

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1st, 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. **Roll Call:**
Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards, Coby Clavier and Ex-Officio Vivian Olivier. **ABSENT:** None.
3. **Person to address the Committee:**
 - *Mr. Leo Meche addressed the council stated.* He stated, “I want to thank all of all for giving me a few minutes. You all don’t need to listen if you all don’t want. I am just saying my piece. I don’t want to put nothing on Alvin’s back but he could at least let me know what was going on in our District for the Drainage Board. You never let me know and I have ask you so many times.
 - *Public Works Chairman Dexter Browns stated, “Can you speak on why you are here.*
 - *Mr. Leo Meche stated, “I am Leo Meche from the Leonville/Arnaudville area. I am married to Judy Dupre from Leonville. We have been married for 57 years and we have 3 children. One works for the State, one is deaf and works for Fed Ex and my daughter just passed away in July with Bone Cancer which is none of your problems, I am just telling you all what happen to me. She was a manager at Pelican Union Bank where she helped a bunch of people. You all can check on that.*
 - *Public Works Chairman Dexter Browns stated, “Mr. Meche, can you stick to your appointment. Thank you sir.”*
 - *Mr. Leo Meche stated, “I was a Farmer all of my life. I am not here to compete with none of you all but to tell you all that the drainage in the district, Alvin should have considered me since he was one of my best friends and we went to meeting everywhere together.*
 - *Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, “Sir, what is your purpose? You are supposed to be saying what you are here for.”*
 - *Public Works Chairman Dexter Browns stated, “Can you stick to the point and tell us why you would want to be a member of the Drainage Board in Arnaudville.*
 - *Mr. Leo Meche stated, “Because I was a Farmer all of my life and I have broken a lot of shovels. The one that Mr. Alvin appointed is my nephew and we are going together to a supper Saturday night at his mother’s house. I don’t have anything against him, I like the boy just as much as I like. I know quite a few of you all in here. I have been a Constable for 50 years and I am still a Constable. When we go an evict people I see who is right and wrong. I am not giving you wrong Alvin because you have the right to do what you want. After I spoke to Alvin and Wayne and I want you all to answer my question after I finish please. You called me and you told me that you were supporting me and if you did not tell me that, tell them that.”*
 - *Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Point of Order Mr. Chairman.”*

- *Public Works Chairman Dexter Browns stated, “Mr. Meche, I need for you to just stick to the subject on why you are the best candidate for that drainage board in Arnaudville, please.”*
- *Mr. Leo Meche stated, “Because I farmed all of my life, I know the situation of the drainage and everything. I don’t have nothing against Alvin at all. It is just that I had asked you to consider me. Let me finish before you answer. I know what you want to say. You want to say that you choose in his family.”*
- *Public Works Chairman Dexter Browns stated, “Mr. Meche, I need you to stick to why you are the best candidate for that drainage board.”*
- *Mr. Leo Meche stated, “I talked to Alvin about that before he decided to choose him. Alvin came to the meeting and brought him a copy of the application. The boy never farmed.”*
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Point of order, this is not a debate for the person that is speaking to us to question the council. We are here to hear what he has to say. We don’t have to answer any questions.”*
- *Public Works Chairman Dexter Browns stated, “Mr. Meche, just tell us the reason why you are the best person for this position.”*
- *Mr. Leo Meche stated, “Because I have been in the Farming business all of my life. The other man who is my nephew is a very fine man and the reason he is in there is because Alvin said that he deserves it for his family which I respect a whole lot. I spoke to Mr. Harold Taylor and he said that I had to have 7 votes but I thought he should have listened to what I had to say. That is all that I want to say on that. If you all can consider me I would really appreciate it, if not I won’t hold nothing against none of you all because I don’t have nothing to hold against you all.”*
- *Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I want to answer his question on what he talked about a while ago. I have a lot of respect for you Mr. Meche. Listen, what did I tell you on the phone? Mr. Don Meche was your brother, I have to offer that to one of his sons before I could offer you that. Like I told you on the phone if you would have passed away and you have one son. Your wife would have held her hand against me if I would have put someone else in there instead of offering that to one of your sons.”*
- *Mr. Leo Meche stated, “Yes but I would not have been here today and asking for this if you would have come out like a very nice man.”*
- *Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Mr. Meche, I want to thank you for coming and addressing the council and respectfully asking them for your support. I thank you very much. I wish you the best.”*

4. Public Works Report:

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We moving forwarding with the Bayou Carron and Bayou Mallet projects. The scope of works being designed. We are meeting the engineers on Friday then after that will be the approval from the state. Then it goes back and get bided out. The process has started and hopefully within the next three months it will be completed but I’ll keep you all updated on that. Again with all the rain happening the gravel roads are terrible and we will just have to wait until it kind of dries up to get those roads back in shape but other than that it’s normal procedures every day.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, 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.

5. Forward all applications received 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 Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 15th, 2023** all applications received 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.

6. Forward all applications received 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 Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier, to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 15th, 2023** all applications received 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.

7. Authorize Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Ward 3 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No.1 for the remaining of a four- year term. (12-21-2020 – 12-21-2024).

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 15th, 2023** to advertise for one appointment to Ward 3 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No.1 for the remaining of a four- year term. (12-21-2020 – 12-21-2024).

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

Motion forwarded.

8. Authorize Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to South St. Landry Community Library District for a five year term. (04-01-2023 – 04-01-2028)

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 15th, 2023** to advertise for one appointment to South St. Landry Community Library District for a five year term. (04-01-2023 – 04-01-2028)

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

Motion forwarded.

9. Authorize the beginning process for the study of Speed Bumps on: Sugarland Circle

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Yes, I have made this request because I have some constituents asked me to make this request for speed bumps on Sugarland Circle.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 15th, 2023** the beginning process for the study of Speed Bumps on Sugarland Circle

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

Motion forwarded.

10. Discuss Meeting Date to look at Precinct and Polling Places. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Mr. Bellard, in July there were a lot of areas where constituents had to go long distances from where they normally go and vote. We were told that nothing could be done at that point but at the beginning of this year we would take a look at it. Well a whole month has gone by and I think it’s time for us to take a look and get started and see what can be done because of them having to go far out of their way then what they had been in the past. So will we be looking at a meeting in the near future?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes, if I’m not mistaken Mr. Hefner will be here on the 15th and at that time we should set up something for the full council to voice their opinions and concerns and get back to the drawing board. I think we have 56 precincts that have lockouts on them meaning several precincts vote on one machine and the lockout have to be done by the commissioner. So if the commissioner makes a mistake, it’s a possibility that the person could vote for the chief of police in Opelousas but they live in Plaisance. I’m not saying that happened I’m saying that’s a subject that could happen. It’s to my understanding that Mr. Hefner can help fix a lot of those issues. I don’t think we can take care of all of them as far as the lock outs are concerned but we could limit our possibility of problems and that’s the best way to start.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Also in the Washington area we had some constituents who called regarding their precincts and polling locations. Are we going to be dealing with that soon?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes, Mr. Hefner will be here soon and I think that’s the time and person we need to speak with regarding those concerns.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I don’t want it to go too far then we told it’s too late.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “If I’m not mistaken they will change a lot of those precincts back to what they was before.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will suggest that we have paper maps so that we can see them better.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “If I’m in order I would like to ask that Mr. Byron Stelly our new Register of Voters also be advised of the meeting and be present whenever Mr. Hefner is here for our February 15, 2023 meeting, I would like to offer that in a motion.”

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to invite our Register of Voter Byron Stelly to attend our Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 15th, 2023.**

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

Motion forwarded.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I would like to make a suggestion when Mr. Hefner comes he’s coming in a meeting and we will have other business on the agenda at that time. I suggest that we have a special meeting with Mr. Hefner and Mr. Stelly that way they can address each one of us individually and not a rushed time during a meeting.”

Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “Ok so we would have to check both schedules for Mr. Hefner and Mr. Stelly.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “In regards to that, I think it would be a lot faster if the Chairman or myself would call a special meeting than waiting for full council to make a motion and everything else. I want to make sure we don’t wait until the last minute.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “If you all going to put it into a motion can you please add that they contact each council member and have a conversation over the phone to get

everything organized per district so when they come they have something to look into.”

Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “Mr. Lejeune if you don’t mind would you let Ms. Sherell get that in order for us that way when they come she can coordinate those meetings.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I’m good.”

Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “So Mrs. Mildred we’re good.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Yes.”

Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “Thank you mam.”

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

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Bellard are you getting any reports of anywhere else in the parish about missing signs.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Unfortunately, it’s been happening a lot we even changed the bolts that we use and everything else but the people are just cutting them. We even put some special stuff on the sign that way when they will grab it they will be stuck to it.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I’m noticing in District 9 that some signs were up last week and this week they are gone and I’m just wondering if it’s like that everywhere else.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is.”

Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated, “Mr. Ardoin, four year ago I was going to go on Passe Partout to discuss that matter. They said due to an election year we cannot go on Passe Partout because it is basically like free air time. I am just saying Channel 10 but if we can go on Channel 3, KLFY in Lafayette just to ask the public to help with the awareness of how important these signs are to the public especially in any area but in the rural area where I stay. When we have ambulance drivers looking at a GPS while they are coming to a house and you have no stop sign or no road sign. If we could get as a group all 13 of us and the Parish President to go on Passe Partout one morning or Good Morning Acadiana, Channel 3 or whatever just to spread the awareness that it is very important to our community to have these signs in place and talk to the constituents that live in the parish on how important it is to have these signs. That is something that we can discuss in the near future.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I wanted to find out if there were any other areas. I am just asking Mr. Bellard to please correct whatever we can correct. There are too many of them missing. When it comes time for the Ambulance, the Police or the Sheriff’s office to be available to find that street is bad.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “Mr. Bellard, I was notified today. They would like to place Culverts that goes into the yard of that Culvert Smith’s Place on 93 from the Half-way-House Road. Those trucks are taking Half-Way-House Road and getting to the dead end and they can’t turn. Do we have any problems with that?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will get Barry to go out there and talk to them. We will be able to do whatever we can to help them. That is Half-Way-House Road that you are talking about, right.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “Yes, give them an entrance to go in.”

Public Works Chairman Dexter Browns stated, “Mr. Alvin, you stated that will be for their trucks to turn in?”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “For the trucks that are picking up Culverts, the 18 wheelers.”

Public Works Chairman Dexter Browns stated, “Mr. Bellard if you can get together with the Culvert people, the people that make culverts and ask them to cut us a deal on the culverts if we can put down cement culverts.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We bid out the culvert the culverts for the Parish Government to buy. I will get Barry to talk to them. That won’t be a problem.

Mr. Bobby Ardoin, St. Landry Now stated, “You and a lot of other public officials in this parish can’t wait to run to Lafayette Stations to talk about things. You have two local media representatives here. Do you see any of these television stations here at this meeting? Do they ever come here, no. It is us, my website St. Landry now which as of last November had 2.2 million viewers on our website. Since January we have had 1.1 million. Mr. Kirgan has Eunice News which is the Official Journal of this Parish and yet you want to go to Lafayette. I am not just talking about you, I am talking about other City Officials in Opelousas. You all can’t wait to run to Television but if no one is watching that particular program you won’t get any publicity. That is all that I have to say.”

Public Works Chairman Dexter Browns stated, “I apologize for not mentioning you. I would hope that you all would report that we have a client issue in the parish and put in on your website and broadcast it to the public. Thank you sir.”

12. Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to adjourn the Public Works Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

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