**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th, 2023**

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

**OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

1. Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. **Roll Call**: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Coby Clavier.

 Ex-Officio Jerry Red Jr. **ABSENT**: Easton Shelvin.

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

*Bill Goodell was not available to address the council*.

*Mr. Dustin Carter addressed the council. He stated*, “My name is Dustin Carter. I am with Neblett, Beard and Arsenault. Our firm along with the Morrow Firm in Opelousas represent the Parish in the National Opioid Litigation. Giving that the subject of my discussion deals with legal matters I would ask that we have this discussion in Executive Session. We can do it in the Subsequent Executive Session or we can do it at the end.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated*, “I would like to do it at the end of our meeting. We can take a vote at the end of the meeting to go into Executive Session.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned*, “Can we go into Executive Session during a Committee Meeting?”

*Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated*, “We are schedule to go into Executive Session for Menard versus St. Landry Parish today. The Committee can go into Executive Session to discuss a lawsuit in Committee. The other Committee can stay if they want to, Parish President can stay. There are 2 different lawsuits. I am not talking about Mr. Carter’s right now. I am talking about Menard versus St. Landry Parish which is scheduled on the agenda to go into Executive Committee at the end of the meeting. We did not want to throw it right into the Full Council Meeting. We wanted it to go through committee and it can come back to Full Council Meeting if it needs to. It needs to be discussed today in Executive Session in Committee.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated*, “With that being said we will do it at the end of our agenda.”

1. **Parish President & Finance Report**:

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “*You all have the finance records that we e-mailed on Monday morning. There is a program right now at Workforce and we are missing some people to go to the class. They have 40 spots that will be paid for 100%. That is to help people go into school and get plumbers or electricians. One of them is the program to do Fiber Optics. There are 40 slots available and we have 8 people. This is from the 8 parish region. The Government will pay 100% of the schooling so we are encouraging as much as we can to get people to go and apply and get this trade.We have a shortage of all of these. It is ready to go.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated*, “Is it being advertised?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Yes.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned, “Mr. Bellard have this information been passed down to the schools?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Yes it has. People are just not applying for it. We are pushing another effort and hopefully we can get some extra support. This is an 8 parish region and only 8 people signed up for it. In your packet you have an Adjudicated Property sale that we will be discussing. This is an adjoining landowner and what I would like to do with that one is bring it back to the council in an ordinance form and that will probably be done in May. You all have a copy in your packet to have a head of time. We will bring it back in an ordinance form in May. I just spoke of that $320,000.00 grant that we received yesterday. That is the same thing. We will be hopefully pushing internet service in the rural areas of our parish mostly in the poor communities but that is what that grant was for.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “On the Finance Report, Mr. Bellard at our last meeting on the budget we talked about the private loss from January through February. The Ad Valorem Tax shows that we budgeted $2,200,000.00 and we have already taken in $2,000,000.00 for 2023. I brought up the question that the actual notices for the Ad Valorem Tax won’t go out until November and I have ask you to talk to Ms. Caryn to make sure that this is not the 2022 dollars. There is a question as to whether we run a cash basis or an accrual basis. Have you cleared that up?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “I answered the question last time. We are on a Cash Basis. Last year we were on an Accrual Basis. I have ask her to change it back to Cash Basis like we are used to doing it. This is Cash Basis right here.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “*So you are saying that the $2,200,000.00 came in after December 31 of 2022 is that correct?

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Yes sir.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “So the budget that we had last year for 2022 only had a few thousand dollars apparently because it was only a $2,200,000.00 revenue last year. So very little was paid in 2022 on Ad Valorem Tax. Is that correct?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “On last year’s revenue whatever went out for the taxes in November of last year that is what is being collected right here. This is the money that you show right here.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “So that is the total.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “So far.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “But if you are on a cash basis it would have to go from November to December 31 and everything that you collected after December 31 is this money here apparently. The Budget was $2,200,000.00 and we only collected a couple of thousand between November and December is that correct?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “I will have to look at it. Probably so. We don’t collect a whole lot at the end of the year. We collect most of it in January and February.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “I had ask a question last time regarding the Capital Outlay Budget. We have $4,000,000.00 in there from the Solar Farm Program Revenue. I happen to speak to Chris Cochran yesterday. I understand when they were doing this process they were not going to get started on the project until November. He confirmed that it is true and he says that most of that work will be clearing properties and getting the Civil Side of it done. I asked if it is likely that we will get $4,000,000.00 in 2023. He said no. He said that is not going to happen. When we buy the equipment it is when they are going to remit the sales tax that is in lieu of the sales tax. We need to look at this $4,000,000.00 we got in Capital Outlay because it affects a lot of projects. It affects the courthouse roof, the jail roof, the trustee dorm and the parish wide drainage project. Can you take a look at that?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We finalized the numbers with NextEra and SLED day before yesterday. They did push back everything. That $4,000,000.00 will probably not be in this year’s budget. We just put it in there in case it would be. SLED just approved their piolet program on Tuesday.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “You have a bunch of money. Heck you will spend the whole amount. Where will we make that up? For instance we have a State Grant for the courthouse roof in the amount of $258,000.00 but we will spend $344,000.00 so we have to make that up in the General Fund or somewhere. Where will we make that up?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “*Whenever it is time for the budget I will bring it to you. I will make sure that I will hand deliver each copy to each one of you all. I don’t have a problem with that.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Okay, it sounds fair enough.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor

to accept the Parish President and Finance Report.

**On roll call vote:** **YEAS**: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. **NAYS**: None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin. **ABSTAINED**: None.

**Motion carried.**

1. **Update on the Environmental Lawsuit against Exxon.**

*Mr. Bill Goodell was not available to address the council*

1. **Update on Opioid Lawsuit including Resolution and three agreements for new settlements with Defendants in Opioid Lawsuit.**

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “I think that we decided that we would put that at the end and we will go into Executive Session to discuss this matter.”

1. Forward to full council Resolution No. 015-2023

A Resolution authorizing St. Landry Parish to participate in additional NATIONAL

SETTLEMENTS as expressed in the recent national Pharmacy Defendants’ Settlement

Agreements (CVS, Walgreens and Walmart Defendants),1 in conjunction with and pursuant to the previously agreed to Louisiana Memorandum of Understanding with the Louisiana Attorney General’s Office (“MOU”).

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “I think that we decided that we would put that at the end and we will go into Executive Session to discuss this matter.”

1. Update on Menard vs St. Landry Parish Government lawsuit and discuss it in Executive Session.

*Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated*, “I will discuss that in Executive Session.

1. Discuss adding Road District 2, Ward 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the District), levy a special tax of ten (10) mills on all property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated $326,450.00 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax from an entire year) to the ballot for November election. Estimated amount for election is $6,000.00 or less. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere.)

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,* “The only thing that I want to say is that you wanted to know about the cost and she received the cost. It was advised that if we had to put it on the ballot this would be the best time because it is cheaper when the other two is on the ballot verses just this one.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “My only question is, I understand what you are saying. The Parish President said that there were no funds to pay for it. I am asking the question, where is the funding coming?

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “Maybe we can take it from the BBQ Festival. Here is a councilperson that wants to help her district and let the people decide whether they want to pay a tax, if we can’t come up with $6,000.00 to put it on the ballot, ladies and gentleman where are we going to get the money to do this. Volunteers, we are spending $50,000.00 on a BBQ Festival, what income is that going to bring to take care of the roads?”

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, “Are you good with it?”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “I think that we need to go ahead and move this forward.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated*, “We have a motion on the floor, do we have a second? Do I have a second from this committee?”

***Motion failed due to a second***.

1. Forward to Full Council **RESOLUTION NO. 016-2023**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2023 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by St. Landry Parish Council:

**MILLAGES**

 **General Alimony 3.780 mills**

 **Exempted Municipalities 1.890 mills**

 **Health Units 2.170 mills**

 **Road Dist No 1 Ward 3 10.260 mills**

 **Road Dist No 3 Wd 1 Sub 1 9.650 mills**

 **Road Dist No 12 Ward 2 4.800 mills**

 **Jail Parish Wide 1.000 mills**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2023, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 19th, 2023** to approve **Resolution 016-2023**.
**On roll call vote:** **YEAS**: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. **NAYS**: None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin. **ABSTAINED**: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Discuss the Policies and Procedures Manuals. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).**

*Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated,* “I ask that this be placed on the agenda. The Policies and Procedures manual was adopted some years ago. We have the Policies and Procedures Manual on Security Personnel Mr. Bellard and we have copies here, are we going to accept that into our Policies and Procedures on the other employees?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Actually I am bringing it all back to the council in an ordinance form so it can be adopted by the council by ordinance so we can make sure that it is done legally.”

1. **Increase Council Pay. (Councilwoman Vivian Olivier.)**

*Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated*, “We are going to push it back.”

1. **Increase Council Clerks Salary. (Councilwoman Vivian Olivier.)**

*Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated*, “That is for the two Council people that we have hired for the council.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated*, “Didn’t we do something last year with their pay? I think it was last year.”

*Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “That was 2 years ago. We gave them a twenty-five cent raise.”

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, “I put it on here. The cost of living went up last year. I thought that our Council Clerks deserve a raise.”

*Chairman Harold Taylor stated*, “What are you proposing? How much are you proposing?

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, “I put it on there for us to discuss it.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated*, “How much are you thinking?”

*Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated*, “Everybody gets a 10% pay raise every year.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated*, “That is incorrect, not everybody.”

*Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated*, “They have people who get raises. What is the deal?”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “If you tell us what you are proposing we can talk about it. How much are you proposing to give them for a raise, 10%?”

*Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated*, “Not 10% but it could be 5%.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, “What is inflation. Can we talk about that first?”

*Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated*, “What.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, “What is the percent of inflation?”

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,* “18%.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,* “18%”

*Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, “Yes sir. But that is not what I was inquiring.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, “I just had a question Mr. Red and you answered it.”

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, “Yes I did.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, “That is all I asked.”

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, “And I gave you an answer.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “Nothing is confusing. You tell us how much you want to raise them.”

*Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “Sherell, 10% of what your salary is now, what would that be?

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned*, “How much do you make an hour?”

*Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated*, “$21.00 per hour.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, “10% of that would be $2.10 per hour raise.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor questioned*, “How much does Ms. Barlow makes?”

*Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated*, “$14.00 per hour.”

*Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “With the surrounding area have you ever looked up and saw what the average pay was of their council clerks.”

*Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,* “Yes, a lot more than me. They make $58,000.00 per year. We are the lowest paid clerks.”

*Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “Basically it will be the cost of living raise. It would be $2.00 per hour per Council Clerk.” That is my suggestion or proposal.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “I have a question. Wouldn’t it make it more prudent if we asked the author of the raise Ms. Vivian to bring us some data on what other parishes are paying their clerks?”

*Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated*, “We have checked that already.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “I would like to see the data. I am a detail guru. I would like to see the numbers.”

*Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated*, “I can provide that for you all. I just want to ask one question. Both of these ladies have gone out of their way to do a lot for this council. Anything that we ask them to do they do it. I don’t hear any commotion about it they go and do it.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “Agree. I propose a motion that we ask Ms. Vivian to supply us with the information and we can discuss the raises further. We don’t have a budget adopted yet so it would make sense that we get it in the budget. I still think that we are a month or so away from that.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, “I don’t oppose giving them a raise.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 19th, 2023** requesting the Council Clerk to gatherinformation from neighboring parishes on the salaries of their clerks and present the findings to the council.

**On roll call vote:** **YEAS**: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. **NAYS**: None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin. **ABSTAINED**: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Authorize Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign a Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act for 2021 Funds to Preservationist of St. Landry, Inc. for $5,000.00.**

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “Mr. Bellard, have they met all of the criteria?

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes sir.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 19th, 2023** to authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign a Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act for 2021 Funds to Preservationist of St. Landry, Inc. for $5,000.00.

**On roll call vote:** **YEAS**: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. **NAYS**: None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin. **ABSTAINED**: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Discuss the status of Opelousas General Hospital.**

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., started*, “I placed this on the agenda. They are suppose to get back with me on this.”

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

None.

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,* “I make a motion that we go into Executive Session.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “I have a question, the entire council goes into Executive Session, do we do a different vote on that?”

*Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated*, “Your committee votes to go into Executive Session and allow the other committee and the Parish President to stay. It would be a double Executive Session for Mr. Carter and for myself. When Mr. Carter is finished he can leave and then it will be me.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,* “Do you sit in on Mr. Carter’s discussion?”

*Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated*, “Yes.”

*Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “Do we include our Council Clerk?”

*Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated*, “Yes but the recording system needs to turned off.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to turn off the microphone and enter into Executive Session.”

**On roll call vote:** YEAS: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to return back to Regular Session.”

**On roll call vote:** YEAS: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion carried.**

*Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated*, “We are back into the Administrative Finance Committee Meeting. The first thing that we want to do is vote to reject the offer that Mr. Garett Duplechain just described.”

A Motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to Reject the Offer of the Lawsuit from Menard vs. St. Landry Parish Government.

**On roll call vote:** YEAS: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 19th, 2023** the case of Menard vs St. Landry Parish Government in case Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain have additional information to present to the council.

**On roll call vote:** YEAS: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward the discussion of **Resolution to 015-2023** to the **Special Meeting** that will be held on **Thursday, April 6th, 2023**.

**On roll call vote:** YEAS: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion forwarded.**

 **RESOLUTION 015-2023**

A Resolution authorizing St. Landry Parish to participate in additional NATIONAL

SETTLEMENTS as expressed in the recent national Pharmacy Defendants’ Settlement

Agreements (CVS, Walgreens and Walmart Defendants),1 in conjunction with and pursuant to the previously agreed to Louisiana Memorandum of Understanding with the Louisiana Attorney General’s Office (“MOU”).

1. **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to adjourn the Administrative/Finance Committee Meeting.

**On roll call vote:** YEAS: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin. ABSTAINED: None.

**Motion carried.**

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

**KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK**