

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1st, 2023
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Ex-Officio Jerry Red Jr., called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Councilwoman Mildred Thierry led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I just want to remind everyone as we move on, if anyone would like to speak before the council we would ask that you fill out a speaker card and you will have 5 minutes to speak. I will ask that you put your cell phones on silent so we won’t have any interference. We will begin with the Administrative Finance Committee. Roll call.”

3. **Roll Call:** Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Coby Clavier. **ABSENT:** None.
4. **Elect Chairman:**

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Item No. 4: Election of a Chairman.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Mr. Chairman, I would like to nominate Mr. Coby Clavier.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Mr. Chairman, I would like to nominate Mr. Harold Taylor.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. Chairman, I would like to withdraw and yield to my friend Mr. Coby Clavier.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I would like to close the nominations.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Are you seconding that motion Mr. Timmy?”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Yes.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Nominations are closed, can we have roll call please.”

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to nominate Coby Clavier as Administrative Finance Chairman for 2023.

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

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Congratulations Mr. Clavier.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, “Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will now call this committee meeting to order. It is my pleasure to lead this committee and I appreciate your confidence in me. As we get started the first item is No. 5 persons to address the committee. I did not get any names, do we have anyone that filled out a speak card to address the Finance Committee.”

5. **Person to address the Committee:**
None.

6. Parish President & Finance Report:

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "You all should have a copy of the Finance Report in your packet, any questions you all are welcome to ask me."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions. Mr. Bellard, I see that Ms. Fulop is not here, on the Profit and Loss for January 2023, Ad Valorem Tax shows that we received \$1,650,109.45 out of a \$2,259,905.00 budget, my question is Ad Valorem Tax is not sent out until November, how did we get \$1.6 million?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Our biggest month collecting taxes is in January of every year."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "That was for 2022 sir. Accrual basis right?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No we changed it to fit you all so you all can see what is coming in on a cash basis."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Okay, we were on a cash basis last year right?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Last year you all were on an accrual basis up until November."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "So it says on an accrual basis this year."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No sir."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "We that is what it says on the paper."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No sir."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Do you have a copy in front of you?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am looking for my copy right now."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Look at the left hand corner right under 22423 accrual basis. It is under General Fund, Profit Loss January 2023. It says Ad Valorem Tax under Fund 4100100, \$1,650,109.45 was taken in in January out of a \$2,259,905.00 appropriations from last year. 2023 notices for Ad Valorem Tax won't be sent out until November, how did we get \$1.6 Million when the tax notices have not been sent out?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "This is collections that came in to the Government in December and January of this year."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Impossible that is for 2022 sir."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "You see that is the problem we did it in accrual basis last year to fit the narrative."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "No you did it in a cash basis last year."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No sir. We did not. We ended the year on a cash basis."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Could you check with Ms. Fulop?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am telling you what it was on, I am explaining it to you."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Jessie, you are absolutely wrong on this."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Okay, if you think I am wrong that is okay. You can think what you want."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "I have another question. On the last page, Other Income. Transfer Fund 96: \$100,000.00 that is the savings that we put together so we would not have to borrow money to cash flow the parish until we get our ad valorem tax in. Why did we use \$100,000.00 already?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will look at it tomorrow and give you an answer."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Okay, thank you."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier questioned, "Are you finished Mr. Taylor?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Yes, I am finished."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Mr. President is that all you have?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No sir. In your packet you have a request from Allen's Cable to do a Pilot Program to help them out with their program that they are putting into the parish. If we do it for them we will have to do it for all so my recommendation is that we don't. They are already getting subsidies from the Federal Government to put the Fiber into the ground so I think that they should pay the taxes that is owed. That is a decision for you all and you all have the request in your packet."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Do you want to put that on the agenda for the Regular Meeting or no action necessary."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am making the recommendation that we don't but it is whatever you all want to do."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Would this committee like to pass this to the full council?"

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "Where would we get the money to do this?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "What he is asking for is that he does not pay all of the Franchise Fees and all of the extra taxes that comes along."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "I think the sales tax that he referred to in the letter, we would have to give up the sales tax on the stuff that he buys. We have no authority to do that."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That is what he wants to do. A Pilot Program basically. Every Cable Company is getting a subsidy from the Federal Government already to install this. My recommendation is that we don't give them the Pilot Program and let them just pay the taxes that is owed."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Let me ask you this question. Would it be feasible to maybe send this up to SLED and let Mr. Rodier check on this and report back to us?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We can do that."

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown for forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to forward Allen's Communications Request to SLED Board for Mr. Bill Rodier review and report the findings back to the council.

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

Motion forward.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That is all that I have."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, "Mr. Chairman, before we move on with this motion I have a question, Mr. Bellard, will Ms. Caryn be at the full council meeting for discussions?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No sir."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, "Any reason why?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will not allow my employees to come in here and be disrespected. I am the only one that is required to be here. I am here. My employees won't come."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "So this is our Finance Director and she can't come and give us the information that we need."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "She can, but I am not allowing her to come."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Even with a \$9,000.00 raise she is not coming before this council?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "She is not coming in front of this council. You all are welcome to call and ask questions that is not a problem."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "That is a bad attitude Mr. Bellard."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No, it is taking care of the employees."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "You are asking for support from this council and you can't get your Finance Director to come."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "She would come, I am telling her not to come."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "And that is your reason?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That is my answer, yes."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier questioned, "Mr. Red, are you finished?"

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I am not finished. I am not finished at the moment but it will go a long way from here. I want you to remember I am the Chairman for 2023."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We can see that you are the Chairman. That is good."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Okay, I want you to remember that."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, "Mr. Bellard, I think that this council voted some years ago that if we requested a head of a department to come and address the council they would come and address us. Even in Executive Session you will not allow her to come."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They do not work for you all, they work for me. The thing is this, the employees will not come in this council meeting and be disrespected by some council members and expect them to come back to next meeting. It is not going to happen. I am sorry. It is not going to happen."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Are you finished Ms. Nancy?"

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Yes."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Mr. Taylor, you had a comment?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "No, I am scratching my neck."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Mr. Bellard is there anything else?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "We have a motion on the floor and a second to accept the Parish President's Report."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Mr. Chairman, I see no reason to accept the Parish President's Report. I see no reason."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier questioned, "I understand where you are coming from but we will let the committee vote on it so they will have the choice to vote."

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: Easton Shelvin, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune.
NAYS: Harold Taylor. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

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

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Mr. Bellard, I have been poked like a bear for almost a year now. The last you told me that it would be that Sunday after, I am so lost and confused because I have heard it so many times. What I should have asked you is to be specific on which Sunday. At this point what is the conclusion, what is going to happen? I asked you before and we voted to have that statue removed. Considering we just got out of the month of February which if you are aware is Black History Month, and I just find this totally offensive. I don't know about the rest, I am speaking about myself. We have been talking on this for one year, and we voted to have this statue removed. It was painted on, I thought that it would be removed and it has been cleansed, I guess with the tax payer dollars.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Nope."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I guess you must have paid for it yourself. The Daughters of the Confederate, are they still willing to take the statue?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "So the update on the Statue is: In January, on a Saturday they came out to remove it. The Crane was here and everything was here. Whenever they latched onto the Statue, the attorneys showed up and threatened to sue them if they damage the statue. As everybody knows nobody wants to spend any money on removing the statue, so the guy that will remove it for free said I will not touch it because he is not getting sued. So right now it is up to the council to see what you all want to do next."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I also presented you with a Proposal and you refused to take it. That someone would remove it for free and store it."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It will cost \$15,000.00."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, "Would you accept that persons proposal to remove it for free?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Whatever the council wants to do. The statue right now is owned by the Sons and the Daughters because you all gave it to them. That is what the Resolution calls for, right now it belongs to them. I don't think you can have anyone go and touch it with the threat of it being damaged and getting sued, but if that is the case and you all want it. We tried to do it the easy way and we were threatened a lawsuit. I will tell you right now I will entertain anyone that would want to move it.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Will you accept the proposal?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will call Mr. Bellard tomorrow and talk to him about it. If he wants to do his part even though with the threat of a lawsuit then that is all that I can do."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "That is in essence that it gets damaged. You were getting professional people that deal with granite all the time to take it down. You stressed several times on how careful they were going to be taking it down and they have to take it down in so many pieces. I am surprised if these people do this kind of work every day they still felt threatened."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Because it is 103 years old. They know that whenever they will latch onto it, it is going to be damaged."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "If Mr. Bellard does not agree to take it after you speak to him because he did have a proposal that he proposed to us back then, I am going to ask the council if we can take another vote on not giving it to the Daughters of the Confederate and we deal with it ourselves. We remove it and it put it in some storage. We voted to have it taken down."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Do I have anyone on this committee wanting to make that motion?"

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I would like to have a conversation about it. Mr. Bellard, did we contact the members of the Confederate?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Did we send them a letter letting them know that this commotion was going to start again?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I advised them what was happening on the phone."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, "When did that happen?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That happened sometimes February and we have been talking ever since."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I wonder if they were brought aware that this was going to come up on the agenda in the Committee?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have Mr. Gremilon here from the Sons of the Confederacy. If he wants to address the council."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Mr. Duplechain, who owns that statue?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The Parish Government."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "So if the Parish Government has a contractor to come in and it falls to pieces will we sue ourselves?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "No we won't sue ourselves."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The Resolution that was passed gave it to the Sons and the Daughters of the Confederacy."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "We can give it to them in pieces. For crying out loud what is the problem here? What is the problem? Tell me the problem. We own it, we will take it down or will we hire someone to take it down. Whoever wants to take it down will

take it down, if it falls apart and they want it in pieces they can have it, if they don't we will bring it to the dump. What is the issue? Thank you Mr. Chairman."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "What will this committee like to do?"

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I was not finished. I would like to know if members of the Confederate Sons and Daughters looked at another avenue and tried to get it removed. We gave it to you all, it is your property despite what the attorney just mentioned. We do understand that we handed it over to you all. I just want to know before we take any other actions toward that. Are you all prepared to take some action in going in the direction to get somebody to move it?"

Mr. George Gremilon addressed the council. He stated, "Please bear with me because I had a stroke and it is hard for me to process information. Back in April, yes, you all did donate it to the Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy. The UDC as we refer to the ladies said basically to us, you all can have it. Officially we refer to as the General J. J. Alfred A. Mouton Camp 778 of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. That is our official moniker, I guess you could say. It was April 20th, at your council meeting that you all voted to donate it to us. We did not know until April 20th what the outcome would be. So come April 20th, of last year it was donated to us which we do appreciate. Since it was donated to us we try and find private individuals in this parish to work with them on donating land to us so we could move it to private property. After several attempts of reaching out to people which took 1-2 months up to 3 months and no one accepted our offer. In July the Sons of Confederated Veterans reached out to Camp Moore Museum located in Kentwood Louisiana. We worked out a contract to where the Sons of the Confederate Veterans would be able to have this monument placed at Camp Moore Museum. I don't have the exact date but I believe that was in early August. Starting in early August our local camp with the medium funds that we have, we collected \$2,500.00 and we had a base constructed at Camp Moore Museum, at 10' x 10' x 10" concrete base for it to be placed on and ready for it to be moved, that was delayed by rain. Concrete that is that thick needs sit. It was not ready for placement until the first of December or so. I don't know the exact dates. You can say In December my camp members got in touch with Mr. Bellard and explained that we have this base ready and poured and ready to move it. You can't snap your fingers and move and item like that, I hope you all understand. A date was set for Saturday, I don't have the exact date because I did not know about this meeting until 5:30 today. That was in mid-January where basically I was told Saturday is a go ahead at 8:00 o'clock we will move this monument. Saturday comes, the contractor who showed up, the first thing that he said when he gets to us was, I don't know what I am doing, I have never done anything like this before. I am not sure of his name, I believe he is with Morgan and Morgan Contractors, he did tell us that he had been doing some research, a lot of research and study on this monument. This monument is made out of marble, not granite. Marble is a very brittle rock. When he got up top close to it, I am sure that most of you all did not notice the scaffolding placed around the monument back in December and January, when he got through looking at this monument closely that is when he informed us that this thing might break upon moving it. They built this monument, I know I am going over my 5 minutes but the more information that you all know the better. When they constructed this monument 100 years ago they put it together in pieces. They built it from the base up like a puzzle. Granite monuments can be made in one piece and set in place but being as brittle as it is we told him if this thing breaks you have liability insurance and you are responsible for it. He chose not touch it and he chose to stop his work. That is information that we did not know and I am pretty sure that most people in this audience knows the difference now between Granite and Marble Statues. I had no idea and most of us had no idea what can happen to the fragility of monuments like that. We the Sons of the Confederate Veterans have reached out to a moving company, Wingate Moving Company, if I am not mistaken, we have reached out to them and Mr. Wingate have been out to this monument and he is working out and estimate to see how much it will cost to have the monument moved. I think that is all that my brains can spit out right now. Are there any questions? I will try to answer them."

Councilman Dexter Brown questioned, "Thanks for coming. I had a question about the location, you said Kentwood."

Mr. George Gremilon stated, "Kentwood Louisiana."

Councilman Dexter Brown questioned, "Is that the same area as Denham Springs, the Kentwood area?"

Mr. George Gremilon stated, "It is near Amite City. It is off of Interstate 55 approximately 40 miles north of Hammond."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "I know you said that the weather had hindered the construction process, correct."

Mr. George Gremilon stated, "Correct, we got the go ahead in August from Camp Moore to pour the concrete base. That is when it took us a couple of weeks to find a contractor to pour the base. We had to get approval from Camp Moore Museum to get a contractor that they were satisfied with to pour an adequate base. We had the base poured in early November then the rain came. Anyone who works in concrete with a 10' x 10' outside slab, you have to let that thing cure and stand. Like I said, we let it cure and stand and we were basically giving it the go ahead to move it in early December. Camp Moore said yes bring it on and that is when our contacts told Jessie that Camp Moore Museum have the base poured and it cost us \$2,500.00 to get this base poured out of our pockets, out of the local camps pocket. We had to raise the funds and we got this base poured and it is ready to be moved."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "I want to thank you for coming to give us that information. You said that you had a stroke, I know how you feel because I also had a stroke 2 years ago and our memory is sort of shaky at times but I want to thank you for your information."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "This will be my final question for you. I would like to know approximately when you think you will have an answer from this Wingate Company so we can make a decision in the direction in which we have to head. Ultimately it has to be removed from the property because that is pretty much the decision and the agreement that we came upon. I know that is has been 12 months or nearly approaching the 12 month period and I understand all of that but we need you guys to come up with a date very shortly so we can make a decision in moving forward."

Mr. George Gremilon stated, "Yes Sir."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "So how much time do you need before you can come back to this council? It cannot be months, we need an answer soon. Can I give you 6 weeks?"

Mr. George Gremilon stated, "Oh yes Sir."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I will make a motion that we give him 6 weeks and they come back to the council with a complete plan and a time of action of removal."

Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated, "Second."

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, "I would like to say 6 weeks to have it moved. It is a year already."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Are you offering a Sub-Motion Mr. Shelvin?"

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, "Yes, I will offer it as a Sub-Motion."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier questioned, "Do we have a Second on the Sub-Motion? The Sub-Motion states to have it moved in 6 weeks. Do I have second? We do not have a second, sorry Mr. Shelvin. The first motion stands. We have a second by Ms. Oliver. Roll call please."

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to grant Mr. George Gremilon 6 weeks to return to the council with a complete plan and a time of action for the removal of the statue.

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

8. The St. Landry Parish Government Planning Department is requesting the Preliminary and Final Approval for Showing Northwoods Cove Subdivision Lots 1-7; situated in Section 49, Township 8 South, Range 4 East located on Suncan and Boagni Road, Sunset, LA 70584.

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Ms. Vivian that is in your District."

Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated, "Yes it is. I will make a motion to approve it."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Mr. Chairman, before we move on this, Ms. Sherell, is this the same one that we received information on at 4:25 p.m.?"

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "Yes it is."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "My question is, Mr. Bellard, is everything turned in on this?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "To my understanding I believe they are scheduled to turn in something tomorrow to complete their application."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "To my knowledge everything was turned in. Mr. Jacob Jarrell did not have the letter ready. He was out of the office so he sent us an e-mail verifying everything."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "For future references, it is the job of that department to make copies for the Public Works, not for our Council Clerk. I mean they should already have the copies to turn into us. When she got this at 4:25 p.m. she had to go and start making copies to make sure that they had it for the meeting. I am asking that they turn in everything and make sure that everything is documented and we are not waiting on anything else."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "You all got it as soon as we got it."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "My only question is, we want to make sure that everything is properly turned in."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I agree."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Are you finished Mr. Red?"

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Yes."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "We have a motion on the floor and a second for the approval of Northwoods Cove Subdivision."

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to approve the Preliminary and Final Approval for Showing Northwoods Cove Subdivision Lots 1-7; situated in Section 49, Township 8 South, Range 4 East located on Suncan and Boagni Road, Sunset, LA 70584.

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

9. 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 for an entire year) to the ballot for the November Election. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "This was a tax that was in my District approximately 8 years ago. We tried to pass it 4 years ago to get it back. It is not a renewal but it is in existence but it had expired. It did not pass so I am asking for us to try again in November. This is money that would help me in my District."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "My question is; how are we going to pay for this Ms. Nancy? We put this on the agenda I believe about a year and a half ago and it did not pass. My question is; where will the funds come from to pay for this tax?"

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "First of all we called Baton Rouge. If I had to put it on the ballot, because we have two other taxes that are going, it would be a lot cheaper to do it now. The same place that the money is coming from for the other two this is the same place."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "No Ma'am. The other two taxes are coming from their own Districts. Your District does not have funds to pay for this tax. So I am asking, where will the money come from? Mr. Bellard do you have funds set aside to pay for this tax?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Are you talking about to pay for the election?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Mr. Chairman, if this will be on the November Ballot will it be the General Election is that correct Counselor?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "You are talking to me?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Yes, the General Election, is it in November for Governor and Senator?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The General Election should be in October. The Road District 11 is set for November runoff. The Health Unit one is set for November the runoff I believe. As far as Nancy's road tax of course that have not been set. So, we have October and we have November so we have to pick one of those months for that election if you want to have the election."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "I understand. But since it is a General Election, the state is going to pay one half and we will pay the other half normally."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Generally it is cheaper if you are going to go at the same time as the Governor."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Nancy do you have a number on what the cost is."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "No I do not. Ms. Sherell, would you happen to know because I had to call and get the information for me."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Why don't we hold off to find out what it will cost us first maybe, this election. Then we can come back to it. How about that."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Can we get this information by the next meeting in two weeks."

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Yes, I can call.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Then maybe we can just send it up for full consideration.”

Councilman Dexter Brown questioned, “Will we have the amount of time to place it on the ballot.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “You will have time.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, “We will find out what it will cost and we will bring it back up.”

10. Forward to Full Council **RESOLUTION NO. 009 OF 2023**

A resolution ordering and calling special elections to be held in (i) Sub-Road District No. 1 of Road District 11A of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana and (ii) Sub-Road District No. 2 of Road District 11A of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, to authorize the continuation of special taxes therein; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to approve **Resolution No. 009 OF 2023**. A resolution ordering and calling special elections to be held in (i) Sub-Road District No. 1 of Road District 11A of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana and (ii) Sub-Road District No. 2 of Road District 11A of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, to authorize the continuation of special taxes therein; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

Motion forwarded.

11. Forward to Full Council **RESOLUTION NO. 010 OF 2023**

(HEALTH UNIT MILLAGE RENEWAL)

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Why is this a Special Election?”

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, “That is a good question. I was thinking the same thing Mr. Taylor. Who can answer that?”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “It is not a Special Election. It is just a Health Unit Tax.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, “It states calling a Special Election, Ms. Sherell, we have to watch that.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “We are not calling a Special Election. It is on November 18th.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, “It says a Special Election. Can we re-word that? We don’t want to vote on it incorrectly.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Sherell, both of these Resolutions are listed as a Special Election. These Resolution, where did you get them?”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "From Foley & Judell."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "What are the requirements? Do they require a Special Election? Can you change that wording?"

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "That is the wording that come from Foley & Judell by Melissa McCarthy."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "They absolutely require it to be listed as a Special Election or can you change it."

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "That is how they listed it."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "So will you check with them to see why it is listed as Special Election and see if you can change the wording or if it has to stay the same. But it is for the General Election."

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "Okay and it is for the General Election."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "So where are we with this Mr. Duplechain? What are you seeing?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The Resolution is worded exactly the way it needs to be. Our Clerk can check on that word, 'Special Election' and see if it can be changed and see what is the meaning of it. This came directly from Foley and Judell. She will check with them to see if they can change the wording of 'Special Election' and she will ask them why it say Special Election. This is the exact language that we needed."

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to approve **Resolution No. 010 OF 2023. Council Clerk will advise the council on the wording 'Special Election.'**

(HEALTH UNIT MILLAGE RENEWAL)

A resolution ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

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

Motion forwarded.

12. It has been called to my attention by several parish employees who have been terminated allegedly without just cause and because of the potential liability for termination I would like to offer the following motion.

Motion to retain an Independent Human Resource Specialist to investigate the Human Resource Department and any other Parish Government Department, to determine that proper protocol was followed and that the terminations were justifiable.

(Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I realize that this Parish Council adopted Disciplinary Policies a couple of years ago. In that policy there are some wording in there that says: The Progressive Disciplinary system explained in this policy provides St. Landry Parish Government with a fair, consistent and systematic approach to employee discipline. While counseling and supervisory instruction are the preferred approach to unacceptable performances, St. Landry Parish Government may take disciplinary action up and including

termination, without prior counseling when the nature of the employee's offence is particularly serious or constitutes gross misconduct.

Discipline, removals and separations and letters of reprimand can only be invoked by the Parish President or designee. Additionally, the Parish President or designee, and Department Heads may issue improvement letters (Letters of warning, counseling, coaching, supervisory plans, etc.) in an attempt to improve an employee conduct.

That is my concern that some employees have contact me as Councilmember and I think if some of you all want to admit they have contacted you all in reference to they were not called in and disciplined, they were just terminated. So that is why I am asking, and according to the Home Rule Charter, I am asking for an investigation on some of these matters with some of these employees. We are dealing some of these people lives, they come to work here and they think that they have a future. The purchase a house, purchase a car and the next thing they are terminated."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "I have a motion on the floor by Mr. Taylor."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Mr. Bellard, you want to speak on this matter at all."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Not really. Well yes I do. I am just going to inform the council that an Ordinance was passed in May of 2004 that put a Policy and Procedure book in place, Wayne was on the council at the time, it was done by an Ordinance. Everything that you all did after that was done by Resolution so therefore the ordinance that was put in place in May 2004 is what stands today. The next thing is this, everything that Wayne just talked about says 'May' everything is 'May' nothing that says 'Shall' so therefore it does not make a difference. People who work in this Government come to work and they do their job. If they don't do their job either they will get the progressive discipline that we think is best and we will ask them to do better. Whenever some people do something that is so wrong that I cannot overlook it or face the possibility of myself being held accountable through malfeasance charges, it does not matter what the book says, they will not work for me and that is not going to change. It is just that simple. I have a job to do and my job is taking care of day to day operations of this government. That is my job. I do it like I need to do it. So not everybody gets the opportunity to move from one department to the other but some do. Those that does not have the opportunity is because their misconduct is so gross that I cannot allow them to stay on the payroll."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Mr. Timmy, does that complete your question?"

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Yes."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "Mr. Bellard, we as Parish Council Members are over two employees. Our Council Clerk and our Part-time Council Clerk."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes sir."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "Now the two key words here are unacceptable performance. I notice that you have the final say so. I know it is the Human Resource Director and then you have the final say so, correct. You are saying that everything and all of your paperwork and all of your disciplinary forms and everything else are in order whenever you made that kind of decision to terminate your employees?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Exactly."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "That is all that we need to know."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Make sure that we keep in mind that we are an 'At Will' State."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I understand that we are in an 'At Will' State. I did get some calls by people that were terminated. I think that it is real sad when you are serving as a Human Resource Director and you call people on the carpet and say that because you are talking about me as a Human Resource Director that is sad that you are going to fire somebody. All due respect, rules and procedures were set by this council, regardless of what you call it a Resolution, not an Ordinance there should be a written reprimand first."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Nope."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "That is your prerogative."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "And it is my choice."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "That is your choice."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That is correct."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "It may not be right. Number 2, days off without pay and last but not least, if a person is still doing something detrimental to their job then you let them go."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That is your opinion. But unfortunately you all are not in the position."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I have the floor, I have the floor. Mr. Bellard it leaves me no choice but to go along with this investigation what they want to call. You can say or do what you want but we are here as a council and we are here for the people of St. Landry Parish. If you sitting in the department and you are not doing your job right, you should be reprimanded just like anyone else. At the same time you are the President of St. Landry Parish. I want you to understand these people of St. Landry Parish need to be heard by the people that they represent and the people that represent them. I think that it is only fair if this council so chooses to have the Human Resource Director under and investigation so be it. We have 13 Councilmembers here. Everybody have a mind of their own but I think that they need to do what is right. I am finished with that."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Ladies and Gentleman, what harm would it do to look and make sure that we have everything in order. We could be sued for this. We are talking about a Federal Statue. What harm is it to send it up to Full Council and we will check the details out with the Resolution or the Ordinance or whatever. I am not sure about that but I will know tomorrow about it because I will find out. I would like to send this up to full council for consideration."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "On Mr. Wayne's request is not only for Human Resources. It is to investigate any other Parish Government Department also. So let's just understand that, it is not just going to be one department. It consist of more than just Human Resources."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin state, "Another question that I have is; why is it that we even adopted this disciplinary policy. If we are not responsible why was it that we were asked to

adopt it and leave us as councilmembers? I thought that we were the Legislative body of this council. I think that we need to look at this situation. I feel sorry for these employees. Where are they going to go? Their record is tarnished because you did not do one little thing or you may have made a remark about your job or something like that. So I just think that we need to look at this whole situation. I think that our Home Rule Charter stipulates that the council may order an investigation into the affairs of Parish Government and related conduct of any Parish Government Official Officer Employee Department Office or Agency. The investigation shall be for specified purposes which much be reduced to writing before beginning the investigation. Mr. Bellard you have gotten up here at a council meeting and said, and I have two little ladies that are standing in the back, and you have said that they are under investigation. How long are they going to be under investigation? It has been 6 months, so how long are they going to be under investigation? Are you going to terminate them? What are you going to do?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard questioned, "Who are you speaking of?"

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I am speaking of Brooke Wagley. She has her hand up right now."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "She does not work for us."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "She worked for you. She handled the Animal Shelter for you."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "She does not work for us now. In your Home Rule Charter, if you read it specifically, it says that when you pass a policy it is done by an ordinance. We did that in 2004 and that was done by ordinance. It has never been changed by ordinance since then, they were done by resolution. It is not my fault that whoever was advising you all to do something and it was not done right. The next thing is this, investigations can be done for specific reasons. You have to be specific into the nature of the investigation, you cannot just do others and everything all included, it cannot be broad, you have to be specific. The next thing, when it comes to HR and Personnel Records this council does not have the authority or have the right to subpoena neither does an independent HR Specialist. So therefore anything in personnel records will not be given to anybody other than HR Director or myself. I am just giving you all a heads up before you all start."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I know that you said that there several investigations going on. Right now, how many investigations of the employees do we have going on?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have and investigation in Animal Control that wrapped up this morning. Arrest warrants are going to be done by next week. We also have another investigation that started about one month ago and it will be done within the next 30-45 days."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, "Are any of these people still employed with Parish Government? Are they still being paid?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "One of them is still employed. I am not sure about the pay yet because there is a limited amount of time that we can leave somebody on leave."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, "When are you all going to make a decision as far as how long a person will be on leave?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That person is going to be on leave until the investigation is over with. But probably without pay."

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "What is this: without pay and with pay? We give some fired employees pay and some no pay."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No, investigations. Administrative leave with or without pay."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "So how do you determine who gets what?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "An investigation that is ongoing we leave that person get on leave with pay."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Is that what happened to this young lady that spoke up? She has been under investigation for a long time, right? No, you have told us that several months ago."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I said Animal Control was under investigation."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "But she was not."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Animal Control was under investigation."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "But she was not, is that correct?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am not quite sure who was all involved in the investigation."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I guess that would come on the investigation about the pay and no pay. Now I am confused about it. The last thing is to Garrett, is it possible that we can amend this ordinance to reflect some of these modern views. Evidently it is not written to benefit. We have just so many employees that have been fired."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Are you referring to the ordinance of 2004?"

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Yes."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Just generally, what does it pertain to."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I am talking about the one that he spoke of that we don't have any say-so or authority that was written as far as employees."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Any ordinance can be repealed or amended or you can leave it alone. Those are the three choices that the council have for every ordinance."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Mr. Chairman. I have an answer for Ms. Nancy. It is not the ordinance that says that the authority for employees are under me. It is what the Home Rule Charter calls for. That is the nature of the Beast, the Jury System did not work in this parish which is why we are here now. So the Home Rule Charter says that I am the Executive Branch and I dictate what have to happen with everything on the Executive Side of the Government. That is what the people voted on and that is how it is ran."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “In the first four years, if some of you can remember, I had ask that we relook at this Charter. It is sort of old and we can make some changes but that was voted down, another story.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I do want you to understand if anything that the council would like to change in the Home Rule Charter we can make the changes but it won’t take place until the upcoming year.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, it has to be voted on by the people. It has to be voted on the by the people.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I understand but it won’t take place until the next election year. This is election year.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, if the council votes to bring something to change on the Charter they can do that and then bring it to the election. It does not change because of another election year. The only thing that changes is my salary if that is changed, it will go into the next cycle. If the people vote to change the Charter then it is applied once the people vote. It don’t wait.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “It will take place in 2024. It will go on the ballot.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Right, if it goes on the ballot this year.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “That is correct.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I think we should discuss this even further. The Charter needs to be looked at in a lot of areas.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, “We have a motion on the floor to retain that Independent Human Resource Specialist for an investigation that is mentioned, do I have a second.”

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, “You need a second to forward it to the full council, right? I will second it.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to retain an Independent Human Resource Specialist to investigate the Human Resource Department and any other Parish Government Departments to determine that proper protocol was followed and that the terminations were justifiable.

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: Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Dexter Brown,
NAYS: Vivian Olivier and Timmy Lejeune. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.
Motion forwarded.

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

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of things. Last meeting when we elected our Chairman and speaking to him we will be looking at the budget in detail. I asked Mr. Bellard and I have actually submitted a list of question in preparation after looking at the 2023 budget. I would like to read and direct the questions that I asked

this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. The Finance Director forwarded to us the answers to the questions although they are not all answered. This is the question:

In order for the council to consider the proposed 2023 Proposed Operating Budget I am asking for the following information on the Budget year 2022 and 2023.

1. All Louisiana State Bond Commission Documentation confirming the request from Parish Government to convert a 2020 COVID-19 Letter of Credit to an 8 year loan.
2. All documentation of authorized signatures of those who signed the request to convert the letter to credit to a loan.
3. All written documentation notifying the council of the conversion of the Letter of Credit to a Loan.
4. Copies of all Washington State Bank transactions regarding drawdowns of funds from the converted Letter of Credit to the 8 year loan and the purpose for which these drawdowns were used.
5. Copies of invoices and all purchases which were made with the 2020 COVID-19 and a list of the proposed purchases for the 2023 Budget.

As I have said we have received a file and you all have it on your desk which I would like each one of you to look at and consider so we can talk about it in the Budget Hearing. Mr. Bellard, the only thing after browsing through this that we have not received is a written documentation notifying the council of the Letter of Credit was converted to a loan and official action that was taken by the council. Would you please check and see if you can find that sir. Thank you.

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Are there any other business that is brought before this committee?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "One more question. I was informed at the earlier part of the meeting by Counselor that the Resolution we passed two weeks ago asking for a Declaratory Judgement on several items in the Home Rule Charter. I assumed that our distinguished Counselor would be representing us but he tells me that he has a conflict of interest and we will have to retain our own attorney to do this. I would like to forward to the full council a motion to consider retaining an outside counsel to represent us in a Declaratory Judgement."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I have a question for Mr. Taylor. Who will you all be filing a suit against?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "What we are asking for is Clarification of the Home Rule Charter."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "In order for that to happen you will have to have 2 parties."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "We can file it against you. Is that alright with you?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am not objected to anything that you all are talking about. You have to have 2 parties."

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “Counselor, do you want to give us some advice that is not outside of your jurisdiction.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “No, I think that you have covered it all perfectly Mr. Taylor. You did a good job explaining it.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Do you want to answer his question, the president’s question, who are we suing?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “So the choices are: You can have someone from the Council sue the Government, President sues the Council, Council sues the President and the Council sues itself, you have choices there. There have to be a Plaintiff and there have to be a Defendant.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “So if it is uncompromising to you can you suggest what we do.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “They are equally good options. There is no option that is better than the other. It all arrives at the same destination Mr. Taylor.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “You did not answer the question. He is asking who are we going to sue and I am asking you, who are we going to sue?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “That is up to you.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “So what you are saying is that you have a conflict of interest and you cannot advise us. So what do we have you here for? I am asking a question. If you can’t advise this council then what are you doing here.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “What is your question?”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I am not going to repeat it if you don’t remember. Who do we sue?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “You can file suit against the Parish President.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Okay, Option 1. You said there were 3 Options.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “You could have someone from the council sue the Parish Government or the Parish could sue you all, although that is not going to happen.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “So my motion would be that we retain an attorney and let him advise us as to how we proceed with this.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Right.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, “We have a motion on the floor, do I have a second? Everybody heard his motion, do I have a second? I will remind you this is one of the items that we are trying to find out and clarify. When there are 7 votes and there are 7 members are here for a meeting. Can those 7 members get anything done? That is the main part of this. I want to remind you all of that. That is kind of important, do I have a second?”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Is it separate"

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "It is all in there."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, "Is it separated?"

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "That is not my motion. What do you want to separate?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "So we don't have a second, is that what you are saying Mr. Chairman?"

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "As of right now I don't have a second."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "We don't have a second to send this up to the full council so all 13 of us can vote on this."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "I will say again. One of the things is to clarify, right Mr. Taylor if we only have 7 members here for a meeting, can we get something done with those 7 members, right, that is part of it."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "There are several more parts, would you like for me to read them?"

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Yes Sir it would help."

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "**Resolution 006 of 2023**"*

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Council would desire definitive resolution by the St. Landry Parish District Court on interpreting the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter Sections 5-02, Section 5-04, Section 2-10 (D), and Section 3-10 (5) of the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Landry Parish Council hereby authorizes any and all lawsuits and litigation to have the St. Landry Parish District Court render a Declaratory Judgment on whether or not Section 2-10 (D) of the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter mandates that the St. Landry Parish Council must have seven votes in the affirmative to pass an Ordinance, Resolution, or any other action.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Landry Parish Council hereby authorizes any and all lawsuits and litigation to have the St. Landry Parish District Court render a Declaratory Judgment on whether or not Section 3-10 (5) of the Home Rule Charter requires Parish Council approval of contracts signed by the Parish President.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Landry Parish Council hereby authorizes any and all lawsuits and litigation to have the St. Landry Parish District Court render a Declaratory Judgment on whether or not Section 5-02 mandates that the operating budget shall finally be adopted no later than the second to last regular meeting of the fiscal year in which it was submitted. Whether or not Section 5-04 (A) of the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter mandates that supplemental appropriations are to be adopted by an Ordinance in the same manner required for adopting the original budget. i.e.: shall be finally adopted no later than the second to last regular meeting of the fiscal year in which it was submitted."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Is that all Mr. Taylor?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Yes."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Okay, that was a good explanation. I think there are some important things that we need clarity on. Do I have a second?"

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, "Can I second it."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "I don't think so, you are not on the committee."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "As an Elected Official, he can break a tie."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Can I second it."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "I think the Ex-Officio is there only to break a tie or to make or break it."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "Do I have a second by this committee? Anyone. Everyone understands what Mr. Taylor read? This is to forward it to the full council."

Councilman Easton Shelvin stated, "I will second it to forward it to the full council."

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to consider retaining an outside Counsel on how to implement Resolution 006-2023 passed by the St. Landry Parish Council to get a Declaratory Judgement from the court to interpret the Home Rule Charter.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Chairman Jerry Red Jr., Easton Shelvin and Harold Taylor and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune.

ABSENT: None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I vote yes. I can vote to create a tie."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "In a committee meeting? Put that in the Declaratory Judgement also."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "An Ex-Officio can vote to make or break a tie. That is the only thing that an Ex-Officio can do. Our Clerk will tally it up."

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "If Mr. Red votes, it will be 3 to 3."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "We have a tie. As Chairman of this committee do I break the tie?"

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "He did not announce that he was voting at the beginning of the meeting. You can't pick and choose the items you are going to vote for."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "This is the end of the meeting."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "You can."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Yes I did, I voted."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Mr. Clavier is the Chairman. Mr. Clavier can vote only to make or break a tie."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "I vote yes to break the tie."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Mr. Chairman, I look at each of the 6 of us sitting on this committee and wonder why they would not want to get clarity on what the document says. It is our bible ladies and gentleman. Do you all not read the bible?"

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "What is the count Ms. Sherell?"

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "It is 3 to 3."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, "So you are saying that I cannot vote to make a tie?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The Ex-Officio can vote only to make or break a tie."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Okay then, I am voting to break the tie."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "That is why it says Ex-Officio there."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "So what is the tally Ms. Sherell?"

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I voted to bring it to the full council."

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "So now it will passed. It will be forwarded to the full council."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "It will go to the full council. Do I have any other items to bring up before this committee?"

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned, "Mr. Bellard, since I have some constituents in my district who were terminated, I would like to know once the investigation has been completed should it be proven that there were no wrong doing by such employee if they have a desire to want to re-enter would they be allowed to come back to work?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "When a person is terminated, they are terminated. The investigation that went on at Animal Control was done because of activities that took place at Animal Control. They were terminated not due to no investigation so therefore, no."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Thank you."

Administrative Finance Chairman Coby Clavier stated, "One more try, do we have any other business properly brought before this committee? If not, do I have a motion to adjourn."

14. Adjourn.

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

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

Motion carried.

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