

AGENDA
ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION (Councilman Jerry Red Jr.)**
- III. ROLL CALL**
- IV. APPOINT LEGAL ADVISOR, GARETT DUPLCHAIN, AS TEMPORARY PRESIDING OFFICER TO HOLD THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**
- V. CONDOLENCES**
- VI. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**
- VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
- Regular Meeting: December 21st, 2022
 - Special Meeting: December 28th, 2022
- VIII. PARISH PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
- Update on the results from questions asked in the Finance Report by Councilman Taylor.
- IX. NEW BUSINESS:**
- *Items passed through committee.
1. Vote to appoint one applicant to St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority for a five- year term (01-18-2023 – 01-18-2028). Applicants are: Megan Plattsmier and Paul Scott.
 2. Vote to appoint Charles Daigle for one appointment to Eunice Gravity Drainage District No. 9 of Evangeline and St. Landry Parishes for the remaining of a four - year term. (10-02-2021 - 10-02-2025).
 3. Vote to appoint Damian Herpin for one appointment to Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District No. 15 for the remaining of a four-year term. (02-17-2020 - 02-17-2024).
 4. Vote to re-appoint Ryan Dupre and Blake Davis for two appointments to Fire District No. 5 for a two-year term. (01-01-2023 – 01-01-2025).
 5. Vote to appoint three applicants to Fire District No. 6 for a two-year term. (01-18-2023 – 01-18-2025) Applicants are: Devin Johnson, Rodges Richard, Gilbert Guillory, and Joseph Popillion.
 6. Vote to re-appoint August Amy Jr., Jimmie Lafleur, Howard Owens, Floyd Dupre, and Debra Thomas for five appointments to Bayou Mallet & Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 10 for a four-year term. (02-01-2023 - 02-01-2027)
 7. Vote to appoint Cathy Carlisle and re-appoint Bobby Richard for two appointments to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 2 (Rural) for a four-year term. (01-01-2023 – 01-01-2027)
 8. Authorize the beginning process for the study of Speed Bumps on: Roland Oaks Road.
 9. Authorize Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Ward Two Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four- year term. (03-05-2023 – 03-05-2027).

10. Authorize Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Coulee Crouche Fire Protection District No. 4 for the remaining of a two- year term. (04-20-2022 – 04-20-2024). Gregg Cormier has resigned.
11. Authorize a study be performed for the drainage issue in the Judice Farms Subdivision.
12. Authorize Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the Lease and Operating Agreement between the St. Landry Government and AF & RL Enterprises, LLC to Lease a Hanger at the Airport.
13. Authorize Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the CEA with the Town of Melville to help bring there office up to date with policies and procedures and ordinances.
14. Vote to cancel having applicants come to council meetings that are renting a hanger at our St. Landry Airport.

**X. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:
NONE.**

XI. ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-022 (Sponsor Councilman Harold Taylor)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE SECTION 40-165, PRE APPLICATION CONSIDERATION AND DRAINAGE REVIEW.

Whereas, Chapter 40 of the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances require all partitions of property into subdivisions in St. Landry Parish to be reviewed by the St. Landry Parish Government;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT Section 40-165, Preapplication Consideration and Drainage Review, of the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances, is hereby amended and shall now read as follows:

SEC. 40-165. – PRE APPLICATION CONSIDERATION AND DRAINAGE REVIEW.

Whenever any subdivision or a tract of land is proposed to be made, the owner/developer and his project engineer are required to discuss the subdivision with the planning department to discuss the general program objectives and procedures and requirements of a drainage review. If the development is a private subdivision, all requirements of this Section shall be adhered to with respect to the design and construction of improvements, including streets, roads, drainage, and utilities, except the minimum width for all right-of-ways for roads in a private subdivision shall be forty feet. The St. Landry Parish Government is not responsible for maintaining any private streets, private roads, signs, or drainage improvements on the private streets or roads. The developer of the private subdivision shall cause to be created, or furnish a certified copy if already in existence, a financial and managerial legal entity or entities that will guarantee and assure the maintenance of all private streets, private roads, private alleys, and drainage improvements constructed. The developer will provide a certification to the St. Landry Parish Government from an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana that the documentation attached to the certification provides for the creation of an entity that is responsible for maintaining the private streets, private roads, and/or private alleys, and related drainage improvements, in the subdivision. The certification must be provided prior to obtaining final approval of the subdivision. The certification shall contain the name of the entity responsible for maintenance of the subdivision and its registered office. The developer of the private subdivision shall create a HomeOwners Association (HOA) for the private subdivision in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 9:1141.1 through 9:1148. The developer of the private subdivision shall record the document creating the HOA, which shall set forth the annual dues to be paid by each lot owner to provide sufficient funds to maintain the private subdivision, and shall contain the Acts of Restrictions for the subdivision, with the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court prior to obtaining final approval of the private subdivision. The developer may make the private subdivision a gated subdivision if the planning department approves of it being a gated subdivision.

All subdivision developments will require a drainage review. The magnitude of the drainage review will depend upon the area impacted, potential for future development within a watershed traversing the proposed development, and identified existing drainage system problems of the area of the development or within a watershed traversing it.

The purpose of the drainage review process is to consider whether the proposed development may be impacted by existing drainage system deficiencies and/or how the proposed development will impact the drainage system of the surrounding area.

As the first step of this process the developer and/or the land surveyor and/or the engineer of record for a development should contact the parish public works director and representatives of the local drainage district to obtain information on existing drainage issues in the vicinity of the development.

Should the planning department determine a drainage review is unnecessary, the planning department will issue notice in writing to the developer indicating such. The professional of record may then continue to plan development in accordance with policies and procedures established herein.

If an existing drainage problem is identified within the vicinity of the proposed development which may be impacted by or cause impact to the development, a meeting shall be scheduled with the planning department. If a feasible solution to the existing drainage problem can be recommended and administratively implemented by the planning department or developer, then the improvement to eliminate the existing problem shall be implemented. The planning process may then continue. If an agreeable and/or implementable solution to the existing drainage problem cannot be reached by the planning department and developer, the issue will be referred to the parish president and/or parish council for direction in determining a resolution of the problem and parties to be financially responsible for surveys, studies, plan development and implementation.

If resolution of the existing problem cannot be reached by the parish president and/or parish council, the parish council shall determine whether approval or continued review and/or subdivision development will be allowed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-023 (Sponsor Councilman Coby Clavier)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE SECTION 24-3 – PAYMENT OF TAX OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES.

Whereas, Section 12-16 A of the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter grants the St. Landry Parish Council the power and authority to levy and collect taxes;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT Section 24-3 of the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and shall now read as follows:

SEC. 24-3. – PAYMENT OF TAX, PENALTY, AND INTEREST

(a) Except as otherwise expressly provided, the first license tax herein levied shall be due and payable to the parish collector of revenue, as follows: In the case of any business, trade, profession, vocation or calling subject to license under this chapter commencing on or after the effective date of the ordinance from which this article is derived, the license tax shall be due and payable on such date of commencement.

(b) Annually thereafter all license taxes levied herein shall be due and payable on January 1 of each calendar year for which the license tax is due, except that in the case of a new business commencing after January 1 of any calendar year the first license due for such business shall be due and payable on the date the business is commenced.

(c) All license taxes unpaid after March 1 of the calendar year for which they are due, or in the case of a new business, unpaid on the date such business is commenced, shall be deemed delinquent and subject to the payment of delinquent interest and penalty.

(d) When any taxpayer fails to pay the tax, or any portion thereof, on or before March 1, interest at the rate of one and one-quarter percent per month or fractional part thereof, shall be added to the amount of tax due and such interest shall be computed from the due date until the tax is paid.

(e) In addition to the interest charged on delinquent taxes there shall be imposed a penalty of five (5) percent of the total tax due if the failure or delinquency is for not more than thirty (30) days, with an additional five (5%) percent for each additional thirty days or fraction thereof during which the failure or delinquency continues, not to exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the tax in the aggregate.

(f) If any taxes, penalties or interest due under this ordinance are referred to an attorney at law for collection, an additional charge for attorney fees will be charged at the rate of ten (10) percent on the aggregate of the taxes, penalties and interest due.

(g) If any taxpayer fails to make any return required by this article, or makes a grossly incorrect report, or a false or fraudulent report, and the collector, in performance of his duty to ascertain the amount of tax due, makes an examination of books, records or documents, or an audit thereof, or conducts a hearing, or subpoenas witnesses, then there may be added to the amount of tax found to be due, a specific penalty, in addition to any other penalty provided, in an amount as itemized by the collector to compensate for all costs incurred in making such examination or audit, or in holding such hearing, or in subpoenaing and compensating witnesses. This specific penalty shall be an obligation to be collected and accounted for in the same manner as if it were part of the tax due, and can be enforced either in a separate action or in the same action for the collection of the tax.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-001 (Sponsor Councilman Jerry Red Jr.)

An Ordinance to set regular meeting dates for the St. Landry Parish Council Meetings for the year 2023 on the third Wednesday of each month at six o'clock p.m. and for the Public Works and Administrative/Finance Committees to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at six o'clock p.m. with the exception of November 1st, 2023 in reserve of All Saint's Day.

Dates for upcoming Council Meetings in 2023 are listed below:

TENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2023

(Third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.)

January 18, 2023

February 15, 2023

March 15, 2023

April 19, 2023

May 17, 2023

June 21, 2023

July 19, 2023

August 16, 2023

September 20, 2023

October 18, 2023

November 15, 2023

December 20, 2023

TENTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2023

(First Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.)

January 4, 2023

February 1, 2023

March 1, 2023

April 5, 2023

May 3, 2023

June 7, 2023

July 5, 2023

August 2, 2023

September 6, 2023

October 4, 2023

November 2, 2023

December 6, 2023

**XII. RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:
NONE.**

XIII. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING (5:45 p.m.)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4th, 2023
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W BELLEVUE ST
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

MINUTES

- I. This meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Vivian Olivier.
- II. Councilman Jerry Red Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation
- III. Roll Call: PRESENT: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier.
Ex Officio: Vivian Olivier. ABSENT: Nancy Carriere and Coby Clavier.
Councilwoman Nancy Carriere and Councilman Coby Clavier was absent for roll call but later joined the meeting.

IV. Item for Discussion:

• **RESOLUTION NO. 035-2022**

WHEREAS, there are documents and requests that St. Landry Parish Government needs to sign regarding Capital Outlay Projects administered through Facility Planning and Control Division of Administration.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the St. Landry Parish President, Jessie Bellard, is authorized to sign any and all documents and requests for state disbursements pertaining to Capital Outlay Project “50-J49-22-01 Parish Wide Drainage” administered through Facility Planning and Control Division of Administration.

- *Madam Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “Is there anybody that would like to speak?”*
- *Mr. Wayne Manuel addressed the council. He stated, “I am here in regards to the cleaning of Bayou Mallet. The guy did a cleaning at the south end and the water comes down and you will clean that and not clean Acadia Parish and other parishes behind, all you will do is create a flood zone. We have tried to clean Bayou Mallet several times. Every time we try, the Corp of Engineers or the Environmental People shut us down. We do not see that it is a good idea unless we all get together and do it at the same time. Until we do that this needs to be left alone. We have tried on our own and we spend ungodly hours researching and everything else and we were unable to do anything.”*
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. Manuel, are you just a citizen or do you represent someone?”*
- *Mr. Wayne Manuel stated, “I am on the Drainage Board. The Bayou Mallet Drainage Board. I am the Vice President.”*
- *Mr. Pat Daigle addressed the council. He stated, “My name is Pat Daigle. I am from Church Point and I am a Jury for Acadia Parish. I represent District 7, which is exactly where Bayou Mallet enters Acadia Parish off HWY 95. Just like Mr. Manuel, I dread to see what will happen for a big rain when the water will be coming down from Bayou Mallet when it is not clean it will back up and probably flood parts of Acadia Parish as far back as Lawtell. It will damage and hurt some of the people in St. Landry Parish. I*

think someone needs to take a real good look at that before we start cleaning. That is all that I have to say about it.”

- *Mr. A. Jay Credeur addressed the council.* He stated, “Good evening everyone. I am A. Jay Credeur. I am from Acadia Parish. I represent District 6, which is the Church Point and the Mire Area. I know most of you all up here and I want to thank you all for serving. My first question is this: Did you all do an Environmental Study or a Feasibility Study on this project?”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “Are you asking me?”
- *Mr. A. Jay Credeur stated,* “Yes or anybody. Was a Feasibility Study or an Environmental Study on that project of cleaning Bayou Mallet?”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “The engineers are in the process of doing everything that needs to be done at this time.”
- *Mr. A. Jay Credeur stated,* “I think what is going to happen with the Feasibility and the Environmental Study will tell you a lot of what is going to affect what these two gentlemen spoke about. What it is going to effect on Acadia Parish and even your people on the western end of St. Landry. It will cost problems. I think what we need to do is this: A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Acadia Parish because Bayou Mallet dumps into Nezpique and the Mermentau, which borders Jeff Davis and us. With a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement we would be digging from the south coming up, we are not going to be jeopardizing or flooding people on that upside. If you start on that top side and going back down we will have some serious issues, serious issues. I will tell you that on HWY 95 it floods badly. Even with a five inch rain that we just caught this past weekend had people flooding on that end. I think if we unite and we try to get some funding to do that which starts at the Mermentau coming up we would be much better off. I think that is the direction that we need to take. Are there any questions? Thank you all.”
- *Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,* “Mr. Bellard, do you have a match fund for that project?”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “Yes we do.”
- *Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,* “Could you explain to me where are you going to get that money?”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “So the Solar Farms that will be coming in next year, we spoke about this after the last meeting, the Solar Farms that will come into this parish this year will come with some dollars that will not be allocated. We will allocate some of that money to go to a matching grant not just for this project but some other types of grants.”
- *Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,* “Mr. Bellard, you said we are going to appropriate it. Are you saying that you are going to appropriate it or the council will appropriate it? We know nothing about what your proposal is?”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “Whenever it is time for council to be involved I will get the council involved.”
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “I understand but you are asking us to give you authority to check off on this Capital Outlay Grant today when we have had several people that came in and explain that it will cause us harm. Shouldn’t we get the Feasibility Study done before we do it?”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “No sir.”
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “Well explain yourself.”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “You asked me a question and I told you no.”
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “Pardon.”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “You asked me a question and I told you no.”
- *Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,* “Why don’t you think we order get a Feasibility Study on this.”

- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “This is for Parish Wide Drainage. I would love to use the money for the Bayou Mallet and Bayou Carron. It is not saying that I have to use.”*
- *Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “Why don’t you tell us what are you going to us it for?”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I told you all before, I am tired of explaining myself to a couple of you all.”*
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “That is what your job is when you come to a council meeting to explain to us.”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I did. I answered your question.”*
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I want to ask one more question. Don’t you think that we should do an Environmental Study and a Feasibility Study before we get into contracting with the state to put \$333,333.00?”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “This right here is for Parish Wide Drainage. I could use that money to dig ditches if want to.”*
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “We already spent \$1.5 Million Dollars digging these ditches this year. How much more do you need?”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We could use another \$5,000,000.00 to dig ditches in this parish. We are not nearly close.”*
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I see. Thank you.”*
- *Councilman Jerry Red questioned, “Mr. Bellard, can you please explain to the people that are in the audience as well as to the council the problems that St. Landry Parish had last week with the flooding that we experienced.”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So, last Friday we had 5 inches of rain that came through. The rain that came in this past Friday was mostly on the western part of our parish and some on the north parts of our parish in the Washington area. Those two Bayous are the ones that are holding back most of our water causing flooding now. So we see it first hand, I see it firsthand every time there is a flood. Every time there is a good rain, I see it. The councilmembers that represent those districts see it themselves and they contact me, we can only do what we can do. The only way to help alleviate some of this flooding is to do something with these bayous.”*
- *Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “If I am in order I would like to say that I was very fearful last week when we had all of that rain. I had the opportunity to see some of the roads in District 4 that had to be shut down due to all of the water. Just to name a few, St. Amand Road, Collins Lane, Apple Lane, True Vine Road , White Oak Road, Prayerhouse Road and some others that were not shut down but should have been shut down. The Deprimo should have been shut down because it was under water and some others. I was very fearful and I felt like Lord, we are here, and what would we need to do to get this moving forward? It is not about a councilmember who represents their district but it is about the people in that district who have to go through this. I was just thinking, I do not have this problem but look at these poor people. One lady had water up to her door almost in her house. I just pray that we can get whatever is the right thing to do, get it done and get it done as quickly as possible. Thank you.”*
- *Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I believe in drainage, don’t get wrong but I don’t believe that I am going to drain and flood my neighbor. I don’t believe in that. I am like those people that talked tonight. I think we need to do a study on this and start from Mermentau. We start all the way on the bottom coming up, not from the top going down because; you will cause more problems of flooding. That is my taught.”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am in contact and I am talking to Chance who is the Parish President or a Police Jury president over there. We spoke again today. Just because I don’t tell you all every little detail of my job, I am not just talking to you Mr. Alvin, I am just talking in general, just because I don’t detail everything that I do every single day it does mean that is not happening. All I am*

asking for tonight is to approve the CEA so we can start the process of getting things done. I can't start anything until we get the CEA completed. That is all that I am asking."

- *Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned*, "What are you asking to start Jessie?"
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "To get the CEA signed so I can get the state to allocate the money. It takes about 6-8 months to get it done. In the meantime we have time to do all of this stuff that we have to do William will do what he has to do and the Engineers will do what they have to do and I am in contact with Chance. Despite what 2-3 councilmembers think, we do our job and we will continue to do our job. I am not talking directly to you, I am just looking at you and, that is the whole thing. We will do our job and will make sure that we are not going to drown our neighbors. We meet on a regular basis with the Parish President from the eighth and the seventh Parish Region. Our biggest discussion almost every meeting is about drainage. We do talk to each other and we do come up with plans. APC is a great tool that we use and we will continue to use that tool. Just because I don't come to every councilmember and tell them, exactly what I am doing does not mean that I am not doing my job and I will continue doing it the way that I am doing it. I am sorry; I will not apologize for it. Again it is not directed to you."
- *Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned*, "I want to understand something that you made a comment on just now Mr. Bellard and I want to be clear. You said that you could use that money for other than, I mean the questions and the talk here tonight is about cleaning Bayou Mallet, but you can use it to clean roadside ditches. You can use it to clean Drainage ditches that we have not cleaned in years?"
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "That is correct."
- *Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned*, "So that does not necessarily means that you are absolutely sure that you are going to do Bayou Mallet. Is that what you are telling me?"
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard state*, "That is correct."
- *Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, "I make a motion we accept Resolution 035-2022."
- *Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated*, "Madam Chairwoman, I asked to have the floor. I yield my time to Mr. Jay Credeur. He represents the other parish next door and I thing we still, I know Mr. Bellard said he has talked to their parish president and I know everything is a big secret. You know when keep a secret from your council that is my privilege, you understand what I am trying to say. I think that we need to respect our neighbors just as Mr. Alvin said. With respect to our neighbors, I was always taught if you are going to dig in a field and this is the field, you do not start in the middle of the field and start digging there. You have to start on the southern end and work your way up. I just don't understand why we have this battle and Mr. Bellard is so adamant about this money."
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, "Point of Order."
- *Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated*, "I have the floor."
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, "If you are letting him speak for you, you have to let him speak."
- *Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated*, "I have 5 minutes Mr. Red."
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, "You gave him your speaking time."
- *Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated*, "Go ahead Mr. Credeur."
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, "Thank you."
- *Mr. Jay Credeur stated*, "My point Mr. Bellard, I just want to bring something to your attention. Chance is a Police Jury President and not a Parish President. He has no authority other than what the Jury gives him. We never gave him authority to discuss this Bayou Mallet thing but I will tell you one thing. That Bayou Mallet sits in Mr. Pat Daigle District. I think all due respect needs to be given to him and even me that borders St. Landry Parish because I remember about 4 years ago you all cleaned Bayou Blackoff on the St. Landry Parish side and it created a big burden on us across by Peach Bloomer wherever it crosses over. I think you all grinded the trees and we ended up with a bunch of debris at our bridges that stopped up at that bayou. Just have a little respect and notify myself or Mr. Pat."

- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Credeur it’s not about having respect, yall elected Chance to be your representation at your APC board. Correct. He’s your Police Jury President.”*
- *Mr. Jay Credeur stated, “We never did. He’s our Police Jury President but he wasn’t given that position that never came in front the Jury.”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Being the Police Jury President he represents your parish when it comes to APC. That is my communication, which is who I talk to but if you would like me to go in front of the police jury I can do that too that’s not a problem. It is not about respect it is about who they send to the meetings and that is whom I deal with.*
- *Mr. Jay Credeur stated, “Yes because we will represent our people. Really and truly let’s be honest here St. Landry Parish, Tim some of your people will suffer from this.”*
- *Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I have a lot of people suffering from flooding right now Mr. Credeur with all due respect.”*
- *Mr. Jay Credeur stated, “That five inch rain hurt us too on that end not just yall. I’m trying to stress to yall doing an Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the two parishes to get this clean all the way to the main lateral would be the proper way to do this and a feasibility would tell you exactly how it would be done. I really think to get the funding what you need, the feasibility is what you need to get the funding.”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Do yall have the funding to do the work in Acadia Parish.”*
- *Mr. Jay Credeur stated, “It runs through three drainage boards and between the three drainage I don’t think we have enough funds for that. We can do it if we have some matching funds from the state or from the feds we can do but I don’t think we can do it on our own for sure.”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Ok so yall were alarmed on some issues that were brought to you by a couple of Council members cause all they want to do is stir mess but let me explain to you this is not the jury system in our parish. That is why the people voted out the jury system. This is a homeroom form of government. I am the parish president and they the council. I am the executive branch and they the legislative branch. Tonight I am asking them to approve the CEA to get the funding coming in. Again, it is not dedicated to one project. Wayne made comment about keeping secrets but if you tell people everything, you know this is what happens. The study will be done and the most effective measure will be put in place. If it takes me going to Acadia parish and sit down with the whole jury then that is what I am going to do but not one time did I say I was going to flood Acadia parish. What my main focus is in our parish is the people we had to go in the boat the other night to get them out there house, that’s my focus and that’s what I drive on and I’m not going to deviate on that. I am sorry yall came over here for that because of a couple council members calling yall to stir mess but that is not what it is about here. I want to get the CEA passed so I can start the process and if it is not feasible to do then guess what we going to do with that money, I will do roadside drainage as if we been doing for the last two years and help flow water some kind of way. Later on this month, we will be in D.C. and guess what we going get in D.C. money for what drainage. Not one time I will say anything that will hurt your parish or disrespect your parish. I deal with the parish president’s in all the parishes that’s my job.”*
- *Mr. Jay Credeur stated, “Well it’s my job to deal with him because he not notifying us just like you not notifying them.”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It’s a different ballgame in this parish and I do notify the council members despite of two or three things.”*
- *Mr. Jay Credeur stated, “The members that notified me thank you but that’s the way I would have found out that this was taking place. I don’t want it bombarded on my constituents that all of sudden we flooding and the reason why we flooding and you sure don’t want it from the other parish north of you.”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We do get it from them so it is what it is.”*
- A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., made a motion to accept **RESOLUTION NO. 035-2022**

WHEREAS, there are documents and requests that St. Landry Parish Government needs to sign regarding Capital Outlay Projects administered through Facility Planning and Control Division of Administration.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the St. Landry Parish President, Jessie Bellard, is authorized to sign any and all documents and requests for state disbursements pertaining to Capital Outlay Project “50-J49-22-01 Parish Wide Drainage” administered through Facility Planning and Control Division of Administration.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier.

NAYS: Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, and Wayne Ardoin. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: Nancy Carriere.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 4th, day of January, 2023.

V. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to adjourn the Special Meeting.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 4th, day of January, 2023.

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4th, 2023
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. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation was taken care of in the Special Meeting.
3. Roll Call:
Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards, Coby Clavier and Ex-Officio Vivian Olivier. ABSENT: None.
4. Person to address the Committee:
 - *Robert Votier addressed the Council regarding monument removal, “A lot of things were said here and I believe some of it may have influenced the people who voted to remove the monument. I am quoting here from the minutes of the meeting and it is said that the monument was most accurately described as a monument of the white camellia or the knights of the Ku Klux Klan that is false. To have that monument on our courthouse square is an invitation that the government do not see us people that is false. The United Daughters of Confederacy were established as a propaganda auxiliary of the Ku Klux Klan that is false. It was put up as a symbol don’t come here and register when people was being terrorized by the Klan that is why it was put up, that is false. The speaker who started all this commotion referred to the UDC memorial as a Klan monument, it is not a Klan monument, and it is not true. Whether or not the monument was put up to intimidate black voters or black people in general, it was a monument trying to tear our country apart, that is not true. It is no basis in the fact of that. The statue does not stand for what is best of us; it stands for what is worst of us that is not true. If it makes any difference to all you need to know that. That’s why I pulled it up and I have it in writing in case anyone would like to look and read exactly what was said I might suggest before that thing actually gets moved or destroy or deface it any more maybe somebody should appoint someone to look in the history of what really happened and what’s true and what’s just being said to get something done that somebody want done but it’s unjustified. I think it would be a good thing to appoint a couple of people to check out the history of why the statue got put up, what was the motive behind it but don’t just go off a bunch of baloney of someone saying things that aren’t true. Thank you.*

- *Frank (Buddy) Helton Jr. stated,* “Good afternoon, I think everybody here on the Council is familiar with me. Tonight I wear somewhat of a different hat I come as representation of the Ag Arena Council. I currently chair that commission and have for quite some time, I been involved with the Ag Arena for a very long time. We as commissioners and other people that give up our time for this facility do it without compensation there is no monetary compensation and we fought for years and years to keep it open and going, it is improving we take great strides and we will continue to do so. I am here tonight to speak on behalf of Ms. Megan Robnett Plattsmier who is up for reappointment for that position. She filled in an unexpired term Mr. Deshotel who was on the commission prior had some of residency issues and stepped off the board and she filled in his place. She brings a lot of knowledge to the table and commission. She also represents the LSU Ag extension department, which is very important to have between the parish Ag area, and extension to the huge development, which is one of the main premises of the initial building of the Ag arena in the late 70’s early 80,’s for the development of the youth and agriculture. I come with my recommendation that for reappoint of Ms. Megan Robnett do anybody have any questions I’ll be glad to answer.”
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated,* “The only question I have is there a reason why the board only have three meetings a year and for the last couple of years there were no meetings at all.”
- *Frank (Buddy) Helton Jr. stated,* “Well as you know Covid was an issue, I’m not going to use that as an excuse but it was an issue that made things very challenging for the board. The reason we meet on an as needed basis is that we are more of an advisory council then we are of some body of a commission that has some type of leverage mechanism that will be able to force anything. Any rules or policies that we try to recommend to put in place, we try to put them in place but sometimes it is hard to get them enforced. It’s nobody fault but from the Parish President on down we give recommendation but if someone goes out and does something that goes against policy there’s no policy law or resolution that they can use to enforce that. So maybe what we need to do is start-having meetings that are more regular and put some of our policies in some type of resolution form. The Ag arena commission is kind of falling at the seat of their pants because we wasn’t given a whole lot of authority, maybe it’s time we look into putting some of that stuff into resolution or format so we can have some authority to actually enact and enforce all this. At the same time as we would any other commission setup some by laws and such to follow. I can tell you any volunteer board it is hard enough to be able to fill the quorum because no one has any incentive to come and people that do come are doing it out of true public service. Ms. Megan has been there and has been a trooper.”
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “Is she here, maybe she would like to introduce herself.”
- *Megan Plattsmier stated,* “Hello Good evening everyone, my name is Megan Plattsmier I work with the LSU Ag center. Specifically in 4-H and have for 10 years now. Mr. Buddy asked me to come on, replace Mr. Vince Deshotell, and give my perspective from the LSU Ag Center side as well as from a youth aspect. We utilize the 4-H Ag arena for our livestock shows, horse shows, horse clinics, youth sportsmanship; we do utilize it for our events.
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “So they are five commission members I understand.”
- *Frank (Buddy) Helton Jr. stated,* “Yes sir.”
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “Three are from where and two are from where.”
- *Frank (Buddy) Helton Jr. stated,* “Geographically speaking myself I live on the north end of Opelousas between Opelousas and Washington. Ms. Plattsmier lives and the geographic of her appointment do not really factor in aside from the fact that she is a resident of the parish; she is on the council because we like to have someone from LSU Ag extension as representation directly involved. Kevin Simoneaux is on the eastern end of Opelousas. Lonnie Carriere resides on Montgomery Road off Lewisburg Hwy. Bill Fontenot, not the Bill Fontenot from here, lives in the Lawtell area. I just want to point out the way this council was setup it was not setup on geographic. It was setup upon people background and what they brought to the table as far as work acknowledge of this type of facility also business background and particularly LSU Ag extension use involvement part so they can bring to the table some advice as we go forward.”
- *Mike Fontenot stated,* “I’m here talking about the drainage problem that’s affecting me personally, which I didn’t have this problem prior to them digging the ditches. My ditches would not stay full of water like they staying as of now. A three-inch rain now puts water at least ten foot back into my yard. I never had

that other than in 2016 when we had 16 inches of rain. Then I had water come up in my yard but prior to that never. Now my ditches stay full the water has nowhere to go. So they came and thought they were going to better things but they made things much worse. The water standing as it does now it running two feet under my driveway and at this rate since September or October when they started digging its terrible what it has become. It's 30 years I been asking for a culvert to be put there because there is a canal that runs about 300 feet north and a canal normally is for things to drain to but they put one down and took it up and put it down for third time. Apparently, they do not know how to set a laser up or something it is one foot higher than any driveway on Landreneau Road. So how is water going to go through a culvert plus this culvert was done from the yard that is what the workers told me and it is a used culvert? If it is a good one that is nice but it was out of shape and if you going to be putting that and more weight on it then it will get flat and collapse. Whenever they came and started to dig with the machinery, he had problems with setting the laser after about 30 minutes saying he could not set the laser he just put it down and started digging. He said by the way which way does the water drain I said north. He got in his machine, I saw him on the telephone and a few minutes later he started digging and he dug south to a railroad track. A railroad track is like a levee to me the water going to get there then where is it going to go. There is a plate underneath Landreneau Road and with all the grass and all the shrubbery it has to go 300 feet through that to go through the trussell then come back west then head south."

- *Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, "Mr. Bellard are you aware of this."*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes, I'm his neighbor so yes I'm aware of it. The problem is the water does not go to the north it goes to the south end to the train tracks as it is supposed to go. Right now, our Attorney sent a letter to the railroad company and we have a meeting with Corey Wilson on next Monday because you cannot dig on the property owned by the railroad company. The problem is the water goes to 190 from that location. Where he lives at is where the hill is it drains to both sides. The reason why the water is coming back like it is the train tracks all along 190 we are having issues not just at that location. I am well aware of it and we already been in contact with Union Pacific and we had to contact their attorneys because they was not returning our calls, now we finally have a meeting scheduled with them on next Monday. Nothing I can do, I cannot go dig it. So Mr. Fontenot this Council can't help you with that problem."*
- *Mike Fontenot stated, "They the ones caused it why can't they help me."*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The council didn't cause this, the council has nothing to do with daily operation it's me your neighbor."*
- *Mike Fontenot stated, "Well then I will talk to you. I have a couple of questions for that then, when the contractor took out this contract job did he go out and look at the situation on what was going to transpire with all the grass and shrubbery. Did he go in there, look, and say well we will have this problem. We cannot start this unless we get permission from the railroad. Why isn't that being done?"*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Mr. Fontenot I'm going to go to your house and talk to you. I am not going to discuss it in an open meeting."*
- *Mike Fontenot stated, "I don't appreciate how you cut me off because I would like frontage to look like yours."*
- *Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, "Like Mr. Bellard said we will take care of your matter."*
- *Kim Smith addressed council regarding halfway house in neighborhood. "Thank you for allowing me to be here to speak about this issue. This is a very critical issue about the health and safety of the residents where my dad and half of my family have lived for over 75 years. This neighborhood is located on 190 a little pass the yambilee building. My brother owns about half the houses in that neighborhood too. We have a very strong connection to that neighborhood. This is something I became aware of over the summer that there is a halfway house or transitional house that has been open and from what I understand, this houses men only whom have criminal records. I understand everyone deserves a second chance but the residents of this neighborhood have not been given a chance at all. The house is located on the corner of 190 and Third Street it is a blue house with white trim. My stepmother called and told me that this house had been open and then one day over the summer some of the kids that live there, my nieces and nephews, which are under the age of 10 years old, and they roam the neighborhood that is what kids do. Some man that they see walking in the neighborhood that live in this house had offered to sale them drugs. So I called Sheriff Guidroz and had a long talk about it and was told we are aware of it and there is nothing we can do I am*

going to refer you to Jessie Bellard. Mr. Jessie and I have been talking for the past five or six months and it does not seem to be a quick resolution for this, it is very upsetting. Besides Jessie and the Sheriff I spoke to Richard Lewis and Mr. Red, I do know that Richard Lewis was given a package to give to the District Attorney about two weeks ago. The D.A. did call me today coincidentally to discuss this matter. I am so disgusted about the way this is going because it seems like it is very easy to open one of these houses but when you find out about it then it is almost impossible to close it down. Mr. Pete informed me that his office is a prosecuting entity they are not in the business of investigating, so if there is any crime that is going to fit to this house that is what he needs to know about. He said there is nothing in a package that Mr. Lewis gave me that indicate that any crimes have been committed. So let me tell you something, Mr. Bellard I told you, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Red there is a little woods that outline the back of this neighborhood where the kids like to go play there. My son and my brother all played there as kids but let something happen to one of these kids they are brought back there raped, killed, or whatever someone will have serious problem because all know about this. Therefore, this is what I understand about a house the woman that opened it has no permit and does not intend to get a permit and she cannot meet the requirements of having a house like this. Then what the heck is this place doing being opened. The Ordinance that governs things like this has been changed to make it harder for someone to be able to do things like this in a neighborhood. From what I understand, the neighborhood has not been surveyed so meaning the residents in that neighborhood was not told before that house was opened up. That is a big issue especially with small children in this neighborhood. Therefore, there is some requirements somewhat kind of general requirements to open up a transitional housing in neighborhoods. There needs to be renovation standards on very old homes I have no idea what the inside looks like, does she have liability insurance, does she have qualified staff for monitoring residents who have criminal backgrounds, obviously they have drugs involved in this house. The D.A. said today they are two pedophiles that are on the register that live in that neighborhood. This is unbelievable and scary. Another thing you are required to have an operations manual, a policy manual, and county records for auditing reports. One of things Mr. Pete said is all he can do given the package Mr. Lewis gave him is to report it to DHH. I told him I would call DHH myself and Health standards because those are the two governing bodies on the state level where you can file a complaint. Something has to be done to shut this house down. Like I said, I believe in second chances but this is ridiculous.

- *Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “Ms. Smith, quick question you said it’s a blue house located on Highway 190 and Third Street. That is in Opelousas. Correct.”
- *Kim Smith stated*, “That is correct.”
- *Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “Is that when you pass Coburns.”
- *Kim Smith stated*, “It’s located right before that right pass the yambilee building. The house is a quarter of a mile pass the yambilee building it sits on Hwy 190.”
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, “If there was a group home then apparently it was operating without a license from Louisiana Department of Health. On December 20th, 2022, last month the District Attorney office reported it to the Louisiana Department of Health and on December 27th, 2022. Last month the Louisiana Department of Health sent an investigation team to that location on Landry Street and when they went to the house apparently it is abandoned. The door was unlocked so they went inside; there was beer and trash all over the floor. The gas was turned off, the water was turned off, the blinds were destroyed, the house was a wreck and apparently, no one was living there, no one was there. It may have been a place where maybe homeless people would stay overnight and they would charge rent by someone but it was not a group home. It had no gas, it had no water, no one was there it was abandoned they could find no one there. The letter from the Louisiana Department of Health is on its way to the D. A. office. They haven’t received the letter yet so when you called today we called Louisiana Department of Health to get this information which is in the mail that hasn’t got to us yet.”
- *Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “So Mr. Duplechain since no one is living in the house and there is no proof it was a halfway house, who owns the house. Can’t we call the owner?”
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, “The house is assessed to New Horizon which is a financial institution out of Tennessee. They got the conveyance by foreclosing on it. It may have had a hair salon there at one time looks like but not anymore. To be regulated as a group home it has to be a group home if it’s an abandon house where people sleep at night it won’t fall under the group home statute.”

- *Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Ok and I understand that I was just concerned on if it could be considered blighted property.”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, not at this time. The grass is cut and it is maintained but in poor condition, it is still livable. I do not know the last time people were there but it is still livable. I did not know that it was vacant. I went there myself and talked to people in the house.”*
- *Kim Smith stated, “The Sheriff office has been there within the last 30 days because other residents have called in complaints of what’s going on but you know the lady that’s doing that.”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It doesn’t come back to her as Mr. Garrett stated it comes back to someone else so I’m not sure what happened maybe they lost it.”*
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “Mr. Garrett, my question I have on this is, we had strengthen the Ordinance and made it very difficult for them to operate in a subdivision where people are living, now in the situation what she is talking about this is in a subdivision where people are living and it is causing problems for the people that are living in that subdivision because of the people that are living in that home. Number one because they do not have a permit. How can they still operate and live in that area.”*
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “What they found was that it’s not operating as anything right now. If someone was there at night maybe, they could find people there in that house maybe even sleep there but to be under the group home ordinance it has to be a group home. Which means you have to have people living there, maybe receiving treatment or they under regulation or they hand over their salary to whomever runs the home. If it is not a group home then it is not going to follow the group home ordinance. It can fall under something if you have people going in at night sleeping there but it is not a group home and will not fall under group home ordinance.*
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “Well if there is a home and you have people that’s living there that has substance abuse or anything of that nature that is causing problems for people in that neighborhood but also it is a problem when they saying that the ordinance is not a strong ordinance. I think this council did everything that was in line to make it strengthen because I believe you wrote the ordinance for us.”*
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Well I approved the ordinance.”*
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I believe Ms. Kim Smith said she spoke to the D.A. and you are an assistant D. A. and have a working relationship with him, then he come back and tell her that it’s not a strong ordinance.”*
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The Ordinance applies to group homes, it had to be a group home, you do have homeless people going in there sleeping at night does not make it a group home. It makes it a problem but doesn’t make it a group home.”*
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “My question is if there is a person that owns that home that is vacant right now we can make sure that nobody is in possession of that house.”*
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “If they are people trespassing at night then they can be taken care of like that.”*
- *Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Evidently it’s not a group home but my concern is this, the owners that got it in Tennessee in a sale is it any way we can send the owners a letter asking to board up their property.”*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I’m all in favor for doing whatever it takes but maybe it was never declared a group home but they had 4 or 5 individuals staying there with electricity and gas. So at one time up to maybe a month ago it kind of met the definition of a group home but they didn’t want to listen and didn’t want to comply so that is why the D.A. was involved to find out what our next move. Now I’m being told that no one lives there so we can notify them and ask to do something with the home.”*
- *Kim Smith stated, “We been complaining about this for almost a year but Mr. Bellard you told me you knew the name of the lady that had opened this and her father was a preacher. Even though it was not technically a group home or halfway house that is how it was being used for these people with a criminal past. She just was not doing what she was supposed to do. Where is the accountability for someone like*

that? That is what I want to know. Is this going on all over the parish or city where people are just getting people together that has drug problems or they coming out of prison and just throwing them in a house. No one knows about it until the residents are walking around trying to sale drugs or doing whatever then the residents can see what is going on in their neighborhood. People need accountability for that kind of thing we can't tolerate that in this city we have enough crime."

- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "Yes, I agree."*
- *Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, "I was going to advise that if it's not a group home and no one supposed to be there then the sheriff department should be involved because that's criminal trespassing unless you know who the owner is and they say they don't want people on their property."*
- *Councilwoman Mildred Theirry stated, "I want to say that I know for a fact that at one point it was some type of home being ran there because I have a sister whom lives one street over and she was constantly calling me and telling me about things she was seeing happening over there. At certain point during the day, also a van would go there, pick up some of them, and take them somewhere else. Therefore, they were actually living there at some point and running some type of home. I'm not saying it was a group home but there was something being ran in that home."*
- *Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Legal Counsel I have a question, we have no ordinance or no resolution that passed that we can bring criminal charges or can criminal charges be brought against this individual if they can prove that she was in charge of this residence. Operating without all these licenses and that type of activity because if there was a van going there and the sheriff was going there for some action then this could be happening across our parish."*
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "If it was or is a group home and it's operating without a permit from the parish by our parish ordinance it can be shut down. It can also be shut down by Louisiana State Statue by Louisiana Department of Health which is what they went out there to do and found the place basically shut down."*
- *Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "So nothing can happen to the individual who we presume had a group home there based on the statements that were made. Therefore, you got away with the crime. I'm just asking."*
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "According to our group ordinance it does provide against misdemeanor criminal charges against someone who violates it. That's in our ordinance."*
- *Kim Smith stated, "I'm glad that the house is vacant and the people are gone but my question is where did those residents go cause they got moved somewhere in whose neighborhood."*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "When people rent out homes, I wouldn't know what they doing with the home."*
- *Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "So Mr. Bellard can you notify them and maybe they can just board it up."*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "First Horizon is the owner on record but all they do is pay their taxes on it so I'm not quite sure who to contact. We would have to find out who takes care of day to day stuff."*
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The conveyance shows it was authorized by a foreclosure in Memphis, Tennessee now who they have running it I don't know."*
- *Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "So Mr. Bellard you are going to try to board up that house so nobody be able to get into that house."*
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I'm going to call the person whom I believe is potentially the owner. Not sure, how it worked out but the bank pays the taxes on it and somebody else owns it. I'm not sure."*

- *Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “But in the meantime you will try to do what you can lawfully so the people don’t have to worry about that house in the neighborhood and Mrs. Thierry won’t get any more phone calls either. Thank you.”*

5. Public Works Report:

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Like I said earlier Mr. Wilson is coming on Monday to talk about the train. The railroad company is coming to discuss our issues that we are having across all of Highway 190 with the water not draining in that area. It has been a year since we were allowed to do any work on railroad company property. We had to pay for a permit and all kind of stuff I do not think we should have to do but according to them if you want to do work on their property you have to go according to their rules. Mr. Duplechain has applied and we did everything on our end we could do to do that work, now the meeting is coming to a head so maybe we can get that taken care of and solve many of our drainage problems on that end. On Max Road Mr. Jimmie, I talked to Barry this week they will finish that curve. We got 5 to 6 inches of rain in some areas last week and flooded everybody so we had many crews out. We had a couple of reports of homes being flooded but nobody followed up with that but we did get boat from sheriff office and was able to move them from their houses or put them back in their houses.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly 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.

6. Forward all applications received for one appointment to St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority for a five- year term (01-18-2023 – 01-18-2028).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** all applications received for one appointment to St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority for a five- year term (01-18-2023 – 01-18-2028).

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. Forward all applications received for one appointment to Eunice Gravity Drainage District No. 9 of Evangeline and St. Landry Parishes for the remaining of a four - year term. (10-02-2021 - 10-02-2025)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** all applications received for one appointment to Eunice Gravity Drainage District No. 9 of Evangeline and St. Landry Parishes for the remaining of a four - year term. (10-02-2021 - 10-02-2025)

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

Motion forwarded.

8. Forward all applications received for one appointment to Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District No. 15 for the remaining of a four-year term. (02-17-2020 - 02-17-2024).

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to forward all applications received for one appointment to Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District No. 15 for the remaining of a four-year term. (02-17-2020 - 02-17-2024).

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. 5 for a two-year term. (01-01-2023 – 01-01-2025)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to forward all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 5 for a two-year term. (01-01-2023 – 01-01-2025)

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. Forward all applications received for three appointments to Fire District No. 6 for a two-year term. (01-18-2023 – 01-18-2025).

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to forward all applications received for three appointments to Fire District No. 6 for a two-year term. (01-18-2023 – 01-18-2025).

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

Motion forwarded.

11. Forward all applications received for five appointments to Bayou Mallet & Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 10 for a four-year term. (02-01-2023 - 02-01-2027)

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to forward all applications received for five appointments to Bayou Mallet & Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 10 for a four-year term. (02-01-2023 - 02-01-2027)

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. Forward all applications received for two appointments to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 2 (Rural) for a four-year term. (01-01-2023 – 01-01-2027)

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to forward all applications received for two appointments to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 2 (Rural) for a four-year term. (01-01-2023 – 01-01-2027)

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

Motion forwarded.

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

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Yes, I made this request because I have some constituents that had some concerns about access to Roland Oaks and speeding on the road. I hope the council would consider the speed bumps to Roland Oaks Road.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to forward the process to place Speed Bumps on Roland Oaks 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.

14. Authorize Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Ward Two Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four- year term. (03-05-2023 – 03-05-2027).

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to authorize Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Ward Two Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four- year term. (03-05-2023 – 03-05-2027).

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

Motion forwarded.

15. Authorize Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Coulee Crouche Fire Protection District No. 4 for the remaining of a two- year term. (04-20-2022 – 04-20-2024). Gregg Cormier has resigned.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to authorize Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Coulee Crouche Fire Protection District No. 4 for the remaining of a two- year term. (04-20-2022 – 04-20-2024).

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

Motion forwarded.

16. Update on Broadband. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Mr. Bellard can you bring us up to date with the broadband project. The reason I keep bringing this up is because I have constituents who are constantly inquiring about this, are we still in the first phase or we in the phase where the gumbo funds are being used to fund the project.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The broadband issue is the first round money from NITA (federal grant that we received) they are still in there planning stages we have not received any funds from APC to start the project. What you see that is being done none is Charter communication with a grant they received in 2019-2020 now they have to put those lines down. It is not going to be all over the parish but just what they bidded on. That is what is happening now which will help us a lot but not what we waiting on. The NITA grant is something that we will get done and of course, that is federal money. The gumbo plan is working but they just have not given us a year. The other one it has been a year already and we have not received any money or started any process. I think supply and demand will be an issue. This year they plan on laying down some lines but we do have another company that want to come in and do some work under the gumbo plan and utilize the lines that’s already in the ground now. That is something that might happen sooner than the other one because the fiber is already here. There’s another round of gumbo fund that might come up next year.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I have a lot of concerned parents with school aged children and now it has become a necessity you are able to utilize a computer.”

17. Discuss Cleaning of Culverts. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Do we have a machine that goes inside the culvert and clean it. Not just the mouth of the culvert.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We have a couple of things.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Is it working now.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It’s in Covington Iberia parish but yes we do have one, we just bought one.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I observed a lot of culverts with debris all in the inside of the culverts which could be interfering with the flow of water. In the past I had inquired and they told me it was broken so I was wondering if it’s been repaired.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It’s in the shop right now.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Ok, thank you.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Mr. Bellard do you have any idea on when this culvert cleaner going to be repaired because I know that there are a lot of work orders because I turned in a bunch of them so what’s the time frame on that.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “This morning I was told it might be a couple of weeks before they get the parts in to fix it.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Thank you."

18. Update on the Removal of the Statue. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "It's been about another two weeks the statue has still been out there and I was just wondering if it's automatic or something. What is the delay again?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It will be this week. They were going to start on yesterday but someone decided to be stupid and try to vandalize the monument. That kind of put a halt to everything but I can assure the council the person who did this there is a warrant for that person arrest. We will make sure that person is held accountable for their actions coming on our courthouse square and damage public property."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I wasn't aware of any situation."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "On Monday morning around 2:00 a.m. There's a warrant out for the guy."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "So we looking at what kind of time frame."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They told me they would start next week and bringing it to Kentwood might not be an option right now. I do not think they will take it now but we will just take it down and we will have to store it. We may not have much choice."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Probably would be best to protect it since its getting damaged."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I want to make a public announcement if anybody want to try and take it down like this guy tried to do you can't unless you come with a big tractor. I wish he had busted his truck myself. We have everything on video. Another thing I want people to realize is if you come on the courthouse square and you want to cause damage to public property just know one thing you will be on camera and we will publicize it. The news media is waiting for me to tell them he is arrested and I can assure you we will make an example out of this person because everybody in here knows him."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I wasn't aware of that situation but I'm glad to get an update that it will be this week or so and finally be done with that stage of this process."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Mr. Bellard did they pull it down with a truck."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Oh no, they tried but it didn't work. They painted it."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Is it destroyed?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Well I don't know if they can get the paint off but again the council gave that statue to the Sons of Confederacy so that's their statue. We just going to take it down to get it off our property. So I don't know what they will do with it at this point."

19. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.

Councilman Coby Clavier stated, "I just want to follow-up if it was still in the plan to put some crushed asphalt on the shoulders of Beck Miller Road."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes we did some work and they gave us some reclaim so that is definitely the plan. We have to get that piece of equipment that is going to attach to the front end and give another two foot on either side and gives you a shoulder. Garrett do you have any more information on that land in Mr. Alvin district that was sold."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Mr. Lee has an attorney and she has some proposal to settle this matter with us, so I can discuss that whenever I can."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I am asking that a study for the drainage issue in the Judice Farms Subdivision cause all the ditches are flat land. People moved in over there with beautiful find homes and the ditches are starting to get as high as the road when it rains. We have a problem so I am asking that public works look at that.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** that our Public Works department look at the drainage issue in Judice Farms Subdivision.

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

Motion forwarded.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Mr. Bellard on Jessie B Road on the North side of Jessie B Road there’s a wash out. Some culverts or something needs to be put there on the three sides of that bridge that was installed by the state they have culverts and on that one side they did not. It is eating away at the property owners’ property in massive amount because of erosion. They did not put any culverts when they put the bridge on that single section. Can you please look at that and see if anything the parish can do maybe put a couple of joint pipes to prevent that from continuing to happen because it ate away a lot of property and it’s getting deeper.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I’ll get with Barry in the morning.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Thank you.”

20. 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, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4th, 2023
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Chairman Wayne Ardoin called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Roll Call: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Wayne Ardoin, Timmy Lejeune and Ex-Officio: Vivian Olivier. ABSENT: None.
3. Person to address the Committee:
 - Mr. Lance and Sandy Lee addressed the council about adjudicated property. “If the parish attorney is in contact with my attorney I’m fine with that and don’t think we need to discuss it farther.”

Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “I spoke to her this week.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “So all are satisfied.”

Mr. Lance Lee stated, “As of now, we will wait and see what gets worked out. We thank all.

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Thank you for coming, sorry for the long wait.”

- *George Morgan addressed the Council regarding the double booking of the yambilee building. Mr. Morgan stated, “I decided to get married December 10th, 2022, we went to yambilee book the building and pay the deposit and get the contract that we have the building. My fiancé then my wife now, find out through social media that it was double booked so we had to find another venue. I’m not asking for everything that we lost of course we should be asking for but I’m asking for what was promised to us, it*

was told to her and myself find another location and we will pay for the location and everything that you guys have lost. Cause once we booked the building we went to buying different things for the location food, liquor, security, and caterer. We went through all these different processes and once we did not have that building, we had to get another building, which was Evangeline Downs Event Center, which cost more than the building we originally booked which was the Yambilee building. Once we booked that building Jessie Bellard office not him his self I never got a chance to talk to him he always in a meeting when I called the office or went by the office. The person we talked to stated they would take care of the building and anything that we lost so we just asking for what we lost. I was told in the last meeting someone would give us a call and no one gave us a call. I got a letter from an attorney and to call them and talk to them about a certain total, which was not the right total as far as what we lost. Therefore, I am here again to ask the Council or whomever who would be my next person to talk to in regards to getting the money back that we lost or what was promised to us.

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Duplechain do you have any input on this."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "A refund was offered to Mr. Morgan."

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "How much was that amount."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "I don't have it with me but \$1,250.00 something like that."
Mr. Morgan stated, "He is correct but that is not the correct amount the Yambilee Building was \$3,000.00 and extra money for other things we had to book so that's not a good total we want to settle for."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "How much was the casino."

Mr. Morgan stated, "Casino was \$3,000.00."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "How much was the Yambilee Building."

Mr. Morgan stated, "It was \$1,700.00 or \$1,800.00 dollars."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "So are you requesting the difference."

Mr. Morgan stated, "We requesting what was told to me and my wife which was they would pay for the building and anything that we lost. So what we lost in the process of getting ready to get married which was the deposit for the caterer that you cannot get back which was \$500.00."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "What was that total."

Mr. Morgan stated, "The total of everything is \$3,500.00 dollars."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Are we allowed to pay that money back to him Mr. Duplechain. Like where is he going to go now that we offered him \$1,200.00?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The refund was offered, I don't have the breakdown of what was paid to Parish Government of what he lost but the refund was offered to Mr. Morgan."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Now that he refuse that offer what is next."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "What is next is that Mr. Morgan can consult with an attorney."

Mr. Morgan stated, "So if I get an attorney and go forward to everything that was offered that we lost does a contract mean anything to an attorney."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The contract is signed stating the deposit and the cost which I believe that amount was offered to be refunded to you."

Mr. Morgan stated, "I'm saying if I wouldn't have did what I was supposed to do in that contract would I be liable. The Yambilee building had a contract and we were not notified from you guys. Imagine December 9th we would have went there to decorate and the other group that was there was decorating. What would have been the lost? How would we do both now."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Can you clarify your question."

Mr. Morgan stated, "The question is when we have a contract and you fail on your end of the contract do you believe that you are liable for whatever lost I accrued. I am going off what Mr. Bellard office promised the day we brought it to your attention they said they would take care of whatever venue we could not get the Civic Center because the Mayor said it was booked for election. I went out personally and found the Evangeline Downs and called the lady and she stated we looked at that and we got it for you Mr. Morgan."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "We not Evangeline Downs."

Mr. Morgan stated, "I'm saying Mr. Bellard office stated they would take care of it."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "First question I have is, did you call Mr. Bellard office and get in touch with his office and spoke to him."

Mr. Morgan stated, "The day we found out. Yes."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "I'm saying after the wedding to rectify the problem. I am saying after the 10th once you got married, did you contact his office about the funds that you spent. The way I feel about it Parish Government is responsible to pay you the deposit that you paid for the Yambilee Building."

Mr. Morgan stated, "So you saying just give me my deposit back and go about my business."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "Regardless of what you spent, all the other cost you probably was going to spend that anyway."

Mr. Morgan stated, "The food was \$18.00 per person. Yambilee the cheapest is \$26.00 to \$28.00 per person. Therefore, we went up on that already but I am not asking for that. The cost of the venue is \$3,000.00. Yambilee \$1,800.00 dollars. We had purchased liquor ourselves and Evangeline Downs you cannot bring liquor inside building, you have to purchase liquor at that location. That is a whole lot of different cost that I am not even bringing up. I am just saying about what was promised to me. If you would have told me from the beginning different, I would have gone about my way."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "So what you are saying is that he promised to pay for the venue is that correct."

Mr. Morgan stated, "Whatever venue, yes."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "So Mr. Bellard, can we rectify this problem if it will cost another \$2,000.00 to square this away being that this man had this building scheduled and then someone else used the building but it was already booked for his event. Due to having the event scheduled for December 10, 2022 and it was took from them and someone else had the opportunity to use that building I think we are responsible for giving them back their funds. Was it in writing?"

Mr. Morgan stated, "No, just his word."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "That is totally different, you are going on someone word and you did not get it in writing."

Mr. Morgan stated, "How could I have gotten it in writing."

Council Jerry Red Jr. stated, "When someone guarantee you that they will take care of something for you then you make sure you get that in writing for your records. That is something you have to stand for."

Mr. Morgan stated, "I really do not understand exactly what you are saying."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "If you just take a person word verbally that is totally different but being that you had that building scheduled for the 10th I think we should offset and square it off. Come in the middle give you \$2,000.00 or \$2,200.00 dollars just offset. I mean you talking about \$3,500.00."

Mr. Morgan stated, "Exactly but that is nothing on what I had to pay over. I called Jessie Bellard every other day and my wife went by there, she was more mad than me I was not mad about it. I called several times and never got a chance to talk to him. He is in a meeting. He is in a meeting. He is in a meeting. The

people that work there are very nice I do not have a problem with them. I have went by there several times rung bell stayed and talked to the person at the desk. Is Jessie in, no he is in a meeting? So I could not get with him.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Garett, I did not appreciate the comment you made because I think what he was asking if he was the one to break the contract would he have been obligated to hold on to that contract. I think that is what he was trying to explain the contract in his opinion was broken by parish government, but had he broken the contract what was his consequences.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I do not think Mr. Garett can give advice to the public. He is our advisor, not the public advisor. I am just throwing that out there, if I were him I would not say a word. He represents parish government not the public.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I am hoping Mr. Morgan you can get a resolution I understand you were in a tense and precious time to get things done. I understand about the written contract because a lot of times you think your word is your bond unfortunately today that is not always the case but I hope you can get some resolution and I do understand your situation.”

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, “I was just going to address the fact that you did mention the balances of the two different parties. Mr. Jerry did ask one of the questions I was going to ask then I rethought it did you get that in writing that they would reimburse you for the entirety of that contract. As I sit here and think about it the reason, we are here because the writing you did get was broken. Therefore, if you would have got something in writing that might be broken also. I would think if you take the time that you spent here today and try to speak to Mr. Jessie tomorrow see if we can get something resolved from there.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Bellard you shaking your head over there. You do not want to talk to this gentleman.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am not meeting with him. They have an attorney.”

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, “Ok so Mr. Morgan who made this promise to you the office or the attorney.”

Mr. Morgan stated, “The office made the promise.”

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, “Who you wrote the contract with the office or attorney.”

Mr. Morgan stated, “The office.”

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, “So Mr. Garett where can he meet you to resolve this situation. I know you gave him an offer but you gave an offer without knowing the balance. Did you understand what the office offered him?”

Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “Yes I understand but I am not representing him, if he had an attorney I’ll be glad to meet with his attorney. That offer was made and that where it stands right now. If Mr. Morgan does have an attorney, I will be glad to meet with his attorney.”

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, “Who is over our yambilee Mr. Jessie. Who runs that department does the booking to double book it.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The double booking was from an ex-employee. The person that runs the day to day operations now is Alicia Mire.”

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, “So when Alicia took over she have not looked over the contracts at the time to see the people who has been double booked.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Again, whenever the double booking occurred there was nothing on the books for them.”

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, “So do you have a receipt that show that you it.”

Mr. Morgan stated, “Yes we went into the yambilee building to book it. I have a contract and a receipt. The lady pulled up a big book with dates on it and said December 10th is open. She wrote our name in it and we gave her the \$500.00 deposit. She gave us a receipt and a contract I had to sign. I had to go get police officers within two days and bring it back. I got police of Opelousas Police officers sign and I brought it back she made copy and gave back to me. We went back by yambilee building with our decorator and she looked at it.”

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, “It would be in your best interest to get you an attorney to deal with it from a civil matter. Unfortunately you won’t have what’s promised to you in writing.”

Councilman Coby Clavier stated, “I just wanted to say Mr. Chairman that the council move this forward we cannot help with this situation it is an executive matter.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “I have one quick question, Mr. Morgan the difference between the yambilee building and Evangeline downs is \$1,200.00 and that’s basically what you looking to receive.”

Mr. Morgan stated, “There was a lost that was promised to us. We could have discussed this two months ago when I went by and talk to her.

- *AF & RL Enterprises, LLC. (Airport Rentals) addressed the council. My name is Ryan Lagrange and I am here about a lease at the airport. I was asked to come here for various reasons and this is my fourth lease. The previous three I did not have to come.*

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Out of all due respect when this was brought up a gentleman called and said did Jessie tell yall that this was his cousin he renting the hanger to at the airport. Be upfront that yall may find out this is my cousin here it is. Do you have an airplane that you are renting this hanger for?”

Ryan Lagrange stated, “That is correct but I sign the same lease as everyone else at the airport. Well yall also have it were everybody from now on is going to have to come here. I do not think that is in the best interest of the airport.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I made the motion and if we going to ask you to come here because you his cousin then you should not be separated from anybody else. That was only out of respect for the individual who had to come now. If one have to come then they should all have to come that is the reason behind that.”

Ryan Lagrange stated, “So this is my fourth lease I been investing in this airport trying to help it grow. Everything I do it helps the parish more than it helps me. Every plane that is parked there to buy fuel is a good source of revenue for the parish. Average plan probably spends five to ten thousand dollars a year at the pump and I created nine spaces for people with airplanes. It is many obstacles to get this done permits and everything and to come here is another step that discourage you from doing it. There has been three hangers built this year and have not had a new hanger built at this airport in 20 years, so we really seeing progress. When people coming from other places and they have many hurdles you making it harder for them. Something that went that way for so long, I do not think it’s necessary to come.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. Lagrange thank you for coming. Your hanger is going to house more than your planes is what you are saying.”

Ryan Lagrange stated, “I’ll be renting places as well.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Will that be commercial rate or private plane rate.”

Ryan Lagrange stated, “It’s all private. It is a small personal plane.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to sign the Lease and Operating Agreement between the St. Landry Government and AF & RL Enterprises, LLC to Lease a Hanger at the Airport. **On roll call vote:** YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Harold Taylor, Easton Shelvin, and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.
Motion forwarded.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Just for the record, the leases that come to this council is approved by this council. Not by the parish president just because he my cousin or anybody else this council is the one that approves that lease. Unless yall have a conflict with anything, there is no need for me to disclose who is leasing the property other than what I did. I just want to make it clear because Mr. Lagrange have three other leases over there and no one said a word.”

4. Parish President & Finance Report:

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Next thing you have in your package is CEA with the town of Melville. I met with the Mayor and she is asking for assistance in getting things done over there. The CEA was drafted last year in conjunction with the Legislative Auditor office. It states if help the town of Melville then they would get more time to get there stuff together. Basically, all we will be doing is helping them write policies and procedures. Also, help with their ordinance. They do not even have an ordinance book anymore. They have issues right now and need some guidance to help them move forward. I gave a copy so everyone can read over before the next meeting for consideration.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red Jr., seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023**, the CEA with the Town of Melville and St. Landry Parish Government.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Wayne Ardoin. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Now Mr. Bellard this is not going to cost the parish no money at all.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No we not going to be given no money to be assisting them.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Whose district is that.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “That is my district.”

Finance Director Caryn Fulop stated, “On the finance reports do anybody have any questions.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I have a few. It is kind of a late hour but I will ask you the first question.

A comparison of the Income Statement from September 2022 to October 2022

Budget vs. Actual

General Fund:

In reviewing the coding numbers of funds in the Revenue Column, I noticed that many do not match from September to October.

Example: In September, code 4100105 is for Affidavits. In October, the same code is for State Revenue Sharing. In September, code 4100110 is for Beer Tax. In October, it is for Severance Tax. The coding errors are prevalent throughout the Income Statement.

Question: Can you explain this error?

Finance Director Caryn Fulop stated, “We in the process of going to the new accounting system so we having to renumber our chart of accounts. If anything has changed as for as the account number that is it but as for as the revenue description that stayed the same. We are putting the account numbers in order so they make since for the new accounting software.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “So that explained the beer tax and severance tax next month.”

Finance Director Caryn Fulop stated, “Yes it is just the number that changed. I can give you a printout regarding those accounts if I need to.”

Regarding the total expenditures of the Budget vs. Actual in the General Fund for September vs. October. I noted that in September the actual spending was within .6% of Budget. However, reviewing the October actual spending vs. the General Fund Budget appropriation was overspent by 25.1% or \$1,247,283.00
Question: Can you explain how we spent 24.4% of the General Fund Budget in one month? Additionally, what did we spend it on?

Finance Director Caryn Fulop stated, "I don't have that information in front of me. I will have to get back to you on it."

Road and Bridge Fund (21)

In reviewing the Budget Column in Road and Bridge Fund for September, I noted the Budget Amount was \$2,288,300 and in the October Budget Amount was \$1,888,300.

Question: Can you explain this error?

Finance Director Caryn Fulop stated, "I don't have that information in front of me either."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "I will give you a copy of this but I would like to read it for our minutes."

Regarding the total expenditures of the Budget vs. Actual in the Road and Bridge Fund for September. I noted that in September actual expenditures was \$4,172,776 vs. with Budget Appropriations of \$2,502,000 or a spending deficit \$1,670,766 or 66.8% over budget.

Question: Can you explain?

Question: Were you aware on September 30 that we had a budget deficit of 66.8%? If you were aware of the deficit, why didn't you ask the Council for a budget amendment, as required by State Law and the Home Rule Charter?

Health Unit Maintenance Fund (23)

In reviewing the Budget Amount for September, the statement shows the 2022 budget amount of \$1,833,425 yet the October statement shows the budget amount of \$1,085,425 a difference of \$775,000.

Question: Which budget amount is correct?

Question: Can you explain?

Airport Fund (146)

Regarding the total expenditures of the Budget vs. Actual in the Airport Fund for September. It is noted that in September actual expenditures was \$496,826 vs. with Budget Appropriations of \$391,900 or a spending deficit \$104,926 or 26.8% over budget.

Question: Can you explain?

Question: Were you aware on September 30 that we had a budget deficit of 26.8%? If you were aware of the deficit, why didn't you ask the Council for a budget amendment, as required by State Law and the Home Rule Charter?

Regarding the total expenditures of the Budget vs. Actual in the Airport Fund for October. It is noted that in October actual expenditures was \$521,922 vs. with Budget Appropriations of \$391,900 or a spending deficit \$130,022 or 33.2% over budget.

Question: Would you like to share with the Council your best estimate of the budget shortfall for the Airport Fund December 31st?

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "That is all I have."

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Caryn do you have anything to say. Are you going to furnish the information to Mr. Taylor."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Mr. Taylor can I have a copy of that please."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "You sure can."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They would make a copy for everybody. Again, just for the record we did not and will not spend in a deficit for this parish government. We will provide the information that is being asked but there is no deficit."

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin, to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** the results from the questions asked by the finance committee tonight that Mr. Taylor has requested.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: Harold Taylor.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin, to accept the Parish President and Finance Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: Harold Taylor.

Motion carried.

5. Forward to Full Council RESOLUTION NO. 001- 2023

BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the St. Landry Parish Council request that Sheriff Bobby Guidroz finish his report and turn it over to the District Attorney to possibly have a Grand Jury Investigation on what was transpired in reference to the two dogs picked up at Michelle Benoit residence located at 491 Curleys Road Sunset, Louisiana.

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "At this time I offer a report on this resolution. I spoke to the sheriff and he advised me that he has finished his investigation and already turned it over to the District Attorney office Mr. Chad Pitre. It will be up to Mr. Chad Pitre on what he will finally do with this matter."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "So my understanding is that the sheriff is already doing an investigation. Is that correct?"

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "According to what he told me yes he is finish with his investigation and turned it over to Mr. Pitre. We will wait to hear from Mr. Pitre."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "My only question is if he already done an investigation. What is the reason for us to ask him to do another investigation?"

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I am not asking for another investigation. I pull number 5 Mr. Red."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "So we not going to do this."

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "No, I pull number 5."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Mr. Bellard will the council know what happen with this incident at some point. Will it all go to the D.A. office and it is up to him to acknowledge if he want to give us any information regarding that investigation or not."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "To my knowledge it has to come from the District Attorney office whether or not any prosecution or they send it to the Attorney General office."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Once you the information from the District Attorney office can we have a litigation report?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "If I receive it from the D.A. office I will forward it but I am sure it will come from Mr. Duplechain anyway."

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Bellard are you doing any kind of investigation on your own as the Parish President?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have an open investigation at this time."

6. Authorize Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the Lease and Operating Agreement between the St. Landry Government and AF & RL Enterprises, LLC to Lease a Hanger at the Airport.

This item was forwarded earlier in the meeting.

7. Discuss the sound system that transcribe the meeting minutes in our St. Landry Parish Council Chambers. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin)

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Ms. Sherell you want to give us some insight on that."

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "Lafayette music came by and will change a part on the mixer that is bad. The part has to be ordered and it will take a couple of weeks before it comes in."

8. Request a Copy of All Employee Salaries in St. Landry Parish Government. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I received a copy and I am asking for a copy for all the council so we can get an update of all employee salaries in parish government."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "If I am not mistaken it was emailed to Sherell."

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "It was provided by Candace a couple of weeks ago."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "The problem with that copy, I could not make out everything clearly and they could not make it dark."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Ok, I'll take care of it."

9. Discuss how are we informing the public on Bid Contract Jobs that Parish Government has to offer. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I was approached by some contractors that was interested in bidding on some of these jobs and wanted to know how do they know about it."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The law requires us to put it on our official journal and we do that every time. We also go above that and put it on our central bidding process, which is an online. Most of the contractors they go online and that's how they bid on it from central bidding."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I guess because they will be new contractors so now I can tell them it is central bidding."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I can get you a copy of the actual website."

10. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I would like to make a motion that we pull the resolution for people to come before us when providing an application for the airport based on Mr. Lagrange that came here tonight. He felt like that was one-step that we did not need to add to that process. I made that statement because I did not want anyone to feel like we had picked on any one individual. He felt like that step did not need to be there so I am going to ask that we withdraw that step. Of course, if we need to resubmit it then we can."

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to **Regular Meeting January 18th 2023**, to remove having applicants come to council meeting that are renting a hangar at the airport.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: Jerry Red Jr. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Bellard in the new budget do we have a pay raise for the Constables and the Justice of Peace.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The state approved more money this year. It will be \$100.00 dollars. Therefore, we received more money from the state so we will just pass it on.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “So they will be getting \$100.00 more a month or a year.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “One hundred dollars more a month.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Ok, so that will be taken care of in the new budget if it passes.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Ms. Sherell brought to my attention this afternoon we still have a water leak and some paperwork had gotten wet.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We are just waiting on the contract to start the work.”

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to adjourn the Administrative/Finance Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE
SHERELL JORDAN, COUNCIL CLERK**

XIV. ADJOURN