

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 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 16th, day of March, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. Chairwoman Vivian Olivier called the meeting of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
- II. Councilman Easton Shelvin led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.
 - Councilman Jerry Red Jr. requested to amend the agenda to replace a Resolution. Resolution No. 006-2022. He stated, “We are just replacing it in the same spot that the other Resolution is in.”
A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr. seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to Amend the Agenda to add Resolution No. 006-2022.
On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.
WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

III. ROLL CALL:

Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. Ex Officio Vivian Olivier. **ABSENT:** Alvin Stelly.

IV. CONDOLENCES:

Councilman Jerry Red Jr.: Leola Pitre Bellard, Willie King Jr., Cassandra Calais, Patricia A. Harrison, Betty Batiste Thomas, Joseph Nathan Davis, Johanna Ann Forbes, Clinton Bolden, Edwin John Marshall.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere: Leola Pitre Bellard, Cassandra Calais, Esther Ruth Thomas, Matthew Fuselier, Joseph Nathan Davis, Noel Collins, Mary Lovenia Colomb Charles.

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry: Leola Pitre Bellard, Felicia Thomas, Cassandra Calais, Willie King., Allie Rose Joubert, Royale Emmalyn Elizabeth Broussard, Burnley ‘Blanc’ Joseph Ardoin Sr., Marshall Huckaby, Joseph Nathan Davis, Cynthia Marie Rubin, Esther Ruth Thomas, Johanna Forbes, Merrick M. Butler, Edwin John Marshall, Clinton Bolden, Jahon O. Gailes.

Councilman Gil Savoy: Harold Credeur, Manola Stoute, Theresa Eusey Skrantz.

Chairwoman Vivian Olivier: Michael Cormier.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin: Waldene Frances Franchebois, Lawrence Joseph Larcade III, Theresa Eusey Skrantz, Anthony ‘Tony’ Clark, Anna Mae ‘Makie’ Van Winkle, Geraldine ‘Gerry’ Boss Lastrapes.

Councilman Dexter Brown: Edwin John Marshall, Johanna Ann Forbes.

V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:

- **Mr. Lincoln Savoie addressed the council.** He stated, “Madam Chairman, members of the council. My name is Lincoln Savoie. I am a retired military person from Sunset, the same place as Ms. Olivier. We are cleaning the town up to assure that the visit from our Vice President will be accommodating. But I did not come here for that, I came here to thank-you for something that I asked for early on, it was to be a member of the Tourist Commission. I

asked and you reciprocated with 100% 'Yes'. The reason why I felt qualified for that position is because in the 22 years that I served in the Military my job called for a French Speaking Person. That called for me to go to Paris for eight years, Belgium for six years and of course Viet Nam for one and all of those countries speak French. When I found out that there was a vacancy on the Tourist Commission, I went to see Ms. Jordan and she explained to me the reason why there is a need for an application to be filled. With my French speaking ability I felt that I would be an asset to the Parish and to the Commission because of my French speaking abilities. I filled out the application, it ran through the Gammit and after it was approved, I telephonically called each member of the board and thanked them because of their interest in me and in the Tourist Commission. After we had our first board meeting at the Tourist Commission, I was very impressed with the ones that you had appointed before. I taught that it was only fair on my part to come and tell you in person how happy I am that you did appoint them and of course thank you for appointing me. I think I have the assets to make the parish happy with the Tourism, especially the people from Paris who to come to Louisiana. I was there eight years, I know their mannerism, their wants and I know they eat Cajun foods. With them coming, I think I will be an asset in escorting them around the parish. It will be an asset to the entire parish. I certainly do appreciate it and thank you very much.”

- **Councilman Coby Clavier addressed the council.** He stated, “Thank you Ms. Chairman for the recognition. I will just take a minute to make a couple of statements regarding the statue discussion. First, I think maybe a little bit of misinformation was shared about the last meeting about the statue. I looked up some information about the statue and I could not find anywhere where there were any evidence of it being used to deter black voters to the poles, okay. However, at the same time I understand the feelings that it may give a black person and I respect that. However, if there is no concrete plan on where it could go, I am just not sure that we should take a vote tonight to remove it without knowing where it could go. I think the statue does have a place that it needs to be that could be more appropriate, such as a museum or whatever. So that is what I wanted to say, thank you, I am done.”
- **Mr. Robert Voitier Jr., addressed the council.** He stated, “Good afternoon, I am Robert Voitier. I spoke here at the Committee Hearing. I have a lot say and I only have four minutes and fifty seconds to say it. I am going to say some things that are going to insult some people in here so get ready. I was born and raised in Church Point. I don't know if you all noticed, I am white and I am privileged. My grand-paw had Church Point Wholesale. That is beside the point. Where I was brought up and how I was brought up was considered a low class trashy thing to speak ill of the dead. Think about that for a second. Think about what is going on right here, who is being smeared, who is being members of the Klan, can you all see this. I have got a bunch of these and I want them to go into the record of the hearing. We are talking about dead Soldiers. We talking about some allegations that came from who knows where that that monument has got something to do with the Klan and that monument kept black people from voting and blah, blah, blah. I am trying to think of a polite way to say it, but it is what comes out the back end of a bull. That is all it is. I think the best thing the council could do or suggest has already been mentioned is to Table this thing. Let's get together, let's talk, executive session, whatever you want to do, because there are things that need to be said that really this is not the ideal arena to do it in. We need to meet, hopefully there will be some food on the table and we need to talk things out and settle these issues. This is ridiculous that people in this community are being pitted against each other over something that does not even exist. This is part of a bigger picture and I don't have time to go into tonight, but if anybody wants to know, grab me after the meeting and I will fill your ear full of it. But what is happening here, over this monument, let's take that monument down because it is racist, it is not racist, it is a monument. Anybody watching TV and paying attention for the last two years have seen Black Lives Matter, you see what goes on in Portland Oregon. You see what is going on around the Country? They set fire to the Federal Courthouse in Portland, they pulled

statues down, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Washington, and you can't have that. You can't have that history. You know what that is, that is the first thing when a group that wants to take over another group does. They pull down their monuments so the generations to come don't know anything about their culture, where they came from, who they are and where are they going. I said, I have watched that for two years, I am retired, every day is Saturday for me. I sit in front of that TV all day long and I look and I research. I could have shot my TV 100 times in the last two years. I thought well, at least it is not here, at least it is not coming to where we live and low and behold this comes up. I would like to know from Mr. Cravins after the meeting, face to face and in person, nice conversation, how long did he work at the DA's office before he realized how evil, ugly and racist that monument was. I would like to know where that idea came from. I really would. Maybe he would tell me. If he speaks tonight, I want to make sure that he signs one of those slips, okay. I want to because last time he did not sign one. He apologized for it, but one thing it does, I have no idea if it was intentional but I am concerned about it, when you sign one of those slips you testifying under oath. Neither he nor Ms. Harris at the Committee Meeting signed one, so just keep that in the back of your mind. Everything that I said tonight is my opinion, nothing but opinion but that is it. Thank you for your time."

- **Mr. Randy Jarreau addressed the council.** He stated, "Members of the council, I want to thank you all for allowing me to speak. My name is Randy Jarreau. I am a lifelong resident of Point Coupee Parish. My wife is a native of Eunice. I am a past president of the Point Coupee Historical Society, a past president of the Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table and I am a Civil War Reenactor. I have great memories of Opelousas from my childhood. My daddy was a cattleman and he sold cattle at Dominic Stockyard right over here ever so often. Of course I would get restless at the stockyard and I could not stay there the whole time so my momma would take me out around town. I would have to go to the Jim Bowie Museum next to the Jim Bowie Oak. I had to top off the day with a hamburger from right next door at the Palace Café. I was not a big fan of the monument back then, I like monuments with soldiers on the top. I have come to see how unique the simple memorial is. I have been to a lot of places and I can't recall ever seeing a Pelican on the top of a statue. I have seen them on buildings, on the Flag and all that kind of stuff but not featured on the top, that is something unique you all have here. Not everything that happened during the period of Jim Crow was because of Jim Crow. That statue out there was not put up because of Jim Crow. In 1910, the youngest of the Confederate Veterans would die off. The youngest was like 60 years old at that time, over 60. Their daughters and wives that were still alive, the granddaughters and nieces got together and thought they should have a Veterans Memorial to honor their loved ones. Remember now, if the intent is there to intimidate people would you really put a pelican on the top of it? Here we have a pandemic killing millions of people, people are out of work, people can't afford to buy food, they can't afford to buy gas and over in Europe, World War III might be fixing to break out. We need to repair and maintain our roads, bridges, drainage, sewage and water systems and we are arguing whether to remove a one-hundred year old Veterans Memorial. A removal that will cost tens of thousands of dollars. I read an article that said when those women were collecting the money, World War I broke out and they contributed to the War effort by using the funds that they had collected to buy US War Bonds. Then after the war, they cashed in the bonds to build a Memorial. That is the kind of people that are being attacked today. Before I came here, I did a little research about the St. Landry Confederate Units. I did not really know how many men we were talking about. I found that there were at least twelve companies of about one hundred men each so that is an impressive 1200 men or so at a minimum. Then I noticed where some of these units fought, not only in Louisiana but practically all the major battles of the war. Of course some of them were with General Mouton in Mansfield in North Louisiana and some were with the Fort's protecting New Orleans before it fell, some fought at Shiloh, but most interesting was that some fought with General Lee's army throughout the war in the same Brigade that the most famous of all Louisiana Units fought, the Louisiana Tigers.

The name sake of the LSU Tiger Mascot. In time all of the troops under Lee were known as Tigers, including two companies from St. Landry. The St. Landry Guards and the Opelousas Guards from right here. They fought heroically at Gettysburg for Lee's surrender in 1865. The remains of those that died fighting are in prison or war camps or scattered all over this country. Many are in unmarked graves and this may be their only memorial. I think that it would be a great disgrace to them and to St. Landry Parish if this memorial is removed. May God Bless the Pelican State and may he have Mercy on all of us. Thank you."

- **Mr. Tommy Dejean addressed the council.** He stated, "I think they are using some of my facts. I just want to come up here. My name is Tommy Dejean. I am from Opelousas. I am an Attorney. I taught a lot about this. I have a relative on that monument, so does some of the members here. I just want to make sure that this board, when they make a decision, that they don't make the decision based on wrong information. Like Mr. Jarreau said, and I saw him for the first time, to say that that monument, that memorial to soldiers was put up to intimidate black voters is just not true, it is made up. That monument, if you look at the articles posted by the St. Landry Now, you all took the time to read them, you can clearly see that these ladies, it took them about eight years to raise the money to pay for that monument. At the same time, they got a World War I monument, that monument is for soldiers who served in World War I. You have a plaque for Viet Nam and I think World War II. That is for the soldiers that served in World War II. Let me just say this, there is a roster that is called the Boos Roster of Confederate Soldiers. It list every soldier in Louisiana who served. Wayne, there are ten Ardoins' that enlisted from Louisiana, who enlisted to fight in the civil war. Nine of them are from St. Landry. That memorial is for them that served. That is what that is for. Harold, how many Taylor's were in Company F. Your great grandfather, Henderson, Brasher, Taylor, what a story, I would have loved to meet him. Nineteen years old, his great grand-father enlist, probably does not know what is going on, ends up going to Camp Moore, gets in with the Louisiana Tigers, just like Mr. Jarreau said, Company F, with my great, great uncle, goes to every battle. Harold, he is at Antietam, He is at Sharpsburg, He is at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Winchester where my uncle was killed and you know that is a small little unit. I know he had to be there. Then he finally gets captured in the battle of the Wilderness. The most ferocious fighting this country has ever seen, six weeks of hand to hand combat and he got caught and was put in a Yankee prison for the rest of the war. He died in 1922, two years after that monument was put up. I don't know if he was there, but I know that he wanted to be there when that monument went up, when that memorial went up to his fellow soldiers. I have to believe that. It will become a time when this passes and someone will come up here and say, you know what, that Viet Nam Plaque you got up there, I don't agree with that. We bombed innocent people. We committed atrocities. We supported a corrupt regime. We lost 50-60 thousand troops over there for nothing. I want that Viet Nam Plaque you got on the courthouse down because I want it down, it offends me, what are you going to do then? What are you going to do when you put St. Landry up? When an Atheist shows up here the week after you put it up and says I am an Atheist, I can't believe you all put a Catholic Priest in the front of this courthouse. What are you going to do then when that happens? What are you going to do, are you going to take it down?"

I can make an argument, you got the Christmas thing, what if someone shows up here, I mean if you take that down, you have to take everything down. That is my opinion. Just remember what you are doing Mr. Clavier, like you said, think this thing through before you do it because you are opening up a can of worms. I appreciate your time Ms. Vivian."

- **Mr. Don Leger addressed the council.** He stated, "Good evening Mr. President, Councilmembers. I stand before you tonight in a strange position. I have family, friends and neighbors and good people that I have known all my life and with this situation I see it a little bit differently. I also had relatives that fought in the war. The way that I see it is, the war is

over, that is done and that is history. People will think that we will rewrite history, I don't know where that is coming from, we don't have the ability to rewrite history, it happened. We can interpret history any way that we want but what happened, happened. What bothers me is that so many of my friends and relatives and people that I work with are offended by it. I don't see why something that offensive to people need to be there. I am sure there is an appropriate place. The parish would have a lot of land. We have 190, the building out there and we have the Ag Center, all of that area. If the council feels there is a need for an appropriate place to display it that is fine but also why it was moved and what was behind it. This isn't something that somebody just thought of, let's do it today. I don't know how this equate with burning the Federal Courthouse and this other stuff. I am worried about St. Landry Parish, here and now. If that is a distraction, let's move it and move on to bigger and better things. We have a lot of good things in the future horizon but if this is a problem, it is causing division among us. What does it matter what the little old lady started when they collected the money. I am sure they had great intentions, they thought they were doing the right thing. In my travels to different countries and different parts of the world, I don't ever recall seeing monuments put up to the losing side. Nobody that I know is talking bad about the dead. That is not the purpose. I thought this discussion was to talk about possibly moving the monument. To me it is certainly not about honoring or dishonoring. It is causing a ripple. The problem here in our society needs a solution. Just move it to another piece of property that we have, there is an internet site that says where all the confederate monuments are, it could be listed there and the people that wants to go around and see it, it will be up there for them to see it. If we want to put a statue up, instead of St. Landry or something, nobody knows what he looks like, that was over 1500 years ago, why don't we pick one of our living Saints. We have Eva Anthony, a local resident who has been doing wonderful work in the community, teaching kids how to plant, raise chickens and animals, involved in so many different things. We have a lot of living Saints and we don't have any females portrayed. I think that it is time that we consider not just our personal feelings which are important but the feelings of the community in progress and move forward. I just can't think of a benefit to keeping it there when it can be moved. I don't see that it is going to be tens of thousands of dollars to move it. I don't see that it would be that expensive. I did not expect to ask if the council could make the decision to do something, a definite plan. I did not know if anybody had a plan. I did not know if there is any ordinance, any motion or any suggestions that any of the council members have, if there is I would certainly like to hear it. I would like to get over this and get on to the business of the progress of the parish. Thank you."

- **Mr. Charles Cravins addressed the council.** He stated, "Thank you Madam Chairwoman. First let me start by saying that the only time I think about shooting my television is when the Saint's loose. Other than that, me and my TV are good. Of course I don't watch a lot of the divisive stuff that is on television because I am more about real relationships with real people. When we came in here tonight, we all said the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. I Pledge Allegiance to the Flat of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands. Whether or not that monument was put up to intimidate black voters or black people in general, it is a monument to destroying the Republic. That is the history of it. It is a monument trying to tear this country apart. Now let me just address whether or not the monument was in fact put up to intimidate black voters. I am reading from the March 5 on line addition of St. Landry Now Newspaper. Same article that I think might have been quoted earlier. That article says, and there is a foot note, I tried to find the foot note, but I am 66 years old and I can't go through these phones like my kids can so I try to find the footnote and I lose my place, so I had to leave the footnote alone. It says although the monuments were said to be memorials to those who lost their lives fighting for what was called the lost cause, there are further reports in the newspapers and other publications of that time showing the monuments were also meant to intimidate the black population especially in the South and keep them from trying to register to

vote. That is from St. Landry Now, that is not from Charles Cravins. From what I have seen of St. Landry Now so far, they try to be objective and they talked about the positive things about that monument. So I take that as being true. But we are not here today, tonight about black and white, we are here about right and wrong. To have a monument on our Courthouse Square that is even considered by people with good cause that it is in the front to their full right of citizenship is not what St. Landry Parish is all about. Before I came before this body last time I was approached and said I will be with you at the protest. And I told people, I think I mentioned this to you all last time, there won't be a protest. This is St. Landry Parish. This is not any other part of the country, people here are good people and they care about their fellow citizens. So I believe, unless you all show me that I am wrong tonight, I believe that this council will resolve this matter with consideration of all its Citizens and vote to remove the statue and dispose of it as you all will. I am not her to try to tell you all what to do with it. I have said before and I am going to say tonight that I believe that the greatest gift that God has given me is the gift of empathy. The ability to feel what you might feel and I understand that everybody wants to be proud of their ancestors. But is your ancestors did something wrong you should acknowledge that they did wrong. That statue does not stand for what is best of us, it stands for what is worst of us and we this body to come together and vote to remove that statue. Thank you.”

- **Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned**, “I have a question for you Mr. Cravins. I want you to know that I respect you very much. I have one question that is sort of like what Coby asked. How long have you been practicing law right here on this St. Landry Parish?”
- **Mr. Charles Cravins stated**, “I have been....I was at the DA’s Office for 24 years Mr. Ardoin.
- **Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned**, “And why was it now that you are bringing this item up about this statue”
- **Mr. Charles Cravins stated**, “I appreciate that question Mr. Ardoin. Let me just say that the first thing that I think we all learn from our parents is there is never a wrong time to do the right thing. But there get to a point that I am sure that you have experienced this and I was about to give you an example. When enough is enough and you just can’t take it anymore and that is the point that I got to but not only that, it also comes from talking to people and people encouraging me to address this issue so that it can be done the right way. So that is why I came forward because there comes a time when it is just enough is enough. I have seen it before, I saw it the first time, I saw that my hear fell. It really did. I was out there, I use to smoke cigars. I was out there smoking a cigar, walking around the courthouse and I saw that and my heart fell and I said, not in St. Landry Parish, not here. That was long before all this controversy started. So to answer your question, I was at the DA’s Office for 24 years and I am proud to have served this parish. But if you got up tomorrow and you decided to do something that you thought was the right thing, I don’t think that you would question yourself as to your timing. Any other questions?”
- **Ms. Ruth Andrus addressed the council**. She stated, “Madam Chairman, Councilmembers, thank you for this opportunity for me to speak. I am Ruth Andrus and I am the Louisiana Division President, United Daughters of the Confederacy. I don’t know your community, I don’t know this monument and I don’t know that ladies who put it up but the U.D.C. name is on that. So I want to read the statement from the President General of our organization. *“The United Daughters of the Confederacy appreciates the feelings of Citizens across the country currently being expressed concerning Confederate Memorial Statues and Monuments that were erected by our members in decades past. To some, these memorial statues and markers are viewed as divisive and thus unworthy of being allowed to remain in public places. To others, they simply represent a memorial to our forefathers who fought bravely during four years of*

war. These memorial statues and markers have been a part of the Southern Landscape for decades. We are grieved that certain hate groups have taken the Confederate Flag and other symbols as their own. We are the descendants of Confederate Soldiers, Sailors and Patriots. Our members are the ones who have spent 126 years honoring their memory by various activities in the fields of education, history and charity promoting patriotism and good citizenship. Our members are the ones, who like our statue, have stayed quietly in the background, never engaging in public controversy. The United Daughters of the Confederacy totally denounces any individual or group that promotes racial divisiveness or white supremacy. And we call on these people to cease using Confederate symbols for their abhorrent and reprehensible purposes. We are saddened that some people find anything connected with the Confederacy to be offensive. Our Confederate Ancestors were and are Americans. We as an organization do not sit in judgement of them nor do we impose the standards of the 19th Century on Americans of the 21st, Century. It is our sincere wish that our great nation and its citizens will continue to let its fellow Americans, the Descendants of Confederate Soldiers, honor the memory of their ancestors. Indeed we urge all Americans to honor their ancestors' contributions to our country as well. This diversity is what makes our nation stronger.” This statement is for public view on the general website HQUDC.org Thank you.”

- **Mr. David Richard addressed the council.** He stated, “Madam Chairman, Members of the St. Landry Parish Council, thank you for the opportunity to address you. My name is David Richard, I am a lifelong resident of St. Landry Parish. I respect the rights of all present to have a supportive position on this or to be opposed to this matter before the council. I would like to say that my family has been in St. Landry Parish since 1765. My earliest ancestors here served in the Spanish Militia during the American Revolutionary War, marched with Governor Galvez, the Spanish Governor of Louisiana, participated in the battle in Baton Rouge, captured the British Garrison in Baton Rouge, marched to Mobile, captured that Garrison and also fought at Pensacola. They were Louisiana’s who were members of the Spanish dominion at that time. They were granted land grants by the Spanish Government and in portion for that rather for an acknowledgment for that, they served in the Spanish militia. They are recognized as Veterans of the American Revolutionary War. Any descendant of those people, the daughters can apply to the Daughters of the American Revolution and they will be accepted as members because they are considered veterans of the American Revolutionary War. Veterans from St. Landry Parish served in the Mexican War in the 1830. Three of my great great-grand fathers served in the Confederate Army, they were simple farmers. Like most soldiers, they were not called upon to set policies, set politics or say the reason for why they were serving. They were called upon by their home states to service. They answered the call. Two of them served in the entity of the war in Louisiana and the 18th Louisiana infantry. My third great grandfather was a Sergeant in the 26th Louisiana Infantry, he served in the Vicksburg campaign. He served in Vicksburg the entirety of the siege and was captured in Vicksburg. These men didn’t set policies either, any more than the other ones did. Men from St. Landry Parish served in the Spanish American War, my grandfather, the descendent of one of these confederate soldiers served in World War I. I was fortunate enough be able to speak to him. I can assure you, he was a simple farmer also. He did not set policies. He did not declare on Germany, he did not have anything to do but he was called upon to serve and he answered that call. Thankfully, a week before he was due to ship to Europe and serve, the armistice was signed and thank God he was spared that and perhaps I would not be here if it was not for that. My father served in World War II in the South Pacific for almost three years on a mine sweeper. He did not set policies. He served and was called to serve. My boundaries as a parish resident has been established. What I want to enter into the record, I want to show you all one picture that will explain why there was a pelican on this monument. This is a very young man, I would like to enter this on record, I would like to pass it around, you will notice on his Kepi, that his

hat, there is a Pelican on it. He was a Louisiana Soldier. He was 16 years of age when this picture was taken. Louisiana Troops were proud of their state and they designated the pelican on most of their uniforms. Their buttons were pelicans or they had Pelicans on it or they had it on their hats. This young man was killed at 16 years of age in the Army of Northern Virginia. This is who I am here to honor. The men on this monument out there were simple people that served in this parish. It was not political, it was not intimidation, and they were called upon to serve. I can't say what their motivation was. I was not live they, they were dead long before I was ever born but they were called upon to serve the state and they did that, so I honor this man, this is a Louisiana resident with his pelican on his hat. I also honor these two soldiers, I don't know their names. But these are two confederate soldiers, I would like to have this entered, this is an interesting picture. These men served in the confederate army. There was an old thin type photo and this is a print of it so it is an old one from the 1860's. These men served in the confederate army. These are the people who we honor by these monuments. If I ever believe for one minute that this monument was set up and erected to intimidate a voter or intimidate any of my fellow citizens and friends in this room here, I would be the first one to get in line to help you take it down. That is not what it is about to me. I am simply stating myself as citizen of this parish and voter that I am opposed to the removal of it because it commemorates the actions of American Veterans. By Joint Act of the US Congress in the 1950's the House and Senate voted overwhelmingly if not unanimously as I recall to recognize Confederate Veterans as US Veterans. This Resolution was signed and endorsed by President Eisenhower. To this day, any Confederate Soldier's family can petition the United States Veterans Administration and they will pay for the marker and install it upon the Grave of this Veteran. I don't think the United States Government would be putting up a monument at the tax payer's expense if these people were considered traitors. They are considered American Veterans. I am not here to argue the legitimacy of the cause or the motivation of these men because I was not there. I just think that their sacrifice should be recognized. I would like to have these pictures passed around for you to look at and have them entered in your minutes. Thank you for your time and I appreciate your consideration. Once again, I respect however you vote, that is the American way that we should abide by."

- **Mr. Scott Fuselier addressed the council.** He stated, "Let me say thank you to everybody for having this meeting and letting us voice our opinions. I want to say that I agree with Mr. Clavier on the end. Basically half of his statement that maybe it should be tabled at this time. I don't think the monument should be moved. My reasons are basically the same thing as the gentlemen right before me. He stole most of my thunder. I will tell you that my family has been here 300 years. Between St. Martinville Parish, St. Landry Parish and now I live in Beauregard Parish. My thirteenth time great grandfather was the Governor of this place, the Atakapa Region when it was still Spanish Territory. One hundred years later, I have a grandfather from Washington that joined the Confederate Military. One hundred years after that, my daddy was in the Air Force. He served in Korea and the people in between there that were Military Veterans. I don't understand to this day, I grew up most of my time in Eunice and I don't understand, I lived through the Civil Rights period where there were still Segregation, at one point we all came together and it seemed like for 25 or 30 years we all pretty well, especially here in St. Landry Parish, pretty well got along. There is still crime and stuff, whether you remove that monument or not, it is not going to affect one bit of crime or anything else. I watch TV on channel 3. I watch the news, and when I see news about Opelousas, it is not about the monument until Mr. Cravins brought it up. It is about drugs, murders, car theft everything else. That is not caused by that monument or anything else other than people. So, I have another problem with Mr. Cravins. I watched him for a very long time on TV. He is a little bit older than I am, but I have to disagree with his assessment that people are not coming up here to register to vote because of a concrete statue. There is no way that that is happening, he knows better than that, there is no way that is accurate. When my

grandfather came back, I wear this shirt in honor of him because he was an original Louisiana Tiger. He fought with Lee, he fought just like one of the previous gentlemen said, he went all the way to Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania and he was captured at the battle of Spotsylvania. He went to Virginia in a prison camp, he made it back to Mississippi, he was paroled in Mississippi and he walked his behind back to Washington. He never had any slaves. He did not have nothing but kids to see about, raise kids and work his farm. When he enlisted, he was forty years old. He could not speak English, he spoke nothing but French. The reason he enlisted was not because of slavery, it was because the union army was coming up Bayou Teche over here and he wanted to defend his country. He did not go right here in Opelousas and fight, he went to the east coast and fight, the eastern battle fields. People want to believe that the battle of the war was over slavery, and yes that are some states that named slavery as their top reason for it, here in Louisiana it was 23rd item. It was still on the list, but it was the 23rd item. There were 22 other items before that. That is why they succeeded from the union. It was not slavery. Slavery would have disappeared anyway and that is not even the argument here. I am like these other people, I don't want to refight the war, that is long gone and it is done, but we want our Ancestors to be honored, any monument that comes down, I don't care if it is here, Washington or where ever, you may take that monument down but you are not going to take the honor and the history of our ancestors away from us. We will honor those men and women of all Faiths and Religion and Ethnicities. There were nine Ethnicities at least that fought in the war in the Confederate Army. As a matter of fact, the Union Army did not want black folks in the military. When they tried to integrate the military, they were not having it, they had separate units. If you watch you-tube you can see that all over you-tube. Everything that I am telling you, you can see on you-tube. You can go back and look at it. I have lot more to say but I am not going to, I am just shooting from the hip here. My time is up so thank you all, I appreciate it.”

- **Mr. Kurt Courville addressed the council**, He stated, “Hello my name is Kurt Courville. My great great-uncle Donath Courville from Eunice came right here to Opelousas to sign up to serve the South against the aggression from the North. He was poor, dirt poor, could not afford a horse, a milk cow much less a slave. Like it has been said so many times, he did not fight to save slavery, he stood up to defend his homeland, the little that he had. That monument out there is not to represent an attempt by the south to destroy the Republic, it is there to represent the people that tied to save the South from Northern Aggression. We all have history, we all had it. Not everybody is proud of it but we all have history in our hearts, let's keep it so those things won't happen again, good, bad or ugly. Thank You.”
- **Mr. Chad Soileau addressed the council**. He stated, “Thank you Madam Chairman. My first deal is, on this board, how many veterans do we have, show of hands? That is a war memorial. How many people have a brick down HWY 182? Same thing. One hundred years from now, do you want your brick removed because you served under a bad government? We all took that oath, that is what that is. That is a war memorial from our ancestors, both sides of the isle. I know some of you all. Ms. Thierry, Ma'am, I respect you big time. When you ran for office you came to my house with a piece of paper that asked me to write what my concerns were. I respected that. It was not like the others that showed up saying, here is my card, vote for me. Same thing as some of you all. I am finished, Thank you.”
- **Mr. George Gremillion addressed the council**. He stated, “My name is George Gremillion, resident of Opelousas and I thank you all for allowing me to speak this evening. On behalf of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, The Brigadier General J. J. Alfred A. Mouton, Camp 778, Sons of Confederate Veterans of Opelousas stands in defense of the St. Landry Parish Confederate Memorial. Despite what critics say, it is not a statue directed to white supremacy or white supremacist, nor was it erected to deter black citizens of St. Landry from going to the Parish Court House. These attacks go seemingly unanswered and propagated by attractors and

media and only serve as a way to deter and scare anyone who may support the statue from doing so for fear of being bullied and slandered. Those who make these statements should provide proof, otherwise they are liable for names and memories for those who planned, raised money for, donated to and erected the monument. These statues are often referred to as Jim Crow statues, seemingly put up during the Jim Crow Area to intimidate. Interestingly enough, northern states erected hundreds of monuments and statues during the very same time period to honor their war dead and veterans. Are these also referred to as Jim Crow statues or statues of white supremacist? No, and neither is this one. Along with those whose name are specifically inscribed on it, it is a memorial. A monument to Confederate dead and Veterans of this parish. Is this parish President, Council, really prepared to show the world that it wants to follow cities like New Orleans and Lafayette and dishonor war dead and veteran of this parish? No. If this monument is taken down, what is it to stop the removal of the World War I monument over yonder? We see that the parish plans are to possibly place a statue of St. Landry, the Parish's name sake in its place. What then are we to do and when if someone finds offence with the statue of a Catholic Saint on the grounds of the courthouse, take that down? St. Landry Parish men joined the military to form at least eight companies during the War Between the States. Over 1000 men to defend their homes, parish and state as well as their new country. Many of these men never made it back and many who did remain and or change forever. This parish saw fit to honor the dead and its veterans who wore the grey in 1920, lets never forget them and their sacrifice. That is especially not to do so by voting to remove the monument dedicated to them in 2022. St. Landry Life Guards, Sons of St. Landry, St. Landry Volunteers, The Opelousas Guards, The Opelousas Volunteers, The Big Cane Rifles, The Confederate State Rangers and out of Grand Coteau, the Creole Rebels. I personally have seven Confederate Veterans, at least and I thank you for your time."

- **Mr. Luke Dartez addressed the council.** He stated, "Thank you for allowing me to speak this afternoon. I won't take very much time. All but two of you councilmembers should have received an e-mail from me. Two of them came back undeliverable and I know now why, because I put the addresses in exactly as the list that I had. However I am here this evening. I live out of parish, I am from Calcasieu Parish. You are probably asking yourselves, why are you here. I will tell you why I am here, I am here because I am the descendant of two Confederate Veterans who served the South. One was in Mouton's Brigade in the Calvary and the other one was in Miles Legion. He was captured at the Battle of Vicksburg and he spent 18 months in the Yankee Prison Camp before he was finally released on Oath. The only way he was release on oath was because somebody could translate for him where he knew what they were trying to ask him. When he got home he had a daughter that was three years old that he had never seen, his wife was pregnant when he left. Whether they were conscripted or whether they were volunteer, I do not know, but I do know this, they fought because their homeland was being invaded. They did not own any slaves, they were too poor, just like a lot of other people in here tonight have stated. I am here in St. Landry Parish asking you to leave that monument there because those monuments honor those men for what they sacrificed, pure and simple. You have heard this over and over and over tonight. But I emphatically say that and I will you something else, if you read your history, hundreds of black people fought for the Confederacy from Louisiana. I have a picture on my phone of a good friend of mine, who is black, and is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I was at his swearing in ceremony. He is also a State Legislature in Texas. I said James, how did you come to become a member of the S.C.V; He said, I was asked to join and I told the person that asked me to join, if they could prove my history, I would join and his history was found, his ancestry all the way back to Virginia. I have a picture of him standing in front of a podium draped with a Confederate Flag. He does not hate our monuments and our statues because it honors his ancestors also, whether it is in Texas, Louisiana or Virginia. It is as simple as that, it is about

honoring your heritage and your ancestors. It does not matter what color they are, honor your dead. Thank you.”

- **Mr. John Weinstein addressed the council.** He stated, “Before I start my time, I have a point of order to raise. You have your Attorney Garrett Duplechain here tonight, has he given you an opinion yet as to who owns that statue or do you have the legal right to tear that statue down at all? I will ask him that before we start, because if he had not given you that, I think you are doing this backwards. You have to find that out first. That is a question I would ask Mr. Duplechain.
- **Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “I went to the records of the Clerk of Court’s Office and I found no records at all as to whether the United Daughters or the Confederacy retain ownership of it or conveyed it. It has been there for 102 years. The Parish Government has the ownership of it and they are going to make a decision whether it remains in its location or not. This Parish Government is not trying to take ownership of it from U. D. C. or anyone, they are just making a decision whether it will remain where it is or not.”
- **Mr. John Weinstein stated,** “So my understanding is, it is what’s before the Parish Council right now is to determine if one, is it going to stay right where it is or two, it’s going to move somewhere else, is that correct Mr. Garrett?”
- **Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “That is correct.”
- **Mr. John Weinstein stated,** “Well I am John Weinstein. I have served in Public Offices. I was head of the Airport Authority for probably 25 years. I served as District Judge in St. Landry Parish probably before Mr. Cravins was here. I may be a little bit older than he was and he apparently served somewhere else or practiced somewhere else before he came back to Opelousas. I take personal affront to some of the things that he said. First of all he said, and I am quoting from last time that he was here, where I understand that he did not sign a verification that everything was correct, but I think what he did, he did the same thing again. I think that this is a misclassification of the monument. The monument is more accurately described as a monument of the Knights of the White Camellia of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. I have a grandfather, a great, great grandfather that name is on that statue. His name was Captain Sam Hayes. He had five children, three of which came to Opelousas right before the turn of the century and may have been very important to the development of this whole area during that period of time. But there is one other thing they all had that was different that makes that statue more important, I am Jewish. If anybody is hated by the Ku Klux Klan is the Jews, so maybe I should be here saying we should take that statue down and every statue by anyone else down that fronts the Jewish people. Well I was fortunate enough a number of years ago to probably handle one of the largest cases against a German Farm. I went to Germany and I had the opportunity not just to go to Germany but when I was there I also had the opportunity to go to the Dachau Concentration Camps. I don’t know if you guys know what the Dachau Concentration Camps were, but that is where they took the Jews, killed them and put them in gas chambers. After they went to the gas chambers they put them in a crematorium and took the ashes and threw them places. I got to see that with my own eyes and I got to put my head inside of one of those crematoriums. The Ku Klux Klan, when I was at LSU, one of the things that I was fortunate enough to do was walk through free speech alley and I see a guy standing up there and he said the Jews should.....The B**** people, no he did not say B**** people he said the N*****s, they should have killed all of the N*****s. He said something about the Catholics and he said something about the Jews. He said Hitler was one of the greatest people that ever was. The only problem is, he did not get to finish what he started doing. He should have killed them all. Well after that, I heard the guy saying that, I walked up to him and I hit him right in the mouth, knocked him to the ground. His name was David Duke. If you read his book he talks about the big guy that hit him, that was me. The

bottom line is, Mr. Cravins is suggesting that he is trying to bring people together, he is not trying to bring anybody together, he is trying to do other things. What he is trying to do is create dissention between the people of St. Landry Parish. That statue over there, I believe is owned by the Daughters of the American Confederacy. We are not here to fight about that, what we have is, we have a statue that commemorates my great, great grandfather, Harold, your great grandfather and some of your other grandfathers that were out there. There is nothing anywhere that says that that statue stands for what Mr. Cravins suggest it stand for which is to stop people from voting. That is total Bull****. With that, I think if you want to move the statue, I would be happy to put together a group that would get a piece of land and if you want to move it and the parish wants to pay to move it, I would even have a place where we could. I spoke to some of my siblings and my cousins that would donate the piece of property that it would go on if that is what you want to do, but it does not make sense to do that because it was put there by the people of St. Landry for the purpose of commemorating those soldiers that deserve it. Thank you.”

- **Councilman Dexter Brown stated**, “Excuse me Madam Chairman, May I say something. Not to Mr. Weinstein but to anyone that is coming up, would you please refrain from using the ‘N’ word whenever you are making your speech because that is very offensive to people. You can say that it is freedom of speech, it is freedom of speech, I know you said what you said, but this is a public meeting and you said it, it is gone, but we have some other speakers, I would like for the other speakers to refrain from using the ‘N’ word in their presentation.”
- **Mr. John Weinstein stated**, “May I respond Madam Chairperson?” The purpose of that naming or that word that came out of my mouth was for the very purpose because that was used as an insult to me as well as it was an insult to you. I wanted you to here that there is other people other than just you that takes offense to that and If it hurt your feelings I apologize, but I did it for a purpose so you could understand that other people other than just black people have been discriminated against in this world, but we don’t tear things down. You don’t tear the camps at Auschwitz down, they leave that there so that the people will know that happened. As you walk in, there is a big sign that says, “*Least we not forget,*” so that they would not forget what happened so it won’t happen again.”
- **Councilman Dexter Brown stated**, “Thank you for your speech and everything else but I want you and everyone else to know to please refrain from using the ‘N’ word. Thank you sir, I appreciate you.”
- **Ms. Lena Charles addressed the council and stated**, “Good evening Council, Men and Women. I had not filled out a paper to speak but I see a number of these gentlemen came to speak passionately about why they felt the monument should not be removed. So it would behoove me to remind you as I stand before you as an African American Woman, a free woman of color that did not gain this on my own. I have ancestors too. People that look like me have ancestors too. The War, it seems to be something that was not spoke of. The issue that Mr. Cravins presented was to be addressed to night. It is not about Mr. Cravins or to get personal about Mr. Cravins, it is about slavery. That is what the war was. It was an economic issue as well, but it was slavery. There is no monument to the slaves that worked on the slave plantation in St. Landry Parish. I am not here to ask for one, but I am saying, we are talking about people that lived in an oppressive society for all of those years, that is what the war was about. What is offensive is the feelings of our ancestors that went through this and now we are here and we are working together and this represent the division at its worst, at its worst. That is not what we are about, that is what I heard up here. Mr. Weinstein comes from a privileged class that he was so privileged that he could use whatever language he wants. That is what that war was about. So I don’t want to preach to you all but I want to remind you that there was no monument for the suffering that took place in St. Landry Parish. I am going to bring it down here the Opelousas Massacre, The Mini Lynching that took place at the courthouse, that is not

what it is about, it is about the hurt that it represented, that is what Mr. Cravins represented to you all, not about his history or his job history, it is about the history of African Americans that made it through slavery. I know you all have to make a decision and vote but just listening and listening and nobody here is talking about the real issue. What makes it offensive is what it represents. Not the individuals that fought on one side or the other side and going through the legal channel of not tearing it down or not trying to defame it or anyway. We are going through the legal process of saying it does not belong to the seed of the parish that is represented here at our courthouse. Thank you very much.”

- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “I would like to say a few things. First of all I thank everyone for coming out and speaking on how you felt, giving us your opinion. You know two weeks ago, Mr. Cravins came and spoke before this council. It did something to me. It made me go and do some research and find out more about it. When I was in school, I remember about the history and it was basically about the North and the South. The north was more about industries, the south was more about farming. They had several states from the south that wanted to keep slavery and the north was in favor of abolishing slavery. What this is all about is that the north and the south and the bible says how can two walk together unless they agree and this council have something that we have to do as a body. Coby, you said something that was very interesting, you said that the place that you feel is best for the monument is in a museum and I agree with you. My reason for saying that is, one of the things when I researched is that I had our Council Clerk check with the Clerk of Court because that is our Legal Records and that is the only records that we can go by is to check and see who gave them authorization to place the monument on the courthouse square and there is not one piece of document and listen to me and hear me well, there is not a piece of document in St. Landry Parish nor at the Secretary of State that gave them authorization to place the monument on the courthouse square. So my next question was asking our Legal Counsel who has ownership of the monument, his exact words were, “he said after 100 years the parish have ownership of it, am I correct? Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, ‘Yes.’ So it is now up to these 13 councilmembers to make a decision on what is best, not only for me, not only for each one of us but best for St. Landry Parish and for everybody as a whole. What is the best place to place this monument? I guess you are wondering, Mr. Red you are speaking, how do you feel about it? The way I feel about it, I think its best place is in a museum. You know I had the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. I had the opportunity to go and see the African American Museum. Sometimes some of the things that you see in a museum, you may not like it but history is a written record of the past and the present. If you don’t know where you came from, you will never know where you are going. So we as people need to collectively begin to look and find out about your history and know where you really come from and know some of the attributes and some of the things what your fore parents had to go through. When I went to that African American Museum, it goes from the 14th Century all the way to the current date. Some things you are not proud of, but it is still history and what is history? It is a written record of the past and the present. So we need to enlighten ourselves and don’t just look at it about ourselves but what is best for all of us as a whole. So once again, I think everyone for coming out and giving us your opinion so that the council could make the right decision that is best for all of us. Thank you.”
- **Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “Once again, I want to echo Mr. Red with thanking everyone for coming out tonight and expressing your feelings. As someone was speaking earlier about the monument and the crime rate and car thief that is going on, you are truly, you are absolutely right, the monument has nothing to do with it. I want to ask a question that was laid on my heart while you were gone. How many of us in here pray? How many of you pray? How many of you pray? I figured we all pray. The reason that question I believe came to me

is because I pray before I go forth. I bring that up tonight to say that all of us that pray can truly say even tonight the issue that we have in our community has nothing to do with monument, it is because of a lack of prayer. If we think about it just like we have a vote tonight is this, did we fight this hard to keep pray in school? Did we fight this hard to keep the 10 commandments in the courthouses? Did we fight this hard, and from my understanding we are thinking that one person is making this decision just as it is one person who made that decision to remove prayer out of school and the 10 Commandments. I want you to understand this, if we are going to stand for righteousness and righteousness for God, if we will stand for God we have to make sure that everyone is created equal. We fight, we speak on behalf of not being judge by the color of our skin but the content of our charter. If we are going to speak on the content of our charter, then history is what it is, history. And the monument represents history. But everyone I heard speak tonight, I heard you speak on one-half, nobody even spoke about the defense of the black or the Jews or anyone else. If we are going to represent God as God fearing people, he said, For God so Love the world that he gave his only begotten son that who so ever believe in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. People of God often say I believe tonight that we have to make a decision but we have to still stand as people of God whichever way that we make a decision tonight. I don't think we are making a decision based on one man, we are not making a decision based on one people. We are going to make a decision that is based on this parish. Someone called me in these last weeks and said, Shelvin which way are you going to vote? That disturbed me because I vote by my heart. I believe tonight, as I told them, the thing that I am going to do is, I am going to represent the people, but first, my oath is with God. I am going to represent God. I hope tonight that we walk out of here with the same conscience of God fearing as we walked in here with. Some of you came with a made up mind to per sway your way and not God's way. So tonight I need you to understand that if you are going to be in agreement with any decision that we make, I know some of you right now are saying I hope he shut up, I felt the say way when some of you all were talking. I have said enough."

- **Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated,** "I think you deserve a congratulations. That is the best speech I have heard tonight."
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** "I just want to say this, I think that a lot of people are highly critical of Mr. Cravins. Mr. Cravins gave a quote from the Eunice News. He was quoting what they said, when he said what the statue stood for. I want to stand here to say that my feelings are, the statue is not in its rightful place. It needs to be removed because the courthouse represents equality and justice. If you look at history, it has not been equal nor has justice been served to the slaves and the people that have died. So I think ,like Coby said, it needs to be put in a museum and those soldiers that have fallen can be honored in that place, not where the courthouse stands where it supposed to serve people and be equal and justice."

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 16th, 2022 as transcribed.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

VII. PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The adjudicated property, we will be having some more next month at the committee meeting to bring up. We will be selling some mid-April that we

will open up bids in here, not in the public meeting but it will be a public meeting but not a council meeting. So that will happen in April.”

- **Update on the Public Works Report**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Same thing as every time, we getting out there doing what we have to do. Any complaints or problems related to public works just give me a call.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “The bridge off of Sumner Road, I had a call from a constituent can you all check that out on both sides of the bridge.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “One of the problems we having that I will put something out for the news media pretty soon because this is ridiculous. One of our major troubles in our parish right now is not so much a bad road as it is people coming into our parish and dumping trash in the middle of our roads. Dumping trash over the bridges like on Sumner Road and everywhere else, it is a major problem costing the parish thousands of dollars to clean up. So what we doing now and people will start seeing this, we ordered some cameras that will be placed on some poles that are solar powered so we can catch these people once and for all, hopefully and stop this madness. We will then bring it to the District Attorney’s Office and hopefully we can get some prosecution on that and get that going. We have so many problems on that bridge. We arrested some people for dumping cattle over there last year. When we can catch them, we catch them but that’s a big problem.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “Also, at the new three way stop off of School Road that turns off heading east on Sumner Road. They are not stopping at the stop signs. You may want to get with the Sheriff’s Office.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will get with the Sheriff’s Office.”

- **Charles Guidry- Illustrious Pelican Grand Council #5- American Rescue Plan Act**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We tabled this or we did not do it at the committee meeting. I had some concerns but I have looked at it and I found that this place does exist in our parish. We did all research and it meets the qualifications. I am asking the council to go ahead and approve it to issue the \$5,000.00 of the American Rescue Plan for the Grant thru the non-profit.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign a Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act for 2021 Funds to Charles Guidry-Illustrious Pelican Grand Council #5 in the amount of \$5,000.00

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

- **Resolution designating Kashun Saputil the Senior Finance Accountant**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I also need a resolution designating Kashun Saputil, she is our Senior Finance Accountant in our Government. She needs to be added to the list of Officers with the State. We got the La-Gapp Grant. It is money what the State Government gives to local government. She is not on that list and she is the one that is helping us with that process. We need to get her on that list.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edward, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to authorize the Parish President, Jessie Bellard to sign a Resolution designating Kashun Saputil to Senior Finance Account for the Parish Government.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Let’s not tell the public where we are putting the cameras because they are going to shoot the camera and everything else. Just let them know that we are going to place cameras in specific locations.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We are not going to disclose any information. I am just letting the council know that this is not going unnoticed and it is costing the parish thousands of dollars. We have to stop it at some point and that is our plan of action.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “In your packet, you all will have a Revised Group Home Ordinance. It is not to be introduced or anything tonight. It is just something that I want you all to look at. It is a total revamp of the ordinance that we have in place now. I just would like for you all to look at it and at next month’s I will be asking somebody to introduce it after we talk about what we have in front of us. It is a different ordinance. It actually holds the people accountable for their actions in these group homes. It holds them accountable for their jobs as supervisors and the Group Home Authority. So they will have to follow regulations that is put in place by our parish. It is something for you all to look at for next month’s meeting. Also, I have another request. It is up to you all for this one. The minutes of the meetings of the council meetings, we have them in the safe at the courthouse in our office. When looking for the minutes of the meeting for the monument, we found that we could not find book #5. Our minutes go back to the 1800’s Book #5 had the 1919 minutes that would answer a lot of questions here tonight. I came and met with Sherell, the minutes from 2007 or 2008 to the present are in here, not in the safe. So I am asking the council, do you all want to buy a safe to put in here because the official records should be located in the council. I think it should be located in a fire proof safe to make sure that we don’t have any issues. We have room in our safe but the official records should be hailed with the council clerk.”

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to **seek prices on a Fire Proof Safe** to store the St. Landry Parish Council meeting minutes and present the prices to the council.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the Parish President’s Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier read the Announcement of the Public Meeting

Announcement of Public Meeting

Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at its regular meeting place, the Old City Market, 131 W. Bellevue Street, Opelousas, Louisiana, the Parish Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling elections to be held in (i) Sub-Road District No. 1 of Road District 11A of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana and (ii) Sub-Road District No. 2 of Road District 11A of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana to authorize the levy of ad valorem taxes therein.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

***Items passed through committee.**

1. Vote to re-appoint Paul Dakin for one appointment to South St. Landry Community Library District for a five-year term. (04-01-2022 – 04-01-2027).

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to re-appoint Paul Dakin for one appointment to South St. Landry Community Library District for a five-year term. (04-01-2022 – 04-01-2027).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

2. Authorize Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to South St. Landry Community Library District for the remainder of a five-year term set to expire 04-01-2024. Julia Battle has moved out of the state.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to authorize Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to South St. Landry Community Library District for the remainder of a five-year term set to expire 04-01-2024.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

3. Vote to re-appoint Elmo Begneaud and Gregg Cormier for two appointments to Coulee Croche Fire Protection District No.4 for a two-year term. (04-20-2022 – 04-20-2024).

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to re-appoint Elmo Begneaud and Gregg Cormier for two appointments to Coulee Croche Fire Protection District No.4 for a two-year term. (04-20-2022 – 04-20-2024).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

4. Vote to re-appoint Howard Wiltz, Vickie Fontenot, Jody Fontenot, Janie Neely, and Denny Williams for five appointments to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 5 for a three-year term. (04-21-2022- 04-21-2025).

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to re-appoint Howard Wiltz, Vickie Fontenot, Jody Fontenot, Janie Neely, and Denny Williams for five appointments to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 5 for a three-year term. (04-21-2022- 04-21-2025).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

5. Authorize Ms. Astera Espree to continue operating her group home for the next 30 days until the council get additional information to make a thoughtful and intelligent decision regarding her Occupational License.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize Ms. Astera Espree to continue operating her group home for the **next 30 days until** the council get additional information to make a thoughtful and intelligent decision regarding her Occupational License

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin,

Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None.
 ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.
 WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

6. Authorize Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the Communication Tower Permit Application.

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy to authorize Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the Communication Tower Permit Application.

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

ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

7. Discussion to remove the Occupational License for Mr. Keith Johnson.

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Madam Chairwoman, I will ask that if Mr. Johnson is here that he come to the podium. If he is not here then we will take action on this. “

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to authorize the Parish President to **remove** the Occupational License for Mr. Keith Johnson.

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

ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

8. Authorize Parish President Jessie Bellard to notify the landowners of the six blighted properties to show cause as to why their property should not be demolished.

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to notify the landowners of the six blighted properties to show cause as to why their property should not be demolished.

Blighted Properties and Parcel Numbers

No.	Parcel Number	Address	Town
1	0603314500	115 Sam Street	Eunice, La
2	0501246500	117 Primrose Street	Opelousas, La
3	0300657750	565 Koch Rd.	Arnaudville, La
4	0104355500	541 Brignac Lane	Opelousas, La
5	0103875700	239 Bullard Avenue	Opelousas, La
6	0106539650	1620 Gladys St.	Opelousas, La

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

ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

9. Discuss the removal of the Confederate Monument and what its replacement will be.

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Madam Chair, we have a new resolution that was presented to us. It reads:

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 of 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that St. Landry Parish President Jessie Bellard is hereby authorized to place the monument referred to above in storage only until such time as is required to effect its sale according to the provisions of La. R.S. 33:4711 at a price not less than the full cost incurred by St. Landry Parish Government for the removal of the monument from the St. Landry Parish District Courthouse square.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that, in the event that no qualifying minimum bid for the purchase of the monument is received, St. Landry Parish President Jessie Bellard is authorized to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with a museum approved by a majority of the St. Landry Parish Council, to donate the monument for a public purpose as authorized by Louisiana Constitution Art. VII, section 14 (C).

- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “There are several things down here. So I guess we have to choose which one we want to go with, so the floor is open.”
- **Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “I move that we adopt the Resolution as written.”
- **Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “Have we gotten Legal Counsel? What does our counsel feel about it?”
- **Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “This is the form of the Resolution that will be placed before the council to vote. I think the voting on it comes later in the agenda when we get to Resolutions. All the council is voting on now is whether this the form that the Resolution will take when they vote on it. That is the form of the Resolution. Later when we get to Resolutions the council will vote on it. You all are just voting on whether this will be the form of the Resolution.”
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Madam Chair, the only thing I am not in favor of is the sale, the sale of the monument and where it reads: *‘Be it further resolved, by the St. Landry Parish Council that St. Landry Parish President Jessie Bellard is hereby authorized to place the monument referred to above in storage only until such time as is required to effect its sale according to the provisions of La. R.S. 33:4711 at a price not less than the full cost incurred by St. Landry Parish Government for the removal of the monument from the St. Landry Parish District Courthouse square.’* So, I am just not in favor of the council selling a monument, I am just not in favor. I am more in favor of placing it in a museum, not selling the monument.”
- **Councilman Coby Clavier stated,** “Chairwoman, I would like to be recognized. I have a motion at this time. I would like to mention to see if I get a second. I would like to table voting to remove it until we have an adequate place decided. I would hate

to remove something that we have no idea where we are going to put it. That is kind of putting the horse before the cart so to speak. My motion on the floor is to hold off on voting, table it until we have a better plan in place.

- **Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “I will second your motion Mr. Coby.”
No action taken.
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated**, “Madam Chair, before we can go to that motion, I had a question first before we go to that motion. Can you relate to what I am saying?”
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Whatever the council wishes to do as a Resolution which is a Resolution by the council is a suggestion to the parish. It has no weight in law. What I am asking is, I am not going to do anything against the law regardless if the council votes to do it one way or the other. Whatever action the council takes tonight I will bring it to my attorney and make sure that whatever we are going to do is the legal way to do it. Selling this monument, I think is a bad idea, I don’t think that goes anywhere. I think we have so far since this started, you all would be surprised of the phone calls that I have received and nobody is rah, rah, rah about either side. Everybody is coming here with cool, clean heads. Let’s keep it that way. If you all want to remove the monument, vote to remove the monument and let me do the rest. I promise you it will be put in a place, it is not going to be put on Parish Government Property nowhere in our parish but it will be put in a place where it needs to be honored however they choose to do it. But, to say that we are going to sell something that I don’t believe belongs to the Parish Government, I think that is wrong. So whatever the council does....”
- **Councilman Coby Clavier stated**, “So I have a motion on the floor and I have a second.”
- **Councilman Easton Shelvin stated**, “Now you say it doesn’t belong to the Parish Government, so do we have a right to move it?”
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “I have no idea who owns it but if it is on Parish Government Property, the council does have the right to say let’s move it. I just don’t think the council have right to sell it. According to any law because we don’t own, we own the physical property here but not the monument. All I am say is let’s think about this for a little bit.”
- **Councilman Coby Clavier stated**, “That reinforces my motion and a second to table this until we figure out better details of what to do with this statue.”
- **Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated**, “I am in favor of Mr. Red saying that we should not sell this monument. If this monument so belongs to the people and we may have two different sides that it belongs too. But, for the people that own it, they need to, if the vote says to remove it, then they need to respectfully remove it. But I don’t think that we should try to sell it. I think if it is there, it should be removed. If they find a place they need to let the parish council know where it is going so it can be announced.”
- **Councilman Coby Clavier stated**, “I have a motion and a second.”
- **Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “I seconded his motion where we table removing this monument until all of the things are ironed out on where it is going to go. I am not in favor of selling it. Like Mr. Voitier said a while ago, there are some things that we need to iron out.”
- **Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated**, “I would ask that we put a time frame on this because I don’t want this to last for six months or six years. We need to come to an understanding.”
- **Councilman Coby Clavier stated**, “I will revise my motion that within the next 60 days something gets figured out.”
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated**, “I would like to make a Sub motion if I am in order that we go on and make a motion to remove the monument and place it in a museum. If I can get a seconded to that motion.”
- **Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated**, “I will second it. It should be put in a museum.”
- **Councilman Easton Shelvin stated**, “Do we have a museum to place it in?”

- **Councilman Harold Taylor** stated, “We have a Sub Motion, we have to vote on the Sub Motion first.”
- **Council Clerk Sherell Jordan** stated, “The Sub Motion now becomes the main motion. We have one main motion and one Sub Motion.”
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr.,** stated, “Madam Chair. I am hearing from the Parish President that there is not a museum at this present time.”
- **Councilman Coby Clavier** stated, “That reinforces my motion until we figure out what to do with it.”
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr.,** stated, “Can you look within the next 30 days to see if we have one?”
- **Councilman Easton Shelvin** Stated, “What if we donate it back to the Daughters of Confederate?”
- **Councilman Dexter Brown** stated, “If I am correct, I believe the United Daughters of the Confederate took the statue from the General Mouton statue from Lafayette and they placed it in Denham Springs in a museum. I believe that is where they put the statue at. So you might check into that. If we vote to remove it, if the vote is to remove it just check with Lafayette because I believe they took General Mouton statue and put it in Denham Springs somewhere in a museum.”
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard** stated, “It goes back to Mr. Clavier’s point. If you all give me 30 days we can have all of these answers ironed out and at the next council meeting I can have an answer for you all.”
- **Councilman Coby Clavier** stated, “That is fine. We have two motions on the floor to vote on.”
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr.,** stated, “Well if you say 30 days I will withdraw my motion.”
- **Councilman Coby Clavier** stated, “I am good with 30 days.”
- **Councilman Jerry Red Jr.,** stated, “I will withdraw my motion.”
- **Councilman Easton Shelvin** stated, “I withdraw my second.”
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere** stated, “Could you repeat the motion because Mr. Easton and I just want to hear it.”
- **Council Clerk Sherell Jordan** stated, “Okay, our motion on the floor is to Table removing the monument at this time for 30 days until we figure out what museum we will be able to move it to.”
- **Councilman Easton Shelvin** questioned, “Is that saying in 30 days we should have a place and removed?”
- **Council Clerk Sherell Jordan** stated, “30 days.”
- **Councilman Wayne Ardoin** stated, “That is not what the motion said.”
- **Councilman Easton Shelvin** stated, “We will come back in 30 days with a place and then we will vote on moving it to that place.”

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to table the removal of the statue for 30 days until the council can figure out what museum it will be move to.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

IX. ORDINANCE TO BE INTRODUCED:

ORDINANCE NO 2022-005

**AN ORDINANCE TO ABANDON JAN STREET IN ST. LANDRY PARISH
(Sponsored by Councilman Coby Clavier).**

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.

X. ORDINANCE TO BE ADOPTED:

None.

XI. RESOLUTION TO BE ADOPTED:

This Resolution 005-2022 was replaced by Resolution 006-2022. It was read earlier in the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 005-2022

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 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.

XII. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to accept the **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes** from Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022 as transcribed.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to accept the **Administrative Finance Committee Meeting Minutes** from Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022 as transcribed.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 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., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 16th, day of March, 2022.

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

