivian Olivier questioned, "What happens to all the ones that are popping up all over St. Landry Parish?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "This Ordinance right here that we are introducing tonight will be Retro-Active so anybody who has a Group Home has to follow these instructions. The thing with this, they are going to collect the money to do the work, they will have to do the work. They will have to provide the services. Our problem is, they are not providing the services that a Group Home provides. This new Ordinance will require them do provide the services in order to keep their status and keep their permit."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "Are some of them operating and there is no problems?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have some of them that are operating with no problems and we have some that have serious problems but we can't go on their property to do anything about it. This ordinance right here allows us to go on their property and do checks."

Council Jerry Red Jr. questioned, "Like the one in Arnaudville. Are there any problems in Arnaudville?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The only thing that we are hearing is the neighbors are complaining. That is the only Problem."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "They had a big problem last weekend with that."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "One of the problems that I see with this facility is that they gave us a whole list of patients they had with ID numbers which is a violation of HIPPA. They could go to jail for it. You cannot operate like that. The information that they made public, you would lose your license to operate."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Madam Chairman, when it comes to HIPPA you can give Legal Information, not Medical Information but you can give Legal Information. If that is helpful."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Well if you read the information that they sent us, it was about the Therapy Sessions they were having. That is not our problem that is someone else problem. My point is the Ordinance is going to insist that they are properly licensed to do the work that they are going to be doing and they are going to have a license from the Department of Health to do it."

Chairwoman Vivian Olivier questioned, "Mr. Bellard, the one on I-49, is it still going to operate with no license?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Whatever the definition of this Ordinance calls for, if they are providing a service or they requiring payment of any kind what so ever, they are going to have to provide that service. That will be the question. Every Group Home that we have in this Parish will have to come to the Council. The problem with that Group Home or that Home over there that the Church owns, they don't require any payments. They are not providing a service to my knowledge. So that is the issue. This is strictly for the Group Homes that require payment."

X. ORDINANCE TO BE ADOPTED:

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to **Adopt Ordinance No. 2022-005**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Nancy Carriere. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-005

AN ORDINANCE TO ABANDON JAN STREET IN ST. LANDRY PARISH
WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish government has decided to abandon Jan Street in St. Landry Parish because Jan Street is no longer needed for public purposes, as per Louisiana Revised Statute 48:701.
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that Jan Street in St. Landry Parish is hereby abandoned.
This Ordinance having been introduced on the 16th day of March, 2022, notice of Public Hearing having been published, said public hearing having been held, the title having been read, and the Ordinance considered, a record vote was taken and the following results were had:

XI. RESOLUTION TO BE ADOPTED:

Resolution No. 007-2022 was voted on earlier in the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 007-2022

BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the Confederate monument in the Northeast corner of the St. Landry Parish District Courthouse square, which was erected and dedicated on February 22, 1920 by the Louisiana Division U.D.C. and the Gordon Chapter U.D.C., shall be removed from the St. Landry Parish District Courthouse square.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the Confederate monument shall be donated to either the United Daughters of the Confederacy or the Sons of Confederate Veterans.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that St. Landry Parish President Jessie Bellard is hereby authorized to proceed with moving the Confederate monument from the Northeast corner of the St. Landry Parish District Courthouse square to either the United Daughters of the Confederacy or the Sons of Confederate Veterans.
THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON THE 20th DAY OF APRIL, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 008-2022

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to **Adopt Resolution No. 008-2022.**
On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Nancy Carriere. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has appropriated funding for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) Program; and
WHEREAS, the Local Government Assistance Program offers grants to eligible municipalities and parishes for a wide range of projects to improve public health, public safety, living conditions and for economic development purposes; and
WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary and proper to submit applications to the Louisiana Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Local Government Assistance Program

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the St. Landry Parish Council of St. Landry Parish Government that Parish President Jessie Bellard is hereby authorized to sign and submit an application to the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Local Government Assistance Program and also execute any and all documents should this grant be funded;
THEREUPON, the above resolution was declared adopted.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin **to Adopt Resolution 009-2022**. A Resolution appoint Shanna Ortego Bernard as Constable Justice of the Peace District 11 to fill the unexpired term of Larry Primeaux until the next election dated November 8th, 2022.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Nancy Carriere. ABSTAINED: None.
WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

RESOLUTION 009-2022

WHEREAS, the untimely resignation of Honorable Larry Primeaux as Constable, Justice of the Peace District 11, Parish of St. Landry, Louisiana, has created a vacancy on the board; and

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Council at a regular meeting held on April 20, 2022, has appointed Shanna Ortego Bernard to fill the unexpired term of Larry Primeaux, and

WHEREAS, His resignation has caused a vacancy in office and an election must be ordered and called to fill the unexpired term of office exceeding one year; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Landry Parish Council do hereby call a special election to fill the position of Constable Justice of the Peace District 11.

(1) The qualifying dates: Call a special election. The next available election is November 8, 2022 and December 10, 2022, with qualifying dates of July 20, 21, & 22, 2022.

FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Secretary of State of Louisiana and the Clerk of Court of St. Landry Parish.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Madam Chairwoman, I have a question. This might be a legal question. We are always having to fill a vacancy in a position like that. At some point, I think we need to start consolidating some of these Justice of the Peace and put them in other Districts. Those areas of concern, like this area, we need to start looking at that. People are having to pay for election cost and they don’t go thru the whole term. Then you all have to put somebody in and call a special election, it cost more money. If we don’t have enough of them or nobody wants to do for the little bit of pay, maybe we could start the process of consolidating some districts and maybe cut the cost down. This may be a problem.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Until we decide what we will do, that is in my District. I received a call from a constituent in that area asking that we please appointment someone until we have it come up for a vote. There was a situation that needed to be dealt with in the past and it had not been dealt with and he needs to get it done speedily. So I am asking that this council consider appointing Shanna Ortego Bernard to service until the election in November if we go forth with an election.”

XII. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to accept the **Administrative Finance Committee Meeting Minutes** from Wednesday, April 6th, 2022 as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Nancy Carriere. ABSTAINED: None.
WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes** from Wednesday, April 6th, 2022 as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Nancy Carriere. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

XIII. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Nancy Carriere. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of April, 2022.

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