

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

1. Chairman Dexter Brown called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.

2. **Roll Call:**

Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier  
**ABSENT:** Ex-Officio Vivian Olivier.

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

**Ms. Hanna Artigue addressed the council. She stated,** “We have been trying to get Bear Street taken over by the parish. My neighbor Julie David has been coming for years trying to get the road taken over and nobody ever wanted to take it over. They told us that we had to fix the road and we fixed the road and now we are having a problem with the trash. The lady who just moved here down our road does not want our trash cans at the end anymore. We all signed a servitude of passage papers for the trash to pass except two people down our road that does not live there, they only have property there. She does not want our trash on her property. We need you all to take it over so that way we can get mail and we can get our trash cans picked up. We need to figure something out. We did the road, we fixed it like they wanted us to. We have been dealing with this. I have been talking to Richard LeBouef. I am sure you all know about that.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We have been meeting in regards to the private road issues. I think we have 400 plus private roads in the Parish of St. Landry. Prior to the meeting Mr. Ardoin, Mr. Taylor and myself have been discussing a possibility of starting a Pilot Program in the Parish of St. Landry that we can hopefully address at the next council meeting. You would fit in the district that we are talking about. We have some details to workout but that is one of the things that we are looking at doing. We are trying to bring in some private roads into the system because some of these roads are not getting any services, not just trash or mail but they can’t even get an ambulance down there or a police car or a fire truck. We think that is a major safety hazard for the people that live down there. They are living down there and I guess they chose to live down there, but still we have to take care of our people one way or the other. We are in talks and I think by the next meeting we will have something to bring to the full council as a Pilot Program. I think your road would be one of those in that Pilot Program, it fits in that district.”

**Ms. Hannah Artigue stated,** “In the meantime, what do we do about our trash?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I will call Mr. LeBouef in the morning and ask him if he can talk to the new company to go down there. That is another big problem that we are having with all of these private roads. Trash is brought to the end of the road and someone is bothered with it.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,** “How long is the road to start with roughly?”

**Ms. Hannah Artigue stated,** “I would say it is about one-half mile long.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,** “Where are these two properties located?”

**Ms. Hannah Artigue stated,** “All the way in the back. Where the turn-around is located their properties meet with the turn-around, all the way at the end.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “You can probably get him to go down the part that he has the servitude on and turn around and come back.”

**Ms. Hannah Artigue stated,** “That is what we wanted him to do because they lived at the end but Ms. Dotson lives right there at that turn-around also and she did sign the paper. I don’t know how that works.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “That depends on your plat. If the property line goes to the center of the road, each of them owns half of it, technically. I think if it is all the way in the back you may be able to get Solid Waste out there.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “If you don’t mind you and I can meet in a little bit to discuss it and we will get you some kind of relief. I think in the near future we will have a plan to start fixing these problems.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned,** “My first question is for the Parish President. Will that meeting be among just two council members or the whole council?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The whole council.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “The reason why I am asking is because of Bear Road. Is Bear Road a Private Road?”

**Ms. Hannah Artigue stated,** “Yes Sir.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “When it is a private road I did read the information that we got from the state. We understood that on a private road, if the parish does go and do anything on it, we are assuming the responsibility on it. Am I correct?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “That is correct, yes.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “But yet at the same time, what district is that in, District 6? Do you know about that Mr. Savoy?”

**Councilman Gil Savoy stated,** “The road is wide and it meets all the criteria and it is doable.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned,** “What do you mean doable?”

**Councilman Gil Savoy stated,** “It has proper drainage. The only thing that they are asking for is garbage pickup. They have to go all the way to the end of the road and it is very dangerous there. I have a picture on my phone. All of those garbage cans were thrown into the ditch. You are asking ladies to go and pick up the garbage cans out of a ditch and that is not right. These people pay taxes just like we do.”

**Ms. Hannah Artigue stated,** “The one who just left here also have pictures on her phone where she lives right there at the end. She has pictures of the trash cans and the trash. Literally there was trash all over HWY 741 the other day because people just drop their trash. They will hit the trash can and trash goes everywhere. It is really horrible.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Mr. Bellard, I think the first thing that we have to look at is finding out how many private roads we have in the parish and look at trying to take them all in. Try to look at what is the best scenario to look at.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The idea that is being tossed around and we have been discussing this as everyone here knows. We have an issue across the parish regarding taking in some private roads and just bringing them up to the standard. Not necessarily bringing them up to a black top standard but if it is a gravel road bring it up to a gravel road standard and give them a good road to pass on so they can get service down there. If it is a black top road bring it back to whatever standard it was. Not to take in and promise anybody a brand new road that is not what this is about. It is just trying to get them service down these roads especially those that can't.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “The main thing, if it becomes a public road, you can get your mail, your trash picked up and the school buses can pass on them. If they have the proper weight and they are in a condition for the parish to start doing work on the road. In that district they also have a Public Commission in that area. I think that it is a big plus.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard questioned,** “How many residents are on that road?”

**Ms. Hannah Artigue stated,** “We have 18. We have some that have two separate properties. So it is 18.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** “Mr. Bellard, what is the possibility of us seeking some type of Grant Funding for that?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Last week we submitted a request for Capital Outlay in the amount of \$5,000,000.00. The deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. This will help us with roads in the Parish of St. Landry. Not specifying anything in general but it could be used for that as well, yes.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** “Is there is a Cul-de-sac at the end of that property and everyone has signed, the new company when they spoke to us they said that they had some satellite trucks or smaller trucks that could go down smaller roads. Is there some kind of way to give them some kind of relief? The other garbage pickup did go down private roads.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Right with the signed copies giving them permission to go down that road, yes.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** “Can we make sure or a request?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes, I will get with Richard in the morning.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Ms. Artigue, we will do everything possible to correct that sanitation situation that you all have. I will speak for Mr. Richard LeBouef, he will do everything 100% possible and that is legal to go and correct you all sanitation problem.”

**Ms. Hannah Artigue stated,** “He has been working with me for the last two weeks. He has been awesome.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “He is awesome. We will take care of you all and we will stay legal.”

**Ms. Hannah Artigue stated,** “Thank you all.”

#### **4. Public Works Report:**

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The only thing that we are doing extra this month is spraying grass, they started spraying last week trying to knock down some of that and it has been working out pretty good. Hopefully that continues to be our process.”

**Councilman Alfin Stelly questioned,** “Is it a little late to spray right now?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes, they said the temperatures are still good enough to spray and we want to knock it down. So I said spray.”

**Councilman Coby Clavier questioned,** “Regarding the spraying and the poison you have the tall grass and it just becomes dead and it is still tall and eventually it might lean over but are we going to cut as well?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We are cutting first then they come back and spray after.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned,** “Were we able to cut on the Ball Park?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes, they were there today with the Boom Ax and the Shredder. They had some trees that were growing out there so they knocked those down. I don’t think that they are finished yet but I know that they went today and started it so it is dry enough and they war working on it.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “I know, it is really dry so that is a big plus.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “With the dry weather like we have been having it they have been grading the roads and creating dust. We still have to get these road in shape for the winter time. That is all I have unless you all have questions.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to accept the Public Works Report.

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

**Motion carried.**

#### **5. Discuss adding a 3-way Stop sign proposal at the intersection of Acadiana Road and Airline Road. (Councilman Dexter Q. Brown).**

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Mr. Bellard, this is Austin Road and it switches to Acadiana Road.

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I am familiar with it. Do you want to one in that curve?”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Yes. Our Public Works Director called and asked. He stated the problem is when a bus is coming off of Airline and either making a left or a right, we have some people that are coming off of HWY 190 that is coming with a little speed. When they get into that curb, airline is right here. It is a proposal to put a three way stop sign right there.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “That is fine. That is what we did on School Road. That was a little bit different because they could not see but it was the same purpose.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Mr. Barry called me and said he would call Mr. Timmy as well. I told him that area is real close. Mr. Timmy and I share.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Airline Road is in District 1. It is about one and one half miles from HWY 190. I went over there Saturday and it is a dangerous spot. If they put a three way like they put on School Road it may be effective but the people just have to obey the traffic signals. I think it would be a great idea.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Thank you Mr. Red. If you can Mr. Bellard, can we place a sign before the three way stop that says Stop Sign Ahead.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Oh Yes, we can do all of that. Once the council passes it we can make that happen.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, **October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022** an introduction to **Ordinance 2022-015**. An Ordinance to place a three-way stop sign at the intersection of Acadiana Road and Airline Road.

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

6. **Discuss assisting the City with a Grant for repairing their Water System.  
(Councilman Wayne Ardoin).**

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Jessie, I am asking for a little help. We have some Grant Writers here and you know that we have a problem in Royal Gardens, the city furnishes the water there. The infrastructure of these water pipes is a shame but we have that also on the South end of Opelousas and I am getting a lot of phone calls. People are having water leaks and when the city goes and fix the water leak and they leave us a mound with some limestone and we get another water leak a little further down. I am just asking for any kind of help that you all can maybe assist the city in getting some kind of money for us to correct that problem. What they have within the city, I am still the councilmember there but they have a city councilmember there. We need all the help that we can get.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We will get with William Jarrell. I think they have some projects that are coming around pretty soon. I don’t think that it will affect Royal Gardens I think it will affect inside of the city but we definitely can ask for help.”

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Whatever help that we can get. I just want to assure these people that we are trying to get them some help. The phone calls keep coming in.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We will jump on that tomorrow morning.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to authorize the Parish President to assist the City of Opelousas with acquiring a Grant to repair their Water System.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

7. **Update on Land Erosion parallel to Mr. Olan Quebedeaux’s property located at 1397 Charles Fisher Road. (Councilman Dexter Q. Brown).**

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Mr. Bellard, we have two situations right there along Charles Fisher Road going north and south. On the West side where Mr. Olan Quebedeaux’s house is they have a land erosion problem there going to the coolie. Also at the corner of his property where the canal begins we have water running west coming from underneath our three railroad pipes. They have an erosion problem at that embankment and alongside the south side of his property. He has been asking me and he has been calling me and we have been talking. He ask that I help him out on this situation and I would like to know where we are with the progress.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The progress is simple. The Engineers looked at it and there is nothing that we can do. We done beat this horse to death. It is what it is. I brought property in Eunice and guess what, I border a canal. Guess what I have, I have erosion problems but I brought that property with that canal on it. I can’t help people on their private property, I can’t help that. I hate to be like that but we have this conversation every other month. The engineers went out there and assessed it and they are telling me everything is like it supposed to be.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “I know along the west side of Charles Fisher Road, the front of his house, 1397 Charles Fisher, we have a large flow of water going to that canal because it is draining all of Charles Fisher and water is also coming from Dufilho Road as well. Do they look at that as well?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “It is designed to catch that water. Years ago we put that extra cover across there to catch all of that water so it would flow. It is doing what it is supposed to do. I don’t know what more to do with it.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “The problem that he is having is that on the front of his property?”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “It is in the front of his house and it is also along the south side of his property.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I don’t think there is anything in front of his house. I think his problem is at the Coolie on the northwest corner.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Last year or the year before, I believe when they dug the ditches in the front of his house Charles Fisher sat high but our road sits higher than his land. What we don’t want to happen is the bottom of our road at Charles

Fisher going towards that canal to start eating out from underneath. That is why we need to reconstruct the whole road.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “That is what has been happening across the street. On the east side of that road it was eating up the embankment against the road. That is why we had to put the culverts down across the street because our road was falling. On that side it is not happening. Like I said, I am no engineer but I rely on both of our engineers that we have and they both tell me the same thing. Unless someone else can tell me different and prove to use that we are doing something wrong with it then I can’t do anything.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “If he wanted an engineer’s report from our engineers can he get that?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes, I can get that for him. I will get with Barry in the morning.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Okay, I will call him after the meeting. Thank you sir.”

**8. Discuss changing the road name of Coker Road to A. V. Coker Road.  
(Councilman Coby Clavier).**

**Councilman Coby Clavier stated,** “The resident on that road, Ms. Sandy Coker stated that was her husband’s grandfather who the road was actually named after. She asked if I could bring this up to see if I could possibly change it to A.V. Coker which was his name he was named by. That would properly represent who that name was named after. I am asking to bring it thru this committee. If no one have a problem with it on this committee we can bring it to full council. If it is approved in full council, we will ask Sherell to contact 911 to put a request in on 911 to see if they have any problem with that road name change. If they approve of it then we can see about getting it changed. So I am asking this committee to help me forward it to the full council.”

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Out of all fairness Mr. Clavier, I taught that this council, some years back, when we needed to change the name the people that were going to get the name changed would be responsible for the cost of the sign and everything. I think that we did that as an ordinance or a resolution.”

**Councilman Coby Clavier stated,** “We can ask our Lawyer Mr. Garrett to check into that and see if we have something on that.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “They can make a donation to the Government. 911 will have to be notified and they will have to approve it and they will have to log it in with the change. If that happens then we can have an ordinance to do all of this. Our clerk will have to contact 911 and let them know. That is step number 1.”

**Councilman Coby Clavier stated,** “At this point I would like to forward it to full council.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to approve changing the name of a road from Coker Road to A.V. Coker Road.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

**9. Forward all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 7 for a one year term and three appointment for a two year term expiring 11-18-2022.**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022** all applications receive two appointments for a one year term and three appointments for a two year term to Fire District 7. All expiring 11-18-2022.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

**10. Discuss going forward with the process to place Speed Bumps on Roland Oaks Road.  
(Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).**

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “If I am in order, since Ms. Carriere is not present should we forward this to the next Committee Meeting?”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edward to forward this agenda item; Discuss going forward with the process to place Speed

Bumps on Roland Oaks Road to the next committee meeting held on **Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022** because Councilwoman Nancy Carriere was absent for this 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.**

**11. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to the Public Works Commission District Six for a four year term. (12-16-2022 - 12-16-2026).**

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to the Public Works Commission District Six for a four year term. (12-16-2022 – 12-16-2026).

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

**Motion forwarded.**

**12. Update on all clean-up of Blighted Properties on McNeese Street. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward this agenda item; Update on all cleanup of Blighted Properties on McNeese Street to the next **Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “In reference to that item, she was given a copy of the update like everyone else.”

**Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “There is no need to forward it.”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “So do we need to forward this?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We gave a copy. I saw it on the agenda and we wrote a letter to make sure that everybody was the same page.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Since we have a motion and a second and we have voted on it, we will forward it anyway to take care of it in **two weeks.**”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The same thing with item 13. She was given a copy of the procedures as well as all of the councilmembers. Nothing has changed on that.”

**13. Discuss the procedure of Adjudicated Properties. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I gave everything. I don’t know what more to do.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “I am going by the agenda, thank you. Item 13, we have a motion and a second. Roll Call.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward this agenda item; Discuss the procedure of Adjudicated Properties to the next Committee Meeting held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 because Councilwoman Nancy Carriere was absent for this meeting.”

Roll Call: Councilman Coby Clavier voted ‘No.’”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned,** “What are we voting on? Are we voting to forward this or what?”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,** “To forward to the full council”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned,** “I thought we had said it had been taken care of.”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,** “This is the Procedure of the Adjudicated Properties. Ms. Nancy is not here and she requested for this to be on the agenda.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order. I am sorry a Parliamentary Order, excuse me. Ms. Nancy is not here to discuss it. It was a discussion item. Why would you want to forward this to full council?”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “That is what I am saying why? So mine is a ‘No’ vote.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “We will scratch item 13. Next item is item #14.”

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

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I have a letter that was sent to the Public Works Director on September 22, 2022. It is to deal with Fleur Des Coteau Road. You all are aware that Fleur Des Coteau Road is that third world country road that is across from the Lodge on LA 31. These people brought these lots under the pretense that someone will take care of the road. Roads are not taken care of because it is a private road. It is sort of like the one that Ms. Artigue is talking about except that it is worse than Ms. Artigue’s road. These people have a lateral behind their property and behind their homes which separates another piece of property which faces Old Spanish Grant Road. They have a lateral behind both of those parties. I sent a letter to Mr. Soileau and out of all due respect to Mr. Soileau and I sent it to the Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District, because these people are paying a tax in the Drainage District also they are paying the Smooth Ride Home Tax, are they getting anything back from it, no. Mr. Barry Soileau is under the pretense that we cannot do anything with this little lateral. This Lateral is a B-Ditch. I don’t know what the plat says if that B-Ditch was put before those properties were sold. But it will be up to Mr. Duplechain, I am asking this committee to bring it to the full council to get an Attorney General’s Opinion. Can we deal with that lateral behind those houses? When we will get a hurricane or bad weather someone will be hollowing that they have water getting into their homes. I feel sorry for these people because they have a situation there.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “As I understand it the lateral is on private property that is not road side.”

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “It is not roadside, no sir.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “These property owners would have to grant the parish or the district permission to go and clean it out which they can do that. They would probably want to and they can, we have done it before. I have the agreement forms that they can sign. They can clean it out. This is a private property which mean government has to have their permission to do it and they go in and clean it out.”

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Can the Drainage District do the project? They are paying taxes into the Prairie Basse Drainage District. I am not asking that Parish Government accept all of the responsibility, can that Drainage District go and clean out this lateral so these people would have some relief?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “That would be the job of the Drainage District.”

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Okay, that is why I want to ask for an opinion. Barry is in the right by telling me we can’t do anything.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “If these people refuse, you can’t do it, they won’t let you do it, don’t come on my property, Barry is in the right. But if these people agree to it then they can do it.”

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I want to know if it is legal for the Drainage District can get involved with taking care of that project. That is what I want to know. I want an Attorney General’s Opinion on it. I know it is a superficial deal, it is cleaning up a ditch but between these two properties. It has been brought to our attention so we need to try and get a little logic on it. I will ask that it goes to full council to get an Attorney General’s Opinion on it.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “If the drainage board pays a tax there they can dig up any canal.”

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “That is the assumption that I had of it, but Mr. Soileau stated that he don’t think that we have the authority nor does the drainage board. So that is why I want this opinion. That way it will be in black and white. They probably had some other situations like that so let’s try to do it that way and give these people some relief.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “We can add that lateral to their inventory. All they will have to do is accept that lateral as an inventory.”

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Barry is doing his job. Thank God we have Barry. I would ask that this council go ahead and ask for an Attorney General’s Opinion in favor of Prairie Basse and Parish Government. Mr. Duplechain can we do that, we appoint those members to that drainage board. They are an entity of St. Landry Parish Government.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “That will be a Resolution at the Full Council Meeting. The council is asking the Attorney General’s Opinion. There is a case law on it, I have read it but it would be good to get an Attorney General’s Opinion.”

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “One of the ladies, this was a couple of years ago, she called me, then a lady that works for the Attorney General’s Office called me saying this road that you all have over there, why are you all not keeping it up? First of all, it is not our road, it is a private road. That is why I want to involve the Attorney General’s Office. They got

involved with this deal here, well get involved with this matter with this lateral and give us some clearance on what we can do and what we can't do, please."

**Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned,** "Mr. Ardoin, that lateral, is that recorded at the courthouse?"

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** "That I do not know. But Barry told me after he got a copy of this letter that I sent to him and Prairie Basse thru Ms. Sherell Jordan, Barry tells me, and look he is doing his job, not knocking him, he said we can't do anything. I asked about the Drainage Board and he said, no the Drainage Board can't do anything either. So that is why I am asking for what I am asking for here tonight."

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** "I will make the motion to bring it to the full council but if that lateral is recorded at the courthouse, it does not make any difference who has land or who does not have land, they have a 100 foot right of way on that land. If they don't have it every landowner will have to sign to go thru. If one refuses it is all over. We go thru that every day."

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** "I am asking for some help for these people, please."

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** "Mr. Stelly, would you add to your motion that we authorize the Attorney to look into the record at the courthouse and see if it is recorded. Somebody dug the ditch. If there is a ditch, somebody dug it. If it is recorded that it was a servitude given then we won't even need an opinion. It would be just a matter of getting them to do it."

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** "It would be recorded under that name of each property owner. The right-a-way would be recorded under the name of the property owner Smith, Jones, each property owner if they have it recorded at the courthouse."

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** "That is why you need to look into it. Thank you."

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** "I make the motion to bring it back to full council or if they want an opinion from the Attorney General. The first thing that we need to do is find out if it is recorded."

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** "Fleur Des Coteau is the road that these people on. On the west side of Fleur Des Coteau you have another road that runs parallel which is Spanish Grant Road. You have people that are in front of Spanish Grant and in their back yard is where this little B-Ditch Lateral or whatever you want to call it is separating the two properties. So you have two different entities you have to deal with, two different property owners. Property owners that face Fleur Des Coteau and Spanish Grant."

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edward to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to authorize Legal Counsel to check the Right-of-Way for Laterals on the Fleur Des Coteau Subdivision.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned,** "Mr. Bellard, I could not let this meeting end without asking you this. Is there any way, I have about five gravel roads that I know of presently in my district. I have received several calls again today about the dust. On one of those roads I have a person with COPD. They are dying with COPD and others in that household with asthma. Is there anything that you could do to try to give these people some relief? I know we have to get the roads done and I know about the funds but these people are having to deal with that dust and it is not good for their health."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "It is not but I mean at the end of the day, if it is not raining we can't control the dust."

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned,** "What about if we put some material, would that help some?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "It is not going to help anything. The dust still will come up. Right now there is so much dust on these roads because it has not been raining for so long. When it will rain, we will have mud now. We are fighting the battle on both ends. I will ask Barry is that water truck that we have can give some kind of help. I will ask him in the morning."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "The Solar Panels forms will soon come up. We have one company that is in District 4, mainly in District 3 and District 4 that William gave them their approval on the plat. That is the first step. The next step is going to a public hearing. What I would like to do is meet with the council members with the company so you all can meet with them and understand what their projects will be about before coming to the council to get the full approval in the next couple of weeks. At that point that company is



going through another company in Baton Rouge to get their Tax Exempt Status done. I want you all to have a chance to sit down with them and ask questions and get that ball rolling so we can get that first Solar Farm started. They want to start making it happen by Mid-2023.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “Whenever you set up that meeting with the Solar Panel Company and ourselves can it be around 6 p.m. Some of us are still in the workforce.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We will do it like three different times. We can’t have it all at once so we will have different one.”

**Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated,** “One of those three different times, could it be after 4:00 p.m.”

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Mr. Bellard, correct me if I am wrong, the only reason we sold that Solar Panel Ordinance to ourselves or whatever you want to call it, I thought it was going to bring some finance into St. Landry Parish and here these people are already asking for a Tax Exemption?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “They will be Tax Exempt to a certain degree on property tax. The property tax that they are leasing goes from Farm Land to Commercial Property. So that will be a different ball game all together. All together I think we will come up with right around \$3,000,000.00 of Sales Tax on both of these project. Also for 15 years I want to say it will be \$400,000.00 more a year in Property Tax that they will be paying even with the Tax Breaks. On the other one that will be in Mr. Alvin’s District, that one will be even better than this one. It covers more land and it is a bigger project.”

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I don’t want us to shoot ourselves in the foot and we don’t get anything. They are making the money and we are here sitting here.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We will be coming out pretty good on this deal”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “A follow up on Mr. Ardoin’s question, when we meet with them could you let them know we would like to have the particulars of what they are proposing and what they are asking for the Industrial Tax Credit, the number of years. So we can formulate questions that we cans ask.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “They don’t have anything on paper yet. It is just in discussion. It is looking like 15 years maximum for the Piolet Program that they are calling it. They wanted to do 25 years. We told them that they could not do 25 years, 15 years is the maximum for the life of the Solar Panels from what we are being told by the experts is 20 years. We are trying to get with them and try to help us at the same time. Sherry will have those figures for us ahead of time before we set the meeting up and I will make sure that I will get it to you all.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “Mr. Bellard, we spoke about Residential Solar Panels to see what type of program they had in the state or from the Feds. You were going to look into getting us some information on that. Have we gotten to that point yet? Do we have any information? Have they given us anything?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Not yet. We will double check in the morning.”

## **15. Adjourn**

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

On roll call vote: YEAS: 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**