

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING (5:45 p.m.)  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 4<sup>th</sup>, day of January, 2023.