

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</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, Coby Clavier and Ex-Officio Vivian Olivier. **ABSENT:** None.

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

No one to address the committee.

4. **Public Works Report:**

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We were advised last week that we won't be getting any limestone until the end of November because the barges cannot come up into the Atchafalaya and we don't have anything. We don't have any material on the yard. So if we have any serious issues I don't know what to do. We are trying to get another contractor to give us some on an emergency basis in case we may need something. We are working with them on that. They are telling us that once they are finished repairing the locks they let the water come back then we will be getting material."*

*Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown questioned, "Is that due to a low water level in the Atchafalaya?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Correct, the barges cannot come through to unload."*

*Councilman Jimmie Edwards questioned, "Mr. Bellard, do we have some dump trucks. Can we use them?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No there is none on the yard where we buy it. They don't have anything on their yard. They get everything by barges. They can't unload"*

*Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, "On the spraying of the roads, does that cost the parish or does it cost the district money to spray?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We are spraying in the district and we are spraying parish wide. It is taken out of all of the funds."*

*Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, "Why are we spraying right now?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They are finishing up their last round of spraying."*

*Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "The grass is dead right now."*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No, the grass is not dead. The grass is still growing, thank God. They have some cows in the pasture that needs some grass."*

*Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, "They are spraying on the St. Martin side, who is paying for that? Is my District paying for that?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am not exactly sure if they know which side is which but they are spraying total by the miles. I will talk to them, they can take that off that is not a problem."*

*Councilman Alvin Stelly could not be heard clearly on the microphone.*

*Public Work Chairman Dexter Brown stated, "Mr. Bellard, months ago we had received some reclaim material from the state. Where is that stock pile?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The state has some at DOTD but there is some more that is coming from the Eunice area. I think they are doing some more work over there. We will get some of that as well. I think we are getting 500 yards of that."*

*Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown questioned, "Will that take care of the Limestone shortage?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It can help us in emergencies, yes. We don't have*

it yet but of course when it gets here we will stock pile it on our yard.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry 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. Update on Mushroom Road. (Councilman Alvin Stelly).**

*Councilman Alvin Stelly could not be heard over the microphone to ask his question.*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard replied to his question with: “It is the third and final letter by the council to show cause as to we should not. We need the council’s action on that last letter.”*

*Councilman Coby Clavier stated, “Wait we have to know what we are voting on. I don’t know where Mushroom Road is and I don’t know anything about Mushroom Road or the situation or nothing.”*

*Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “It is in my District. We are voting on trash.”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is at a person resident. It is one of those blighted pieces of property that we send two letters from our office and the final letter will come from the council to show cause as to why we should not.”*

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “When we get to the Full Council Meeting we will need the address and the name of the person and then we will send the letter. We will need the address at least then usually the Tax Assessor’s Website will give us the owner’s name and address to send the letter.”*

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to authorize the Council Clerk to send the final letter to the Constituent that lives on Mushroom Road regarding the clean up to their property.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

**6. Forward recommendation of Mr. James Cox to the Public Works Commission District Six for a four year term. (12-16-2022 – 12-16-2026).**

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** the recommendation to re-appoint Mr. James Cox 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.**

**7. Update on the Statue Removal. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).**

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Mr. Bellard, you sent out an E-Mail last month stating they were having a meeting to discuss the approval of accepting the statue. What is the status? I know they had a meeting on October 23, 2022. Can you give us an update on what they decided to do?”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The concrete is poured. The statue will be moved between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. It will be moved to Kenwood.”*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Thank you.”*

**8. Authorize Light Source BP Permit Review Application**

**(Proposed Prairie Ronde Solar Project.)**

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I talked about that in my Parish President's Report on the Administrative Finance side. It is that same permit and it has been taken care of."*

**9. Update on Broadband. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned, "Mr. Bellard, would you please give us an update and an explanation of how this came about for the areas that would be covered. There are some constituents that think that this council or the parish president has the say so of where this Broad Band is going to go. So would you please explain this so the public will have better understanding?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The first Grant or the first part of the money that came in was from the Ardoff Money and that was under the Trump Administration. That was done through a Bid Process by the local company's bidding on certain areas of the parish that they chose, not the Parish Government and not the Parish President so that is being done as we speak. The second pot of money was the NICA Grant or the NTIA Grant and that was also done through a choice of RFP's that was presented to me. We looked at them and LUS and Allen Cable were given the awards so they could go out and get the money and they chose the area that was feasible with the money available. Now we have the GUMBO Plan which is done through the state, again the companies went and applied for the money and they applied and gave them the authority to find the area that is more feasible for them to be awarded the money and get most bang for the bucks so to speak. We have these maps located here in the council chambers. They will be at the courthouse starting tomorrow in the front lobby. Anybody is welcome to come and see these maps. It tells you where we are, what was awarded and what part of the grants were awarded. People can come and see for themselves. At no time did my office or the council office have any kind of input on where to go with the plan so to speak."*

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned, "Another question that was presented to me on several occasions is: Are they going to be on those major roads? They are concerned about these little roads that are off of the major roads. Will they be considered as well?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "To my knowledge and what I am understanding from sticking with the companies, the major highways or the state highways are the truck line and from there they branch off into the subdivisions and all of the smaller roads. That is the first one that they are running. Once all of that is ran they are coming back and they will do the Feeders into the neighborhood. The goal with this money, and that is coming down from the Federal Government, is Fiber to the Homes. That is the end goal to get Fiber to the Homes to give everybody affordable and reliable internet service."*

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned, "Do you have any idea where they are with this? How far in advance?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am telling people from what I am being told by the companies we are one year out, possibly 18 months out. I don't want to make any promises on that because I don't know the answer. That is what they are telling us. I am just relaying their message."*

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I have one constituent that called me and said that one of her friends had called Spectrum and Spectrum told her probably about four months. She called that same company and they could not tell her. I told her that maybe that is not the same company that is providing service in your area."*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Keep it in mind that the Ardoff Money, Charters bided on the Ardoff Money since 2019. They will have some areas of the parish that will get some service thru Spectrum because they bided on that since 2019 – 2022 which is three years but they might have some areas of the parish that will get service faster but that is from the first Federal Money that came in. So you might see that, I can't talk for Charters but I do communicate with them when we have these questions and they tell me whether or not a person can or cannot get service based off of what their program calls for."*

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, "Mr. Bellard, will those maps be available on our site or are they on our site already?"*

*Parish President Bellard stated, "They are going to be on our website as well. We just got these maps in today. I will make those public in the Lobby area. Layne will have them on our website for people to go and they can zoom in and get a better look. This is just an overview but once you zoom in you will be able to see exactly what area you are at. They even have an area where it is just a dot on the GUMBO Plan. That dot just says that area. It will not be just one person it is a cluster on that one dot."*

**10. Discuss debris pickup in the parish. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Mr. Bellard, do we still have anything in place for Debris pick up? I have been noticing quite a bit of debris. Some are in the areas that I have called back in the day."*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Well we gave up on FEMA. I am not going to lie to nobody because they are not doing anything for us when it comes to Debris. What we did do is we got money from the State. We applied for some money and we got \$500,000.00 and we are in the process of finalizing those numbers with the state. That will take care of these trees that are leaning over the highways from the storm. We are taking those trees down and we will use that money to pay for that. It will also take care of the debris on the side of the road."*

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "In some ditches I have noticed that there are a lot of branches that needs to be removed."*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have tried everything that we could to get FEMA to do what they said that they would do from day one and it did not happen but the state came in and helped us with that so I think we will be good now."*

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

*Councilman Coby Clavier stated, "Mr. Bellard, remember the meeting that we had about the Vacuum Trucks. I just wanted to know if we still have in mind to actively pursue some type of money or grant possibilities."*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We are looking at that. I spoke to a gentlemen from Ville Platte this week. We are looking at it but I am not sure if we are going to utilize some of the ARA money for that but we are hoping to."*

*Councilman Coby Clavier stated, "As you know it would be a big need for it. Also I want to bring Beck Miller up. I know we had looked at possibly widening it and the cost was kind of high but I had an idea. I drive it almost every day and you would not believe the amount of traffic that crosses from 190 to 91 right there. It is quite a busy route. Why can't we just put 2 feet of Limestone maybe on each side of the road that would help? Every time you cross someone you are worried that you will hit their mirror or you almost go off the road. It is narrow. That would help in case you do go off the road a little bit and to add some Limestone to fill in some holes along the road also. I know that you just mentioned that you were out of Limestone but whenever some Limestone becomes available it would help."*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We can use that reclaim for that."*

*Councilman Coby Clavier stated, "Yes that would work some reclaim. If we could put a couple of feet on each side of the road that would help a bunch. Thank you."*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Mr. Chairman, I have one question for Mr. Duplechain. I did not ask this question earlier. The amendment to the Subdivision Ordinance that we spoke of was it introduced at the last meeting or not. I am just trying to figure out."*

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "I don't think that it was introduced. In fact we made an amendment in it regarding the width of roads. I am looking at a copy here. It must be the one before we made that change. It says the minimum width of roads to a private subdivision and it suppose to say the minimum width of right of way for roads in a private subdivision. So this must be the one before that. The newest one needs to be here. I think that I emailed it to Sherell."*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Okay so we can bring it up at the full council meeting"*

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Yes."*

*Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown questioned, "Mr. Bellard, I received a call from Mr. Malveaux. He lives on 249 Green View Lane. That is a road across from the Ko-Ko-Mo Subdivision and he basically maintains it. I was talking with Ms. Precious regarding this*

road. I believe we maintain the first 500 feet of Green View Lane. I guess the other 1000 feet is a grassy area. Mr. Malveaux has a house on the land that he had purchased and he is asking our help to at least grade and shape up the road to make it passable. It is a Public Road and I did check on that.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So the whole road is Public?”*

*Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “Yes sir.”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If the whole road is public that will not be a problem. I will talk to Precious and Barry in the morning.”*

*Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “Thank you Sir. I appreciate it.”*

## **12. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier 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**