

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

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Ex-Officio Jerry Red Jr., called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.

2. **Roll Call:**

Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin and Jimmie Edwards.

ABSENT: Alvin Stelly.

3. **Elect a Chairman:**

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I would like to nominate Mr. Wayne Ardoin as Chairman for the Public Works Committee."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Second."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "We have a motion and a second to make Mr. Wayne Ardoin Chairman of the Public Works Committee. Are there any other nomination? Nomination are closed."

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to nominate Councilman Wayne Ardoin as the Public Works Chairman for 2023.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy and Jimmie Edwards.

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

Motion carried.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Mr. Ardoin, congratulations."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Thank you and I appreciate you all vote of confidence. I will try and conduct this meeting in the proper manner. At this time we have had the roll call and we will proceed with persons to address the committee. Some of you all, it may have been a while and you all were here waiting. I have a gentleman here that walked in and handed me a slip. Mr. Michael Fontenot, are you in the audience? Do you want to speak? I will take you first."

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

Mr. Michael Fontenot addressed the council. He stated, "I want to thank you for recognizing me, my name is Michael Fontenot. I live at 479 Landreneau Road in Eunice. I was here in January for a problem that I am still having today, drainage. I thought by now I would have had some kind of help, people calling me or something being done on that but absolutely nothing has been done. Mr. Bellard you said that you would have a meeting with Cory Williams, did that take place that Monday?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Everything took place up until today. They are telling us 7-10 days to get the Dottie. They want us to put some board road down in the ditch and they won't allow us on the tracks. There are certain stipulations that we have to adhere to but that process have started. It took us over a year just to get them to call us back. So whenever people are saying we are no doing anything we are doing what we can but we can't go on their property and dig the ditch."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "Well I understand because Mr. Williamson called me personally and he said that you do have permission to go on there. The thing that is stopping right now and this has been about three weeks ago is that they need to get a whole of some protectors. They have to have protectors anything there is any kind of work done by the railroad. Is that correct?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Correct."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "And you said that it took you all one year."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We even got Mr. Garrett involved to send some legal notices to them."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "I made a phone call to Mr. Phillip Caulkins. He answered on the second ring. He is the supervisor of Cory. I don't know, apparently you all did not try to call him because I got instant. They called me and Mr. Henry Hidalgo of the Bridge Department came. He and I met and he looked at it and everything was good on his side of everything. I did not ask Mr. Cory about how long it would take to be able to get these protectors for the work. I have this question, since it has been dug have you gotten an engineer or anything to check on that culvert that goes under Landreneau Road next to it. Is it at the level or the grade that will flow the west side of Landreneau Road? I can understand the east side by them digging, it will drain but the west side has to go under this pipe. If the grade is not, it won't go."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have had two different people go and check it for us."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "Two people, what kind of credential people?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "One was an Engineer and the other one was the guy that will be digging the canal on the ditch along the railroad track to make sure that the water flows in that direction."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "They both agreed that once it is dug that water on me will go off, guaranteed."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Well of course they will not guarantee nothing. But I can tell you this, the water will go to the train tracks and then drain towards 190. That is how it is suppose to be. That is all I can tell you."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "I hope it does. The pipes have to be set right."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes, the pipes in front of your house are draining toward 190."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "Because they were dug that way. You all started in the middle."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am talking about the pipes in front of you house."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "From the original time, whenever they were originally set. My second driveway if one foot higher than what it should be. Barry and Jay came and shut the grade on it. I don't know what kind of credentials they have but they told me that this one was too high."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The second one by Willie Young the water is going towards 190 and not towards Willie Young."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "That second driveway, then you have Willie Young road right there, that one there is one foot to high."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Water is going toward 190. It is not going toward the canal."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "The water drains along Willie Young Road and it has to turn that way. It can't because you have it elevated. They did an elevation job that is wrong. You people went over there and shot the grade and came and told me that."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They told you from what I am understanding that if you want to change your culvert they can change it for you and set it however you want it set. But right now it is set to go toward 190."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "Okay, that is what you are saying but I don't know why all pipes that you are saying have to go towards the railroad tracks and that is towards 190. Water cannot flow through it because it is too high."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will have to go and meet you at your house and see what you are talking about. From what I am being told from in front of your house all the way to the railroad track is the way it is suppose to go."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "That is the way it is dug, I will agree but I disagree with the way the water goes. I hope that it does to go under that culvert. It is a good possibility once they relieve the pressure off the water."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That is what we are being told."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "You told me last meeting that you were going to come by. I even stopped by your office and left a message. You were in a meeting which I know that you are a busy man but I left my phone number. I said to have him stop by because I see you passing by several times. Maybe we can look at it. I have to come in front of the council to ask for this. I just wish you would take just a few minutes it would have meant a lot."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Mick, he said that he is going to go by and talk to you. Mr. Bellard, will you go by and talk to him?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "You said it will be about 7 days."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They said 7-10 days before the Dottie Ticket comes back."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "I did see Dottie come and mark it already but they may have to come back and recheck it."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They just said 7-10 days to get the Dottie Ticket confirmed."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "If it does not flow, what are we going to do? What is plan B.?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Let's look at what is happening right now. Everything points in that direction."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "Is there another plan in case that does not work?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "If it does not flow towards 190 which that is what everything shows, then I don't know what we will have to do other than dig the other side lower to catch that water to go across to the canal."

Mr. Michael Fontenot stated, "I hope we don't have to go there. I do hope that it does go there. I appreciate it if you would give it a little bit of your time and we can look at it. Thank you all for giving me the time."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I hope Mr. Bellard takes care of your situation."

Mr. Henry Thomas addressed the council. He stated, "I brought the adjudicated property in Leonville. I have been watching the meetings."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "First of all let's back up. What is your address and your phone number? I don't have it on your slip. I just want to have it for the record. Would you tell us what you are here for?"

Mr. Henry Thomas stated, "Grand Point Hwy, Breaux Bridge. I don't want to put out my address. I will write it down for you if you need it."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I just don't have it on your slip. I just wanted it for the record. Would you tell us what you are here for? It is being recorded."

Mr. Henry Thomas questioned, "Do you want my address?"

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I want your address and your phone number. And tell us what you have here with the Adjudicated Property. I am familiar with the name."

Mr. Henry Thomas stated, "I live in Breaux Bridge Louisiana. At the last meeting you all asked if everybody was notified."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Mr. Chairman, before we go too far I just want to make sure you all are aware that we got served yesterday. We are being sued. Maybe Garrett can elaborate on that before we go too far. I am not sure if we can even discuss it."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Duplechain I am going to ask you to intervene here and give us your view on this thing."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "St. Landry Parish Government has filed no lawsuit in this matter. A lawsuit has been filed by Mr. Lee and his attorney against Mr. Thomas and against St. Landry Parish Government. The St. Landry Parish Government will have to respond to that lawsuit which we will. I am sure Mr. Thomas will have to respond to it also. It will go from there."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "At this time you are advising that Mr. Thomas does not need to speak here on this item because it is in litigation."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "It is in litigation right now."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Thomas, you have an attorney I would presume?"

Mr. Henry Thomas stated, "Yes."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "My question is: At our last full council meeting I asked you the question three times. It is verbatim in our records and you told me all parties were contacted."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "You had asked me if Mr. Thomas had been contacted about the last meeting."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Hold on, I asked you if all parties that were being dealt with in the situation, Mr. Lee, the person who had the first opportunity to purchase the property and Mr. Thomas, the guy that purchased the property that Mr. Lee did not purchase and had it recorded in the courthouse. You even told this council because he recorded it into the courthouse he was the owner of the property. I asked you the question because you and Parish Government asked the council to sign a Resolution so that you all could withdraw the property from Mr. Thomas. I asked you if all parties were contacted and you told me yes. This man said he was never contacted. So tell me how can this council sign a Resolution or take the words from our Legal Counsel or Parish Government when this man was never contacted. Number one, I think we need to withdraw that Resolution and don't do anything with it. We were going on a hearsay that was never done and that is sad. If you are going to ask this council to do something make sure that it is done right. If it is not done right please don't ask us to do it. That is sad. Now this man is standing before us today because he got a

letter in the mail because Lance Lee said that he is filing a lawsuit against him. So what are we suppose to do?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "I did not ask the council to pass the Resolution. As far as being contacted about the last meeting I thought all parties were contacted. The council may pass the Resolution, the council can withdraw or not withdraw. That is completely up to the council. It is you all decision."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I think that it would be the best thing in the council decision to withdraw that Resolution because all parties were not contacted. I am saying that the only fairness on the council when we were not told the truth and we took action because Parish Government needed the council to do something for them and it was not done properly, so withdraw the Resolution."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Actually Mr. Red it was me that asked you if all of the parties were contacted. You assured me that all parties involved were contacted. I abstained and I made the comment that I was not going to go to jail. I had spoken to several attorneys that said that we could not declare this an invalid sale and asked if all parties had been contacted and you did assure me. I have asked you that several times and you said everybody that is involved had been contacted. I also got a call from Mr. Thomas. He had not known nothing until he heard it last week. We had some technical difficulties and I don't what is going on with that so he saw it on this Animal thing, whatever, sight. That is the problem that I have, the parties were not contacted. The council voted on something that was kind of misleading. I don't know if we can rescind it, I hope that we can because we were not fully aware that he had no idea that he is going to be sued and he brought property. I just don't understand how that can be fair."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Parish Government did not sue Mr. Thomas."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "We are declaring it as an invalid sale you said."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "At this time, what do you advise Mr. Duplechain?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "It is not up to me whether the council pass the Resolution or rescind the Resolution. It is up to the council what they want to do. This time a lawsuit has been filed against Parish Government and a lawsuit have been filed against Mr. Thomas. Parish Government will have to respond to the lawsuit and Mr. Thomas will respond to the lawsuit. Parish Government never filed a lawsuit. The lawsuit have filed by the other side."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We are getting sued."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "We as Parish Council?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Parish Government."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Parish Government, but the Parish Council is the one that passed the Resolution the other night, am I correct?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "You all passed the Resolution but before any action could be taken by the attorney we were sued by Lance Lee. That is where it sits as of yesterday. So this council took action on a Resolution but nothing was done by the Legal Advisor. Lance Lee filed a suit against us and Mr. Thomas. That is where we sit right now. You all can rescind your resolution but it is not going to do anything because we are getting sued."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "If you all had not passed the Resolution we would have been sued anyway."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Duplechain, out of all due respect to you the questions were asked. They were asked by Ms. Nancy Carriere, they were asked by Mr.

Jerry Red and we are sitting here tonight and we are caught in the middle of it again as a Parish Council. Just like we are caught again in the middle with some of these employees that are here tonight. Where do we go from here? You tell us where we go? You are our Legal Advice.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “As far as the lawsuit the rest is up to me. It is my initiative to take it from there and respond to it. As far as the Resolution it is up to the council. The council can rescind the Resolution if they want to. It is up to the council. As far as the lawsuit, it is up to me to deal with it.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I am going to agree that we rescind this Resolution. The Resolution stated, if I am not wrong, that it was an invalid sale. By us resending it, is not taking that responsibility.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Duplechain I am going to ask you, are we going to be in order by accepting a motion by this committee to rescind that Resolution and bring it before the full council for a vote and you will take care of the matter after we vote whether it goes through or it does not go through.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Right, the council can forward that if they want to the full council meeting if they want to pass a resolution rescinding the resolution.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Do I have a second for Ms. Nancy Carriere’s motion?”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “It will have to be someone other than Ms. Nancy because she abstained. Someone else will have to make the motion. Someone that voted yes.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned, “Since we were told that it is already in litigation will rescinding it benefit anything?”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “That I cannot answer because we have an attorney that is sitting here and he has advised us to do it this way. So let’s do it by his advice.”

Parish president Jessie Bellard stated, “I would like to make a comment. Rescinding that motion is not going to stop the lawsuit that was filed against us. I just want to make sure that we are clear on that.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “That I can’t answer Mr. Bellard but you know what, we are caught in the middle and I will make a statement. You as Parish Government walked outside of this building and made a statement to a certain councilmember, I will take care of this matter. Talking about Mr. Thomas’s matter. I just feel that some of these sales that were done, you know and I know that some of them should have never happened. That is my feeling as a councilmember.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am just making the comment, just because you all rescind the resolution does not stop the lawsuit.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Duplechain, are you advising us?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “A resolution expresses the will of the council. The council can change its mind if it wants to and pass a resolution rescinding the last resolution.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “It has to be brought before the full council on the third Wednesday of this month.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edward to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to Rescind Resolution 005-2023. A Non Warranty Cash Sale.

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

Motion forwarded.

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Thank you Mr. Thomas."

Ms. Chasity Davis-Warren addressed the council. She stated, "My name is Chasity Davis-Warren. 1904 S. Washington Street, Opelousas. 337-308-1373. I am here to speak on Ms. Mary Fontenot. Ms. Mary Fontenot is one of the employees that was fired. She is a dedicated woman. Like everyone I know she has flaws but who is perfect? I developed a relationship with Ms. Fontenot when she enrolled her grandbaby into my child care facility. Let me repeat that, she enrolled her grandbaby in my child care facility. She has custody of 3 of her grandkids and one has special needs. Do you all know how hard it is to take care of a child with special needs? I know because I have doing it for 12 years. Let me tell you how dedicated she was to this job. On January 17, 2023 there was a power outage in Opelousas. I had to close my center down. All the kids in my daycare were gone. Ms. Fontenot told me that there is no way that she can come and pick up her child because she was at work. The lights eventually came back on but he was the only child left with one of my employees because she was that dedicated that she put the job before coming to pick up her grandbaby. For hours he stayed there with one employee so that way she can work but now she is fired. She also asked us if we can open the daycare early so she can go out and help with the commodities. So if you are looking for perfection you won't find it in anyone but God. So if this decision of termination is final I hope that everyone that is involved never sleep a peaceful night for the rest of their life. Let this woman continue to do the job that she was hired to do. I am going to say this, Mr. Ballard, I have the most respect for you, we have a great relationship and I think that you are doing an awesome job as our Parish President but this right here done drop the ball. I still respect you but I think that some of these employees were wrongfully terminated. Thank you."

Mr. Denis Brown addressed the council. He stated, "The last time I was here, I was here for zoning out in the country. When I first came to this great State of Louisiana I fell in love with it. When I left here you did not see me for a year. I went to a PTSD Academy for a year. I could have got out in 6 months but when I went to the door I could not leave. I told my family when I come out, they turned us on the street and we were killers. I was attached. I had 150 men, I am speaking in self as a leader. I led in front, I love my men. They were all white, I was a black captain but they loved me. It had nothing to do with skin color, a man is a man. Not only did I have to lead because my skin was black I had to prove a point that they were safe and that they could be led by a man of color. I carried flags for 75 men, all white. I made it. I said that I would never leave them and I did not. I delivered all pieces and a flag that we fought for. Now that is the PTSD stuff. I will move pass that. In that place I surrendered, I said, I can't control anything anymore. I got rid of all my flock and I did an inventory for myself. Something happened there, a very wealthy man who was a sponsor choose me out of the blue and said I will take you. Out of Lafayette, 15 men, I am now one of the 15 men that he had chosen because he is a leader. You have some leaders that are made for this one thing. I am sitting here listening to you guys lawsuit. Listen, we all have to humble because one day Catholics, Jews and Protestants, we will all have to fall down on our knees and bow before God. Now you are looking at a man, I have never been an Uncle Tom and my daddy performed 1,200 acers in the state of Tennessee and we walked the walk and we talked the talk. He said we put our pants on the same way and we make decisions together. When my father got caught up in a combine and I was holding his hand and I started praying and I just so happen that my mother loved my father so much that and she was so religious that she felt something had happened. I have dealing with trauma all of my life but my father said lead the men Denis, don't cut corners, be firm but be fair. If I made a decision because one person made one mistake, if they did that I would not have a squad, I would not have a platoon, I would not have a squad with me leading them and chasing bullets because we ran towards the bullets. We never retreated. We made a dedication to die so you, the president could have your job and go home and sleep easy at night. I just got off of a plane in Utah just for this lady right here. I am a Spiritual Leader and when you mess with my Flock and you accuse her of something of who she is not, I was outspoken this far but I was very humble and respectful, wasn't I but this this white collar means more that Marine Corp Uniform and it is still hanging in glass in my house, God has been good to me. God has shielded me, I take home \$8,000.00 per month pension. I answer to no one. I am a self-made man but I will tell you this, the storm is brewing. This parish is being talked about in Salt Lake City Utah and Memphis Tennessee. Remember what I said, what is done in the dark

will come to the light. Bishop L. Quarter has one of the biggest black churches of God in Christ Church in the nation, I am one of his descendants and I said that I will never have his collar on but never say never. But what I don't want is for this parish that I love so much over a simple thing that can be fixed among men, woman and minds. I don't want to be in front of the newspaper. I don't want to be there but I will fight a good fight. If you ever look in the history books that black man that was standing behind Martin Luther King with the Afro with his hand on him, that is my uncle and he owns the famous Bar-B-Que place in downtown Memphis Tennessee. I sold myself out for that flag. I have nothing else to give, I am just a nobody trying to tell everybody about somebody who loves everybody and that is Jesus. Please, please, we don't have to do this. We don't need another black eye because you know that color is going to come out. I don't believe in that, what I do believe in is fairness. We don't need this because they send out the dogs, the war dogs is what they call it and they do their investigation because they are coming if this is not resolved and this is not a threat. My job as a Pastor, I have to walk the line and all I want is men to be men and people to be people, love your neighbor, black, white, blue or green it does not matter. Agree to disagree. That is just like that confederate guy, if he would have caught me some years ago we would have had problems. He had rights to for what he believe in. If people don't believe in God believe in a tomato as long as it makes you be a good person to your neighbor.

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Brown, I will have to ask you to wrap it up. Your five minutes is up."

Mr. Denis Brown stated, "I am done. I touched this building before I came in and I prayed. Do you know everything that I wanted you all to do, God answered and I did not have to say a word. I thank you for that and I pray that all of us be on good ground and this go away. Thank you."

Mr. Donald Broussard addressed the council. He stated, "Donald Broussard, 625 West Hyrum Street, Opelousas. 337-351-7417. Good evening Ladies and Gentleman of the council and Parish President Bellard. I am here to speak on the item that was on the committee agenda, the termination of Parish Government Employees. I will open this up with a word. In the book of Proverbs 16:18 says: Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Mr. Wayne Ardoin, I would like to thank you sir for bringing that item up because out of the individuals that have been recently terminated I have a personal relationship with quite a few of those individuals. I can speak about their charter, their dedication and their commitment to St. Landry Parish Government. Now Jessie, I supported you the last election financial and with my voice in my community but from the reports that we have been receiving about some of these terminations they have been done Johnnie on the Spot. In any business organization and in any Governmental Agency Organization the way and the natural order of doing business and doing things is that you have employees and some of them have to be coached along in their day to day operations. When Policy and Procedure is implemented such as St. Landry Parish Government has Policy and Procedure on the books it has to be followed. Sometimes employees may deviate from Policy and Procedure Parish President Bellard and what the councilmen and women are saying. I have worked in many different agencies and entities where there were 3 levels of reprimand. The first level would be verbal reprimand, where you would call them in and warn them about not following Policy and Procedure or a written reprimand in writing, documentation. The second level of disciplinary action would be to suspend that employee without pay for whatever amount of time the council and the president would suggest. The third level of disciplinary action would be termination. In speaking with Ms. Maggie Fontenot and speaking with a personal friend of mine, someone that I have eaten off of his table and he has eaten off of my table and you gave him an opportunity, Mr. Baxter Iford, they were fired and I know for a fact that Baxter never received any paperwork regarding his termination. Ms. Candace called him in and told him that he was no longer employed with St. Landry Parish Government. Same thing that happen with Ms. Maggie and it got to a personal level. So all I am saying Parish President Bellard, I supported you, I supported you and I donated to your campaign. I am not just speaking for the black employees that have been terminated I am reference all employees of Parish Government. Because the organization that I represent, we are a color blind organization dedicated to fight injustice and racism anywhere in the world. I am not saying that what was done to some of the employees is racist but I am saying it is unjust and I think it would be a travesty if this council does not at least consider what Mr. Wayne Ardoin said about doing an

Independent Investigation of the Human Resources Director for the past several termination. From what we have been hearing it has been more personal related than business related. When you are running a business entity funded by Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Taxpayer, me being one of them, we have a voice and that voice is at the ballot. So I will let my chips fall where they fall. Like the Pastor said, he served and I appreciate your service, I am a Desert Storm Vet and we ran towards the bullet to, we don't run from them. So all I will say is I have spoken to some of the employees and the grounds and the means for termination is personal. He say, she say, they said and you can't have that in a Government Agency on any level ladies and gentleman. The second situation that I want to talk about, Mr. Richard Lewis from my understanding have been placed on Administrative leave with pay. I am representing my Uncle Hilvin Semien and my Aunt Wilma Semien and my first cousin, more like a brother, Eric Dourousseau and Patrina Dourousseau. They live off of Jim Guillory Road. There is some Blighted Properties, grass that is 12 feet tall, Parish President Bellard, Mr. Lewis is on paid Administrative leave is there a time frame that you can tell the people and the constituents of St. Landry Parish, the parish councilmen and women when this administrative leave with pay is going to end? So that this problem that my uncle and my cousin had been coming up her for the past year and one half to two years to get this situation addressed. They have rats that are big as raccoons coming out of there, they have snakes big as pythons coming out of there and it is a hazard. They have a three way stop sign at the Y, when the people get to the stop sign they can't see the oncoming traffic in either direction of the 'Y'. It could potentially be a legal issue against the Parish Government for that blighted property. I have all of the documentation, all the names of the property owners, the parcel of land and the pictures of the blighted property down Jim Guillory Road. Ladies and gentleman, I thank you for your time. Parish President Bellard, I was with you last time, I am with you this time as long as the right things are done and the people that were wrongfully terminated be rightfully reinstated if that is a possibility. Sometimes we have to look in the mirror and we have to listen to the voice of reason and the voice of reason is with the people. A lot of these people that were terminated were supporters. That is all that I am going to say. Thank you all."

5. Public Works Report:

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I don't have anything to report."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Mr. Bellard, last meeting we had been promised that we would meet at some point to look at the different precincts and the polling places. Not just my district but we are all aware there are a lot of areas that we need to fix it. We were told that we would be having meetings to look at this and I don't want us to be caught saying that it is too late. Do you know when?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am not the one that is doing that.

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "He is telling you that he is not the one. Mr. Hefner said he was going to get back in touch with us. And I will reach out to Mr. Byron Stelly in the Registrar of Voters Office."

6. Forward all applications received 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 Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** all applications received 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: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy and Jimmie Edwards. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

7. Forward all applications received 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 Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** all applications received 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: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy and Jimmie Edwards.
NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.
Motion forwarded.

8. Authorize the beginning process for the study of Speed Bumps on: Belmont and Plantation Road. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I have my constituents requesting speed bumps."

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to start the beginning process for the study of Speed Bumps on Belmont and Plantation Road.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy and Jimmie Edwards.
NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.
Motion forwarded.

9. Discuss adding a sign stating No Trucks and Speed Limit on Harmon Lane. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Harmon Lane has just been resurfaced. Upon request of Mr. Soileau he ask that I place this on the agenda and we can get some 'No Trucks and 'Speed Limit signs installed on the road because it is a new road and it won't be damaged. This is from Mr. Barry Soileau."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will need to make sure that it is one of those 'No Thru' traffic before we do that. We just can't place a sign. I will find out about that. The speed limit sign will not be a problem but the 'No Trucks' sign, I think we may have to pass an ordinance for that."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "I think that we have an ordinance with the 'No Trucks' and 'No Thru' if it is not on there we can add it to that ordinance which list the roads with 'No Truck' or 'No Thru Traffic.' Unless someone knows something different I think the speed limit on that road is 20 MPH. I looked at it before I came here today and I saw that it indicates 20 MPH unless someone knows something different."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Duplechain to speed up the process would you look into the speed limit and if you need to tweak that ordinance so that we can go with the process that Ms. Carriere is asking for."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Right, it there is no speed limit signs and there should be one. I looked at it before I came here and it appears to be 20 MPH. I will look at it again. As far as No Trucks there is an ordinance that lists the roads with no trucks then we can add it to that."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "So you are going to bring it up at Full Council Meeting."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "It will be ready for the Full Council Meeting."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, "What kind of trucks are you talking about Ms. Nancy?"

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "18 Wheelers because there is no farming going on. I will let them decide. I am only requesting it because they are requesting it."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I understand what you are saying but the reason that I am asking that question is because at one time we had some signs on multiple roads within the parish about 'No Trucks'. Then The Department of Agriculture came and said that we could not post those sign because it was Farm to Market Road. So I just wanted to make sure that we can. I would like to see us do that throughout the parish because a lot of these heavy equipment are destroying some of these roads."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Just to clarify Mr. Lejeune, if we say ‘No Thru Trucks’ Agricultural Vehicles are exempt from that. I think that we will be good. I think what we are talking about are these big box trucks and 18 wheelers. But the Farm Vehicles are exempt.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “You will come back to us Mr. Duplechain with the findings?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Yes if the council passes it to the full council meeting. There is two parts to this. The first part is: Speed Limit – 20 MPH and a speed limit sign would just need to be installed if it is not already there. As far as the No Trucks I will look at that ordinance. If there is not one in place already then it will be ready in two weeks from now.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Regarding Mr. Hefner, He just text me back March 9 is what he is shooting for. He said he will be working with Sherell on that.”

Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, “On March 9 is when we go to our Convention. That is when it starts.

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I also have a function on March 9.

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Ms. Sherell, would you contact Mr. Hefner and tell him that we may have a conflict but some councilmembers may be able to meet with him. Not everyone is going to the convention and I don’t think that everybody have something committed on the 9th. Maybe some of us can get our business straight.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to discuss adding a sign stating ‘No Truck’ and a ‘Speed Limit’ sign on Harmon Lane.

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

Motion forwarded.

10. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for the remainder of a three year term to the St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission. (02-19-2022 – 02-19-2025). Mr. Lincoln Savoy has resigned.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for the remainder of a three year term to the St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission. (02-19-2022 – 02-19-2025) Mr. Lincoln Savoy has resigned.

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

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Nancy Carriere and Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

11. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointments to the St. Landry Waterworks District No. 3. (No Set Terms) Harry Marks has retired.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to the St. Landry Waterworks District No. 3. (No set Terms) Harry Marks has retired.

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

Motion forwarded.

12. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Fire District No. 2 for a two year term. (05-15-2023 – 05-15-2025).

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Fire District No. 2 for a two year term. (05-15-2023 – 05-15-2025).

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

Motion forwarded.

13. Forward to full council to appoint Lieutenant Ryan Young to serve on the St. Landry Parish Communications District E-911 Board recommended by Chief Kyle LeBouf.

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 15th, 2023** to appoint Lieutenant Ryan Young to serve on the St. Landry Parish communications District E-911 Board.

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

Motion forwarded.

14. Update on the ditch along the tracks off of Landreneau Road.

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Councilman Coby Clavier stated this item was discussed earlier in the meeting by Mr. Mike Fontenot. Mr. Bellard will get with Mr. Fontenot regarding the ditch on Landreneau Road.”

15. Discuss the Condolence List being sent out to local Funeral Homes. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I ask that this be placed on the agenda. Last month Ms. Sherell brought it to my attention that one of the Funeral Homes advised her that they were not going to sending any of these letters out when we offer condolences. When she called me I happen to be at one of the funeral homes here in town which is Sibille and they advised me that they will continue doing what they had been doing also Lafon-Ardoin said they were. Melancon Funeral Home advised that they are not going to send the list anymore. The young lady, her name is Ms. Gaspard, she advised for us to put something in an e-mail whereas they would get the condolences from the Parish Government instead of it being done the way that we do it here. I am asking that maybe Ms. Sherell re-contact them and see how they want to handle that.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “So far that is only one. Did you ever get any response from Ford and Joseph and Williams?”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Williams said that they are not going to forward the letters. But Ford and Joseph will forward the letters to the deceased family.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “For the ones that will continue to do it we can continue to use their services. The ones that decided that they are not going to do it which is about three funeral homes, I personally don’t mind doing my own for those funeral homes that don’t want to participate.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “What did the Funeral Homes say?”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “They said that the constituents don’t go and pick up the letters. They don’t pick up the death certificate and they don’t pick up the letter and they don’t mail it out to them. They can’t give us their personal address.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “The Funeral Homes that are not doing it can our council office mail it back to the people. As long as we are getting it back to the constituents.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "We don't know their address."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Once you get the address you could forward that information back to the people."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "That is where the address comes from the Funeral Home because the people come and pick up their certificate or any other paper work. She advised what one had said and I did not know about the others. Ms. Vivian advised that she would take care of that item when she was the chairman. At this time I am open for any suggestions."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I would suggest that we read all of our Condolences as we normally do, they are head on live Facebook and mail to the ones who said that they would send them out."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "How about addresses. We will have a problem there."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I was referring to the Funeral Homes who said that they were going to see that the person gets it. The ones who don't at least we have done it on live Facebook for the ones that do listen they can hear the names on the live video."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "With the live Facebook can we put something on our Facebook Page from Parish Government basically stating that we have a letter that we send out for condolences to the family members and they can come and pick it up if they want a copy."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Can we make a Condolence Facebook Page and attach it to what we currently have? It would eliminate all of that process. We would have like a Condolence Section. They can click on it and look at it and we could list all of the people every month or every quarter just take those down and put another set of them up."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I think that we can put a page on our Website as well for condolences and add it there as well. We can do it in a couple of areas."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I will agree with Ms. Thierry besides the Facebook thing. We have some people in Texas that we are giving condolences to and at a different funeral home that is not in St. Landry Parish so the Facebook is nice. I think that it would be good for the funeral homes that will continue, let them continue and we can go that other route for those that are not willing to participate."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Sherell and the Parish Government will take care of that situation."

16. Discuss where the Parish Line is located on Jack Fox Road outside of Grand Coteau. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I ask that this be placed on the agenda. We have a situation where the City of Grand Coteau and the City Limits Stop. Then you have another section where the City limits start again. I would ask because I know on some roads we have it where we have a sign saying Parish Maintenance. I would ask that it be marked. I had a situation in my area and people called me from Abbeville. They needed a Culvert put down. Is it in the city limits or is it out of the city limits. I would ask that that be taken care of. It is right behind that plastic company on I-49. The ditches are full of trees. If it is ours then we try and clean those ditches up. Thank you sir."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will text them right now."

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

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I am sorry that nature called. I did not hear what was the conclusion with Mr. Hefner.

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "He is going to get back with Ms. Sherell. He set up a date on the 9 and maybe some councilmember will be able to meet with him. We also have to coincide with our Registrar of Voters and we have the Clerk of Court that we have to coincide with. I think there is a convention that is going on in Shreveport."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, "Mr. Bellard, can you give me an update on J.M. Lafleur Road."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No but I will find out tomorrow. Are you talking about the overlay?"

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Yes, I believe Barry was suppose to give me an update on that last week."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That was already done as far as the P.O. is concerned. We are waiting on a contractor but he did talk to them. I was thinking about that other one."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Yes that one and Hilton."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes, all of that circle. That is coming up. The P.O. is signed so we are just waiting on the contractor."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Bellard, I have a question. You mentioned the other day that you all were looking into purchasing a piece of equipment that would spread limestone on the side of the road have we purchased that equipment?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We did get the P.O. for it. They are telling us within 30 days it will be in. So hopefully."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I have a problem on Country Ridge Road where the shoulder is dropping."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I have to do Beck Miller first because it has been asked several times. As soon as it comes in it will be done."

18. Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to adjourn the Public Works Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy and Jimmie Edwards.

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

Motion forwarded.

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