**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 2022**

**OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.**

**OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Parish President Jessie Bellard Was Absent for this Meeting due to a Flooding Situation in Whiteville**

1. Chairman Dexter Brown called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry

Parish Council to order.

1. Councilwoman Mildred Thierry led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.
2. **Roll Call:**

Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy. Alvin Stelly, Dexter Brown and Jimmie Edwards.

Ex-Officio Vivian Olivier. ABSENT: Coby Clavier.

***Councilman Coby Clavier was absent for roll call but later joined the meeting***.

1. **Person to address the Committee:**

**None.**

1. **Public Works Report:**

**Finance Director Caryn Fulop stated**, “I am not really sure of everything that is going on. Jessie told me to mention that he will not be able to make it for the meeting and I have no idea of what is going on with Public Works. He said the Road Districts for Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, he will try to get some funding for you.”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “**If I am in order, I would like to forward all three of these items that I have to the next Committee Meeting since he is not here tonight.”

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “**I second.”

**Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “**Mr. Chairman, whenever we get to each of those items the council committee can vote to forward them to the full council meeting.”

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

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

**Motion carried.**

1. **Forward all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 7 for a one year term (09-19-2022 – 09-19-2023) and a two year term (09-19-2022 – 09-19-2024).**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday August 17th, 2022** all applications received for two appointment to Fire District No. 7 for a one year term and a two year term.

One year term (09-19-2022 – 09-19-2023). Two year term (09-19-2022 – 09-19-2024).

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Discuss the eroding of Olen Quebedeaux’s property on the southeast corner parallel to a drainage canal, which is located at 1397 Charles Fisher Road. (Councilman Dexter Brown).**

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated**, “I placed this item on the agenda due to having an erosion situation that is taking place on Mr. Quebedeaux’s property. It is basically stemming from three tanker car hikes that run east and west.”

**Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, “**Do you want to forward that to the next meeting?”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “**What I am going to do Mr. Jimmie, I see Mr. Quebedeaux is in the audience. We will have some discussion on it tonight and I will forward it to the full meeting, if I have to forward it to the next committee meeting in September, I will bring it back up.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “**Mr. Brown, I believe I spoke to you because that is in your district. Mr. Quebedeaux is here so I know he can verify. This gentlemen came up to me and I did not know who he was. He came up to me after Church one Sunday morning. He told me about the situation he has. The following day I called him and Mr. Taylor and I went ride out to his property and we looked at his situation. I spoke to Mr. Mike Bourgeois who is the Drainage District Chairman in that area and he stated they definitely had a problem over there. I am just asking what I saw over there and what I saw across the street what Parish Government did with some Culverts and some Manholes, I think that we need to look at this situation and give this man the same thing that happened across the street and try to take care of the erosion problem he has. The man has a beautiful place over there and those three culverts from what we saw that day one of them is letting water thru and there are two of them that are completely stopped up. There is definitely a need to have something done there. I am not an engineer and I don’t claim to be an engineer but something definitely needs to be done for this gentleman and his family.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “**Mr. Quebedeaux and I have been talking lengthy regarding his erosion problem. I have brought this situation up to Mr. Bellard and I told him that I fought for culverts to be placed in the front of his home as well as near the drainage canal. Between Mr. Bellard and our Public Works Director back then, I guess they did not see that it was feasible to do it. We reached out to Mr. Quebedeaux recently and I told him that we were going to work with our new Public Works Director, Mr. Barry Soileau and see if we can give him some assistance along with the drainage board as well.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “**I spoke to Mr. Quebedeaux myself. I addressed that same issue. Mr. Quebedeaux got in touch with me because Mike Bourgeois sent him in my direction. I put a work order in to the Public Works Division. I later received a phone call, about a week or two later that stated that the engineers had been to that location and they see no fault of the three culverts or the three drainage pipes that were placed in there, the box car or whatever it is called, no fault in that and that it was not creating that problem. Mr. Bellard told me at that point nothing could be done. I would think that we need to forward this to the full council in an opinion and have Mr. Bellard address this at the full council at the next meeting. He can either defend his statement or reject his statement, whatever he so choses. That is the answer that he gave me.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “**I know that whenever we bring up an item up for discussion I want to fight for my constituents along with everyone in the parish. I do see as well that they have an erosion problem with Mr. Quebedeaux’s property. When you hit a road block with the opinion of the engineers going toward the Parish President and the Public Works Director we just have to keep fighting for our constituents because that is what we are there for. In Mr. Quebedeaux’s situation, we are going to get Mr. Bellard and Mr. Barry and the Engineers again to put in a work order to go and do another study out there to see basically how we can stop that erosion of your land on that southeast corner.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, August 17th, 2022** to further discuss the eroding of Mr. Olen Quebedeaux’s property located at 1397 Charles Fisher Road on the southeast corner parallel to a drainage canal.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Discuss possible funding for hard surface roads in District 4 that are in need of overlaying. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I would like this forward this to the next Committee Meeting.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward this agenda item to discuss the possible funding for hard surface roads in District 4 that are in need of overlaying for discussion to the next Committee Meeting dated **Wednesday, September 7th, 2022.**

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Update on Broadband and also the Gumbo Funds. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I would like this also forwarded to the next Committee Meeting.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward this agenda item to discuss an update on Broadband and the GUMBO Funds to the next Committee Meeting dated **Wednesday, September 7th, 2022.**

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Discuss future plans for pavement on gravel roads in District 4. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “This as well, I would like to have it forwarded to the next Committee Meeting.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward this agenda item to discuss the future plans for pavement on gravel roads in District 4 to the next Committee Meeting dated **Wednesday, September 7th, 2022.**

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Discuss removing barricades on Pebble Road and Rainbow Road. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).**

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “**I know we are going to end up forwarding this but Garett, I think we looked up and there was never an ordinance to have that road closed. Pebble Road and Rainbow is behind the casino. There was a barricade put up and I think that it was temporary if Garett wants to elaborate.”

**Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “**Did the Parish Government put the barricade up?”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “**Yes but that was before my time. Yes it was. I think it was supposed to be temporary.”

**Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “**It is always temporary.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “**It was only thru a Resolution I think. You and I had a discussion.”

**Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated**, “Anytime there is a barricade up and there is a sign before the barricade saying road closed that is always the case because it prevents a lawsuit if someone runs into the barricade. If the barricade is temporary then there is no reason for it, the Parish Government may want to think about removing the barricade.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “**Well that is going to be my request that the barricade be removed. We will have to wait and forward this until Mr. Bellard is back. We can go ahead and forward it for discussion because we cannot make a decision on our own.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy to forward this agenda item to remove barricades on Pebble Road and Rainbow Road for discussion at the next Committee Meeting held on **Wednesday, September 7th, 2022.**

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.**

**Councilman Coby Clavier stated, “**For those members that attended the NACO Convention recently, I was interested in getting some feedback. If you can share with all the councilmembers any feedback that you can bring back to the parish. That would be valuable to us. I look forward to hearing about that.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “**Would you like a report at the full meeting?”

**Councilman Coby Clavier stated, “**Yes.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “**If he wanted to discuss it now, I could have given my report briefly but I can wait.”

**Councilman Coby Clavier stated,** “It is not necessary at the moment, Just whenever. Thank you.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “**Mr. Nathaniel Thierry is the Pastor of Living Waters Community Center located at 946 S. Bullard Street. He is interested in purchasing some property that is parallel to him. He has been taking care of the property. We will have to get the engineers to look into it because I believe years ago Charlie Street went to South Bullard Street. Somewhere, Charlie Street was abandon, I guess by the city and he has been taking care of a stretch where the road was. He would like the Parish and the Engineers to look into it and resurvey it because he has been cutting the grass and keeping it manicured since 2011 when he bought the property. I would like someone to make a motion to forward this to the full council.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “**Mr. Brown, I have a question, is that property owned by the parish? Is it adjudicated? He wants to buy it from whom, the Parish?”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “**That is the situation. It was abandon. It is a tricky area there. If you are on the north side of Charles Burr, it is city and if you are on the south side it is parish. Living Waters is on the south side but Charlie Street use to run from…..”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “Mr. Brown, I don’t want to cut you off but I think Mr. Lewis is our Code Enforcement. I think if he has an address you can just give it to him and he can see if he even owns it or if it is adjudicated because we cannot do anything if we don’t own it. I think if you give Mr. Lewis that information, he can look it up.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “**We can do that as well but we will still need the engineers to survey it. He has been keeping it up and it is a fenced in area. It is like the same situation that happened in the Lawtell area with the little piece of land but it was our land near the railroad track. I would like to get the engineers as well. They will have to survey the land to see where his land is.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “**Can he check with the parish president. Like Ms. Carriere was saying, we can find out if we own the property before we do anything else. Going thru all the other motion might be defeating the purpose.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Mr. Lewis, I can get that to you.”

**Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “**Mr. Chairman, does that property have an address?”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “**Living Waters is 946 South Bullard. When you look at Living Waters, it is like a 20 foot stretch from South Bullard all the way back west. It is like a 20 foot wide stretch all the way back to where Charlie Street is.”

**Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “**If the property has an address, you can pull an assessment from the Tax Assessor’s Office on it to see who owns it or if it was lost at a tax sale and you can look at the dimensions of the property and the mapping room at the assessor’s office, you can see who owns in that area. They will know if it was lost at a tax sale which means the parish owns it or not.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “**Years ago it was a street that went to South Bullard, years back.”

**Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “**Was the street abandon? Because if it was abandon then the landowner by the street owns to the middle of the street if it was abandon by the parish.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “**Okay thanks, then we will start with Mr. Lewis.”

**Councilman Coby Clavier stated, “**Just out of curiosity you can go on the parish website, the Tax Assessor’s Parish Website and go to any property in the parish and see who owns it. If you know where it is at. Just zoom in and it will show you the property owner and who pays their taxes on that property.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “**He just told me that this afternoon that he

has been taking care of it since 2011. I will let him know.”

1. **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adjourn the Public Works Committee Meeting.

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

**Motion carried.**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE**

**KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK**