

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15th, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 15th, day of March, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. Chairman Jerry Red Jr. called the meeting of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
- II. Councilman Easton Shelvin led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier.
Ex Officio Jerry Red Jr. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune.
Councilwoman Vivian Olivier was absent for roll call but later joined the meeting.

IV. **CONDOLENCES:**

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere: Austin Wyble Jr., Velma Lemelle Singleton, Leon Murphy Richard, Alzena Theresa Singleton Joseph, Emma Lois Lavergne Robert, Bernice Auzenne, Pearl G. Keys, Vincent Joseph Thomas, Michael Roberts, Rogers Brown Sr., Robert Lewis.

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry: Taneisha Latrell Young, Rogers Brown, Sr., Elton Leday, Kathy Ortego Griffin, Anthony Manuel, Lisa Marie Stevens, Christopher Alex Taylor, Ronald James Ardoin, Joseph Huet ‘Picheau’ Dupre, Donald Ray Roy Sr., Alzena Theresa Singleton Joseph, Carolyn Thomas, Emma Lois Robert, Curtis Sam, Robert Christopher Chambers, Ronald James Joubert, Michael Wayne Layssard, Patrick Oliver Colomb, Herman Offord Jr.

Councilman Gil Savoy: William E. Duplechain, Jeanette Kidder.

Councilman Alvin Stelly: Michael Kidder Jr.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin: Gregory Alexander Castille, Austin Wyble Jr., Curtis Sam, Renelle Vaughns Chenevert.

Councilman Dexter Brown: Rogers Brown Sr., Emma Lois Robert.

Councilman Coby Clavier: Susan Leger Estilette.

Chairman Jerry Red called for a moment of silence for the families that lost their loved ones.

V. **PERSON TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:**

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “If you would like to speak before the council you will have five minutes. We ask that you fill out a speaker card and you will be allowed to speak. The first person to speak is Mr. Tommy Dejean.”

Mr. Tommy Dejean addressed the council. He stated, “Would you all mind if I would wait until Mr. Gremilon’s time to speak. I am here on item No. 10 on the agenda.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I don’t have a speaker card for him.”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, “You don’t have a card?”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Not for Mr. Gremilon, I have yours.”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, "I am suppose to be addressing item 10 on the agenda which is about moving the monument. I was going to give you all an update unless you all want the update now."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Yes, you can go ahead."

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, "I was as the last meeting. I could not get in because you all had a capacity issue. I think George explained the situation. There was an attempt to move the monument about a month ago. It just did not work out with the contractor. First let me introduce myself. My name is Tommy Dejean, I am the Attorney for the Sons of the Confederate Veterans. I am assisting them with the issues that have to do with moving the monument. After that failed, we decided to try a different tact. We found someone who can move it by picking it up entirely, just like you pick up a slab home, Mr. Marvin Wingate. I have been working with Mr. Bellard with all of the issues. We found out that it is a double slab underneath and it has 16 inches of concrete underneath the marble so that was a little problem but we are getting there. I think what you all did last time you all allowed the organization 6 weeks to come up with a plan. We have a plan and that is the plan. One of the benefits of this plan and I told Mr. Taylor this earlier is that the responsibility to move it will be with the Sons of the Confederate Veterans. Once we commence moving it, it is not your problem anymore. If it falls apart or go in the ditch we are not going to come and complain to somebody that you all did not do it right, we will see about getting it moved. If you can just bear with us, we are about 80% with all of the issues. That thing weighs 20 tons, it sounds like a lot but these guys move things that big, it is not impossible to do, in fact it is possibly the best way to do it. We can probably keep it entirely in tact without taking it apart. Just bear with us. If you all can follow what you all recommended last committee meeting and give us 6 weeks to come up with a plan. I am sure we will have the plan far earlier than that. No one is dragging their feet, the attempt to move it did not work out so we had to go to Plan B, so we are on Plan B now. If you all have any questions."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I know you all had 6 weeks and I thought it was to move it but I guess it was a plan. So in 6 weeks you think that you may have it moved? I am familiar with Mr. Wingate because I have a home that he move for me so I know that they are very qualified. So to pick it up in one piece that should take 1 day."

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, "Not really as it was explained to me. They have to dig a footing all the way around it. Then they have to run high beams underneath then they have to jack it up. We can't have a Crane sitting and this is an oilfield crane and they charge by the hour and I don't know how long that will take Ms. Carriere, maybe a day or two, I don't know."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "In six weeks do you think that we maybe at the end of this?"

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, "I think that we are getting close. I am not trying to delay I am just saying that we just started with this plan because the other one failed, it did not work out. Just bear with it, everybody be nice about it and we will get it moved. It will happen. So like I said you all recommendation was to give us 6 weeks to come up with a plan. I think if we stick with that I think at the April Committee Meeting we can give you all another update. We will update you all as we go along. How about that?"

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "After the 6 weeks I will try to make a motion that the time should be done after that."

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, "Yes ma'am. With all due respect we have been working on this dog ordinance for 2 years right or beyond that, so bear with us it will get done, it will happen."

Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, "Where is that monument going to be moved to?"

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, "It is being moved to Camp Moore in Tangipahoa Parish. Camp Moore is a State Park in Kentwood Louisiana."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "Honor Guards had contact me last week. They said if it could not have been moved they wish that they could have taken it over. Any writing that is on the

monument they would have taken it off. It would have had to stay on the square. Honor Guards would want it if it can't be moved."

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, "Maybe we can talk about that but I don't think you all are worried about where it goes but it is going to Camp Moore in Kentwood. That is where they have moved the Mouton Statue from Lafayette to. Again if you all can abide by the recommendation of the Committee Meeting I think we can smoothly get this thing rolling and everything will work out."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "I know it will take time."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Dejean you are saying that it will take you all 6 weeks. Do you want the full 6 weeks for do you want an extension?"

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, "The recommendation that you all made was to give us 6 weeks to come up a plan. I am saying that I would like to stick with the recommendation. I am thinking that we will have a plan a lot sooner than that but it is a plan. The plan is that we are going to move it. That is the plan to use Wingate because that is the only way to do it. It is assembled, it is in pieces. Let me give you all an idea of something real quick. There was a monument in Shreveport that they fought over for years. It was a big one. I will send you all the article, it is out of the Shreveport Times. They just went through it this year. They had to pay a contractor from Florida to come to Shreveport and pay them over \$700,000.00 to move that monument. If you are not worried about what the condition is when it gets there then it can be a lot cheaper. If you are trying to make sure that it gets there in one piece this guy is going to incase it in a crib so that it can't shift. There are panels on it and it is not solid. The top part is not solid, the base is a solid block of Granit on solid blocks of Granit. The base where the panels are and the writing was put together by pieces, it is like a puzzle. I would just like the 6 weeks to do what was recommended by the committee and this will move along and we will be out of your hair."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "It will take time to dig and put beams underneath."

Mr. Tommy Dean stated, "Ms. Carriere, I can't say that it will take one day. You know Mr. Wingate and he is a hard worker. He knows what he is doing, we have to go and dig. Just like I told Jessie, I talked to him today, do you have a little back hoe? He needs to get under there and make sure that it is level underneath. They can't use an irregular hoe maybe you have a back hoe and we can did a test hole to see. There is a slab but you don't see it, there is a slab underneath that fits the block and there is another slab that goes out one foot further all the way around it. Hopefully all of this will line up and it will all work out."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "There will be problems if it is not level underneath"

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "If I am in order I will ask for a motion to give them the 6 weeks and he will report to us. If they can move it before the 6 weeks we will give them at least the 6 weeks. I think that is what we have here to authorize them to have 6 weeks. I will offer it as a motion."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "I will second it."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Can I understand the motion clearly. Can you read the motion again?"

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I am asking that we go ahead and give them the full 6 weeks. If he sees that it can't be moved for another 2 weeks then he reports back to us. But right now give them 6 weeks. That is what we have on the agenda right here."

Mr. Tommy Dean stated, "Six weeks to come up with a plan and we will have that plan."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Within 6 weeks you will have the plan. That way you will be able to give us an exact date or Mr. Wingate give us an exact date."

Mr. Tommy Dean stated, "I will be able to tell you if it can be moved or we can't do it within a week or two. I will know that, I should know that."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “So my understanding is that we are dealing with item #10 exactly what we have down here.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Yes.”

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to authorize Mr. Tommy Dean and Mr. George Gremilon 6 weeks to complete a plan and a time of action for the removal of the statue and report the updates to the council.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown and Jimmie Edwards.

NAYS: Coby Clavier. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

Mr. Bill Rodier addressed the council. He stated, “Good evening. It is my understanding that you all made at your last committee meeting that Jessie received a letter from Greg Price with Allen’s Cable about potentially abating some sale tax on material that he is going to have delivered here in St. Landry Parish in order to facilitate implementation of Allen Cable who have received Federal Grants over recent years. They are going to put in underground infrastructure through certain geographies of St. Landry Parish, not the whole but certain geographies. They are going to continue to install Underground Fiber Optic Infrastructure in the parish. I was provided a copy of the letter and I was asked to evaluate the request incentive by Greg Price and Allen’s Cable. We have spoken over the phone and I have actual met with him and his wife this morning for about one and one-half hours. His wife is a CPA and also involved in Allen’s Cable. The situation is and I just want you to be aware that Allen’s Cable have a locations in Grand Coteau, right off the interstate over there. They also have their main office in Morgan City. They have operations that they do in different parishes. What he was asking is for the materials such as the cable sheeting and the cables, I think all of you have seen the big rolls of orange sheeting that get transported, that is all for Fiber Optic Infrastructure, a lot of that is going to get delivered to Grand Coteau. He was asking if there was a way that Sales Tax could be abated so he would not have to pay any local or parish sales tax for those materials being delivered on site in Grand Coteau. I explained to him that there is no process to do that. That is not the way that incentives work, we can’t just arbitrarily abate sales tax on the parish or the local level and I explained why. He thought that he had seen this done in another state before. I asked him on the phone prior if he could provide me an example of that being done in another state and he could not. So we did not have anything to go by and he understood and said I just had to ask. I said that was fine. I left out another important point, even if we could have done that, which we don’t have a program in place to abate sales tax just arbitrarily like that, even if we could have, he needs it done within three weeks because the material is going to be delivered within 3 weeks, that was the ultimate icing on the cake. We don’t have a process in place to do that and he needed it in 2-3 weeks when the material get delivered. On the positive side I think there is an opportunity with the way Allen’s Cable is going to potentially partner with some of our Economic Development Entities to Public/Private Partnership Resources with them to help get more fiber infrastructure into the ground more quickly. The goal is to get fiber direct to every business and ultimately direct to every home. There is federal money out there to do that and I know that Jessie has worked a lot and we work collectively with different Fiber Optic Providers and we still have a lot of area to cover. I am going to meet with Greg and his team the next time they come up here and look at some of their direct plans and look at some of the areas and gaps that we can potentially partner whether that would be through CSLED or another one of our boards and help to figure out a way or if there is a way we can partner with Allen’s Cable to move this process more quickly. I think all of you know this, Fiber Optic right now maybe more important than water and sewer was for infrastructure 20 years ago and we still need water and sewer. I am telling you if we have areas that we don’t have Fiber Optic Connectivity businesses are not coming, it is critical, they cannot operate without it anymore. It was a very positive conversation. I just wanted you to know that he and his wife walked away with a very good feeling about what they are doing, they understood why that request could not be fulfilled. I just wanted to give you guys an update.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Thank you Mr. Rodier. I think that was an excellent idea having you discuss this with them and bring them into the rest of Economic Development stuff that you guys do. Thanks.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “So you are saying that it is not a good idea to give them the tax.”

Mr. Bill Rodier stated, “Under the circumstances like this, really not. He is receiving Federal Grant Money to do this. He is not directly creating any jobs and he is not building anything here in St. Landry Parish. His is not putting anything vertical here. His is really just asking for a tax abatement so he does not have to truck the material from Morgan City, he can deliver them here. Again, I don’t blame him for asking but if we did that for every business that wanted to have materials delivered here we would never have a tax base. I told him if he was building a facility here in the parish, creating jobs with that facility we have a process that we could look at a potential tax incentive but he is not doing any of that and he really does not have any plans to do that within the parish and his Grand Coteau location.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, “Do you know the number of that Federal Grant?”

Mr. Bill Rodier stated, “No I don’t Jerry, honestly, I might, hold on. Let met check my notes here real quick. The latest grant that he got was the GUMBO Grant which is one of 4 that he got. I did not write the numbers down and I don’t have the numbers on all 4 but the State GUMBO Grant and I know that Jessie is familiar with that Grant, they got 3 million dollars for that GUMBO Grant.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “So that is one of them?”

Mr. Bill Rodier stated, “That is one of four, they are pretty sizable and I am just telling you there are a lot of Federal Money that is going to come down. We are going to do our best to make sure that we get our share of that. A lot of Federal Money is coming down to make sure that Fiber Optic Infrastructure gets put into rural areas. Allen’s is just one player, Charters, Spectrum and other different players are at the table to make this happen. They are getting pretty substantial money.”

Mr. Sammy Coon addressed the council. He stated, “Good evening, my name is Sammy Coon. I live in Prarie Rhonde off of HWY 103. I was born and raised here. I am 61 years old. My wife is from Washington State and I brought her here to raise my family here. We brought this place out in Prarie Rhonde in 1991. I have been there a little over 30 years. The last few days a lot of equipment have come in and destroyed a lot of the property in the farmland around us. It is a Solar Company. I spoke with Mr. Ardoin and he advised me that everyone was notified about this when it started. That is not a true fact. Mr. Soileau, Mr. Pete, Mr. Urby, we all live in that area. When you get up in the morning they are tearing down 150 – 200 year old oak trees from the old plantation farms and we know nothing about it. We don’t know what it will do to us or our family. I brought my 87 year old mother-in-law here to live with us because of my wife. She did that for my mother and we sit on the back patio to watch the animals, I have chickens and the neighbors have cows and ducks, we have all of the animals. We want to watch them not look at a Solar Field. I am really disappointed in our council that we were not notified. When our Water Department, Prarie Rhonde has a meeting we get a letter so that we can go. I have Evangeline Gas from Vidrine, we get a letter and we can go to these meetings. We live in a world now that if you did not hear it on Facebook and I am not a Facebook person, I am not a Media person, we use to read the paper and if you saw something interesting you call somebody, that does not happen anymore. I am just wondering why we were not notified about this. I am understanding that is Ms. Thierry’s District. I want to know why we did not get notified. We brought in Evangeline Downs over 25 years ago to fix our roads, help our city and help our locals. You drive through town and there is more water leaks than faucets running. Our roads are not good. When I moved here HWY 103 was redone 30 years ago. It was right after I moved here and I have been here a little over 30 years. They took them 25 years to do my little parish road in front. I have pictures and video that these guys are digging track machines going down those gravel roads and I know that they are still parish roads because they are kept up and graded, you all take great care of them. They run these track machines and I have pictures and video of it. You can’t put these track machines on our parish roads, we already have bad roads. We had TV 15 out there and the lady sat there all evening. There is a plantation house that is in the middle of those oak trees. I watched that for 30 years and those big old oak trees are gone. I don’t understand why all of this was done and we did not know anything about it. What will it do to our family and our animals? They say if you put your cell phone up you will get radiation just from that little cell phone. This is acres and acres of all of

our farm land. It has always been hay, milo, sweet potatoes and that is all gone. Who is going to replace that?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "There is no zoning in our parish. The people who own that land can do what they want to do with their own land."

Mr. Sammy Coon stated, "So I can set up a Bar in my yard."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "You are exactly right. As long as you get the proper permit and licenses you can do what you need to do on your property. That is one of the issues that we are having in our parish now, parish wide. As far as for public meetings we have them scheduled, part of the ordinance says that you have to do certain things and they did everything according to what the ordinance calls for, they did exactly what was needed. This land was leased out probably 5 or 6 years ago. We did not know about this until they came see us. All of the land was leased way ahead of time. There are other Solar Farms in our Parish that will be coming to the parish to get approved."

Mr. Sammy Coon questioned, "What will happen to my property value? Will I have to sell my property and move? We don't know what it will do to the animals or to us. We did not know anything about it. We did not have a fair shot."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Even if the neighbors would have come and contested there is really not much that anybody can do other than a health hazard or something like that. They followed the ordinance, they followed everything that they could have followed. The council did not have much choice but to approve what was approved because they followed the ordinance. Again, it is their land."

Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, "How far do you live from where they are going to put the panels?"

Mr. Sammy Coon stated, "It borders my property. If I was across the street I would not be here. I would not like it but I would not be here. They are going to put those panels in my back yard. I want to know if I can put my chickens on my bar-b-que and not go and get them in my yard."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am not sure where you live or anything."

Mr. Sammy Coon stated, "I live off of HWY 103. Around the corner from the old Hide-a-Way Club, I am sure you know where that is, by Vidrine's Store."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I know where Vidrine's store is."

Mr. Sammy Coon stated, "From my house to Vidrine's Store there use to be an old sausage kitchen back there. I have the Marks place. Vernon Marks, I have his grandparents place. That 140 acers went with my piece. I know we have a lot of hay for those cows to replace and we have a lot of grain that has to be replaced. I don't know how they are going to do that."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "All I can tell you sir is those farmers are going to get \$800.00 per acre for 30 years."

Mr. Sammy Coon stated, "I am glad for them. But that does not do me any good. Like I said I moved out there and I live two blocks from the Sheriff Department here. My wife feels much safer out there than we did in town. That is why we moved there because it was safe. I brought my mother-in-law there like I told you earlier so that she could be comfortable out there. Now the back patio is going to be a Solar Field."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "All I can tell you is the land was leased. We don't have any control on the people that is leasing the land to the Solar Panel Company."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Did they actually put some panels on your property?"

Mr. Sammy Coon stated, "No ma'am, but right now they are just preparing. They are wiping out these trees, all of these old oak trees. They could have had anyone to come in and take all of these trees. They could use the lumber from these trees to build Habitat for Humanity Homes. There are piles of it, piles of it and it is going to be burned. I just think that it is a waste of farmland that has been around forever. I don't think that we got a fair shot of having a say in it. I am really disappointed in my government that you all allowed things like this to happen and this is how it is going to go. I understand I am standing here probably making a fool out of myself because it is not going to change anything."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "No Sir, you are not."

Mr. Sammy Coon stated, "But that is okay because I have been called worse than that many times."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, "Do you have the Eunice News?"

Mr. Sammy Coon stated, "No Sir."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "No. 1 that is our Official Journal. Everything that we do goes through our Official Journal. It goes through our Official Journal so If you want to know what goes on in the parish you either go to our website Slpgov.net

Mr. Sammy Coon stated, "We don't have internet out there. You can't get internet or cable."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "You can get the Eunice News or you can also get St. Landry Today. They cover everything that goes on in Parish Government. You said that you did not know but everything have to be published through our official journal."

Mr. Sammy Coon stated, "They don't have to give us a notice?"

Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "That will be done in the Official Journal. So if you get the Eunice News you will know everything that is going on in the parish. You will know what we are doing and you will not have to worry about not knowing."

Mr. Sammy Coon stated, "With all due respect I knew none of you all here. They brought Evangeline Downs and we see what that accomplished and now you all will bring this in. I am disappointed that I was not given a written notice. You all have a nice day."

Mr. Michael Meche addressed the council. He stated, "Good afternoon. My name is Michael Meche. I am the son of Donald Meche. He passed away in December and I am here to try and continue his legacy on the drainage board if the council would allow me to."

Ms. Ashley Jackson addressed the council. She stated, "Hello, how are you all doing? I am here to speak on behalf of the Proposed Girls Residential Group Home coming here to the St. Landry Parish Area. When most people hear the word by the name Residential Group Home they automatically think troubled kids, troubled people but in all actuality it is just a home of kids who need love. The State and DHH and LDH require that any residential group home is to be placed in a neighborhood and it has to look harmonious to the home in which it resides, meaning that nothing about that group home can stick out. Most people would think, or if you come to a neighborhood they will say, 'I don't want that here because those bad kids are going to wreck my neighborhood, right' but that is not necessarily the case. Let's say if you have a home with a division with one, two or three homes, in home three, just a normal family, there could be troubled kids residing in their home. If you think about Foster, if someone Foster Kids, a Foster Home does not say I am Foster Home. You just see their home in an area or in that division but you don't know that it is a Foster Home, same thing as a Group Home. I bring that up to say the same kids that my Group Home would house, a Foster Parent could house as well except they don't have to be approved and they don't have the necessary staff that I would have, which means a Foster Parent is just usually a mother or a father caring for those Children that comes from the state. In a residential group home it would be the same kids with a 24 hour monitor by staff, on staff doctor and clinicians. They would live regular normal lives, they would go to regular school and they would be like normal children. I am a nurse. I have been a nurse for 13 years and I work with children. Actually I am currently working in a psychiatric

facility with children. In those years I have noticed that most children just need love, most kids are not bad, a lot of those kids that are in that system come from homes that were not homes. One simple hug could change one child. Just being in a loving and caring environment could change one child. Yes, if I had to be truthful I could Foster and I could take those same kids and care for them on my own but by me opening a Group Home not only do I have the care for those kids it also bring jobs and revenue to this area. So my only question is before every one oppose it or say we don't want it here or say it is not a good idea here, think about it. There is an over flow in DCFS right now trying to place children. They are literally putting children in homes that are either not safe or they are over compensating homes just to say that they have somewhere to put those children. Most children in Louisiana who need residential care are placed out of state. Louisiana have a need of over 34 residential homes and currently there are only 8. So any of those children who need care have to go outside of Louisiana which causes Louisiana even more money. The idea of a Residential Group Home is so that they can be in contact with their family and get the treatment that they need and most of it is therapeutic so they can be beneficial not only to their parents, their home and their environment. If a parent lives in Louisiana and a child is in Tennessee how can we affectively work on family therapy with that child? I just want to end my saying again, think, if there is a Foster Home in a community and that Foster Home is thriving it is the same thing with the Residential Group Home. Except a Residential Group Home is more structured with staff and their security."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, "Very well spoken, I just have one question. What percentage you would say that a child that is in a group home verses a Foster Home?"

Ms. Ashley Jackson stated, "There is no difference. Meaning, whenever a child is in DCFS and they are up for placement, DCFS will contact a Foster Parent as well as a Residential Group Home if there is one. Which means that we all have access to the exact same child. Which means if that child was a level 3 and he is the worst of the worst, if that Foster Parent who lives next to you in this wonderful neighborhood takes that child, guess what, but if I take that child and my Residential Group Home as opposed to that one parent who is looking after that child I now have 3. I also have law enforcement, more security, resources, medication and doctors on staff. I just have more resources and revenue to take care of that child. Keep in mind, I do not plan to necessarily take a level 3 child. I have an offence to think about the area that we are in which means if I am close to a school or if I am close to a child care I would not want to being in somebody who is not going to be worthwhile in that home. If I have 6 children in my home who are 6 years old and they are all decent in behavior I don't want to bring in a child who is a fire start or a child molester, those are all of the thing that you will have to take into consideration. Most Foster Parents just see a check. I see potential and I want to make a difference."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Very well spoken but it is my understanding that you intend to provide services for children with moderate behavioral problems?"

Ms. Ashley Jackson stated, "They will not necessarily have behavior problems. They will mostly be DCFS Children who are waiting placements. Whether they are girls who are run-a-ways, girls who have been molested or girls who are waiting to be adopted, those types of children. Again I say they are not going to be Level 3 Children. Honestly if it would not be for the state regulations or even if I had the funds and I could buy a house off in the country to house those kids I would but at the same time if I did that, DHH would come back and ask why am I moving them in a home off in the country by themselves, why they can't look like a family? Why they can't look functional? The goal is for them to live normal lives as if they were at home but outside of home. Again I will say, Louisiana is actually number 1 on the list of Governmental Funding for Residential Group Homes. There are literally millions of dollars that they are ready to give Louisiana for these residential homes. There are so many requirements and stipulations from DHH and that what makes establishing and getting these Group Homes up and running so hard. You can't use that money to buy a home you can only rent or lease homes if that make sense. Finding those appropriate homes and again it cannot be any kind of home it has to have certain conditions and it has to be structures a certain way. There are a lot of requirements that you have to meet. This particular home that I am interested in is in the neighborhood but keep in mind the place that it is in the homes are not close to each other. The home is on a dead end so it is off by itself. Again there will not be anything on that home that will say this is Jackson Group Home that is not what it is going to be, it will look just

like a regular home. When you pass by it and you did not know that it was a group home you are not going to know that it is a group home.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I am sure that you are aware that there is an Ordinance in place and there are certain requirements that has to be met before this council can say yes or no.”

Ms. Ashley Jackson stated, “Correct, even in reading that ordinance with all due respect the resident that I will have don’t even fit those stipulations. They won’t be felons and they won’t have things on their records. According to the stipulations that I have read the residential home that I am intending does not even fit those qualifications of that particular group home.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “This is where we are right now. I understand that it is coming up in the Parish President’s Report.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Actually she is here and she is talking about it. I just had it on there so we can discuss it.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Being that it did not go through Committee it is in District 4, Ms. Thierry’s District and she is forwarding it back to the Committee. So we will discuss it then.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “She has not filled out an application. I think that she was just trying to get a feeling of what the council was going to do. I want to make sure that she understand. In that ordinance it says that you will have to have 75% of the neighbors within 1000 feet.”

Ms. Ashley Jackson stated, “Right, I get all of that and I understood the whole process but me wanting to come here tonight was simple because location is the hold up. From those grants coming from Louisiana and me being licensed by the state, location is everything. So if I did all of the leg work with this proposed home that I have and I submit everything to DHH, LDH and the Government and they approve this grant and I come before you guys and you all say because the home is here you can’t have it, I would have spent thousands of dollars and I would have wasted Government Money for nothing. So that is why I know the process is backwards. But if I could get the approval of an address then I can move forward in the rest of the process.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Let me make sure that you understand. We had Foster Homes and Group Home issues all over the parish and it cost problems for different districts. I want you to understand before we would allow another one in any district we want to make sure that it is necessary and feasible to be open in whatever district. I know in my District I would not want a Group Home, a Foster Home or whatever home other than a person living in their own home. I am saying that because we have people walking down the street at night and they wound up getting shot because they are knocking on a stranger’s door and you don’t know that person. I mean there is so much that can go on and can happen. We just have to make sure that we make the right decision. With that being said, are you are bringing that up in the month of April Ms. Mildred?”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I would like to have it place on the April 5th, 2023 Committee Agenda.”

Ms. Ashley Jackson stated, “In regards to the statement that you just made of why you would not want it in your neighborhood. All of that is feasible and all of that is understandable but if we had to be honest your next door neighbor could have the same kid right?”

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

Ms. Ashley Jackson stated, “What is the difference between your next door neighbor and a child who would be living in my home? Again I say this with all due respect the difference is by 8:00 p.m. there is a system in place, there is an alarm. If that child touch the door staff is alerted which means 9 times out of 10 they won’t even make it past the door to go to the next person house. When they get off the bus staff is present and when they are brushing their teeth, staff is present. There are 24 hour monitoring for those children which makes mishaps almost

impossible. I am not saying that it is not going to happen but it makes it almost impossible. Again you also have to think about the type of children that we be bringing in.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I understand I have 4 kids and I could not watch them 24/7. Sometimes they do things that is contrary to what the parents want them to do but yet they are still your kid and you have to take authority over it. I will be on the agenda for the month of April so you can come back to the meeting and we will deal with it.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Since the Ordinance states that you must have 75% or more of the homeowners within 1000 feet we still cannot do anything until we have heard from the homeowners. That will be presented with your application. That is a part of the ordinance.”

Ms. Ashley Jackson stated, “I have another question in regards to your ordinance. Through the city, their ordinance was only 300 feet why so much in the parish? The parish is outside of City Limits. So why such a big jump?”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “What was the question?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I can answer the question Mr. Red. She is asking why it is from 300 to 1000 feet. The parish is so rural and the city they have a lot of houses within 300 feet meaning about the same amount of people per area. In the parish you have to go further to get that many homes. In the city you don’t have to go as far.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “What are the age group of the kids?”

Ms. Ashley Jackson stated, “Nine to seventeen.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Thank you ma’am, I will see you in April. The next person to speak is Mr. John Beverly regarding Residential Homes.”

Mr. John Beverly Jr., declined to speak.

Ms. GERALYN CHARLES addressed the council. She stated, “Good evening. I want to say thank you Mr. Bellard, you are doing a really great job. I had the opportunity today to sit in the Police Jury Office and watch the monitor and see everything that you all have been doing. So thank you all so much. I want to come and talk about the Girl’s Home in the neighborhood where I live. My take on that is laws and ordinance are most of the time passed uniformly on personal convictions and beliefs and Foster Homes are good and needed. There are most times comprised of unrelated individuals living in a house hold under supervision. A group home is no different, a house is just a house until you make it a home. Our homes may all look different on the inside but it is still a home on the outside, it still looks like a house. I believe that the most vulnerable people in society are the orphans and the elderly in which God commanded us to care for. The need for girls and boys homes in the times that we are living in is highly necessary. Suicide is the second living cause of death among ages 15-24 in the United States. Human Trafficking among the adolescent girls is at an all-time high just in Louisiana. In 2022 eighty-eight percent of victims reported were females under the age of 17. DCFS reported in January 2023 there were 2493 child abuse cases that are currently under investigation. So yes when I was introduced to Ms. Ashley Jackson Walker who is a Christian and a Minister I was compelled to help her with the assignment God gave her to love, nurture, educate, protect and provide all of the elements necessary for girls ages 9-17 to thrive before they get a criminal record or something even worse and fall into the system. So I am asking you if you would please help her to get her God given assignment come to pass. Thank you.”

Ms. Alxsia Maloney addressed the council. She stated, “Hello, how are you guys doing? I don’t know if you guy remember me but I came in to speak about the horse investigation case a couple of weeks ago. We had filed a formal complaint with the Sheriff’s Department in regards to the horses that were kept at (AC) Animal Control for three and one half weeks that were not cared for there. No investigation was done by the Sheriff’s Department despite making a formal complaint. The nine horses that were removed that were undocumented, one has died in the care of the man that they were given to. A civil case is being filed against the parish by the parties and despite the 9 horses that were at AC being transported out of the state by Ms. Bissell without the (DA) District Attorney’s permission, well not formally, the DA has accepted the

charges on Mr. Rodriguez or Martinez without any evidence present despite the fact that the strongest evidence that we have is that they were starved at Animal Control. I really would like some answers as to the scope of investigative powers of Kidder. He has sense gone to the man's house who he gave the horses to with another gentleman that we have not identified yet and prompted them to send them to the sale barn, why? They are stolen, they should go back to the owner, they are undocumented. I do have the investigative report that he wrote up for the horses that were sent to AC. The ones he gave away are not listed on this document, that makes them stolen livestock and that is a Federal Felony. Now one is dead with a healthy registered thoroughbred stallion now who is dead. The owners have not been given back the horses that were stolen and no investigation by the Sheriff's Department had been done despite a formal complaint being filed, which we expected. That is why the (AG) Attorney General's Office, I believe that Jeff Landry's Office was here doing an investigation or prompting an investigation and were told that there is nothing to investigate. I assure you that at the end of the day there were something to investigate there. Of course these people are very upset, they now have a dead stallion that was stolen from them. The Mare that was put to sleep at AC was a valuable Mare, there was no reason to put her down. Now we have Kidder going to someone who he gave horses to and basically saying hey, go send them to the sale barn. He did not investigate the man for abuse, he did not file a report he just said maybe you should just send them to the sale barn. Just like sending the horse that were starved at AC up to North Carolina to rid of any evidence of being starved for the three weeks that they were there, sending horses to the sale barn that are stolen is also ridding of evidence. As I said before I had my report sent to the IG Office, the Inspector General's Office and I think that they are waiting to see what the AG office does with this. We already know that Chad Pitre went ahead with the charges against these people despite the fact that the horses were in much better condition leaving them then they were when they were at Animal Control for 3 weeks. It seems to me that a lot of people who are innocent are getting put in front of a judge and the people that are not so innocent are not being investigated. Where is the integrity here in the parish? I have all of the proof to prove that all of this happen but yet despite filing a formal complaint at the sheriff's department it was maybe thrown away. I can't get anyone to answer my calls. When you file a formal complaint they are legally required to investigate, legally required and that was not done, why not? Why was it not done? Now we have Kidder slithering over to who he gave the horses to saying get rid of them, why? They are stolen, the guy gets rid of them and there is no proof. The horses are sent up to North Carolina, no proof. A 24 hour bond notice is required when horses or animals or anything is taken from your property for abuse, you have 24 hours. They have to post a bond notice giving your court information and your bond information and that was never done. Yet Mr. Martinez was just recently issued a summons to be in court on the 23 which is not a lot of time. Why the wait? Why the months and months? Most other parishes the DA have 30 days to accept charges, 30 days. I guess they were hoping I would go away before they would move forward. I am not going away and I would really like some answers because Kidder seems to be stretching his investigative scope of ability to not just Animal Control because he is only suppose to be doing animal abuse cases but yet I have been told he is doing criminal investigations as well and arrest warrants have been issued."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Ms. Maloney you have 30 seconds to wrap it up."

Ms. Alxsia Maloney stated, "I want the Parish Council to take a vote to investigate this issue. If anybody on this parish council have any integrity and morals please do because I think this parish is our only hope beyond outside of this parish. I implore you to do so."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Bellard are you able to talk about this item or this matter that Ms. Maloney is talking about?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Like I said before she does not have all of the facts. The case has been turned over to the District Attorney's Office and that file has all the information needed. Just to clarify those 9 horses that you are speaking of was not Parish Government that gave those horses away."

Ms. Alxsia Maloney stated, "Sir I have a recorded conversation with Mr. Miguel where he states that Kidder told him that he could take any horse off of her property that he wanted to. I have a recorded conversation with him and I also have multiple text asking him if he remembered who gave him the horses. He said my friend Kidder."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Mr. Chairman, I am not answering none of her questions in open meeting."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I have another question. Is this worth us looking into as a Parish Council? Do we have the right to ask for an investigation into this matter? This is the second time she has come here. Ms. Maloney, I can understand that you said that you were not going away, you have named the Attorney General's Office is involved and the Inspector General has been involved but we have a notary report from the District Attorney also from the Sheriff's Office so you have to understand where we are at."

Ms. Alxsia Maloney stated, "I understand. I understand."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "So that is why I asked the question to Mr. Bellard. Those people, Mr. Kidder works for Mr. Bellard he is not one of our employees in a way but we are responsible for some of the disciplinary actions that is a reflection back on us."

Ms. Alxsia Maloney stated, "I understand, I do. That is why everything have been sent to the AG and the Inspector General. Thank you."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Can I ask you a question? Did you do an investigation?"

Ms. Alxsia Maloney stated, "I don't have investigative powers. I am not a Law Enforcement Officer. I just collect facts and I spoke to everyone involved. It is not rocket science what happened here. The facts are pretty easy to put together where the horses are and what was documented. It is all public record. I was asked to take the horses myself and was told by the DA Office I would be arrested for Obstruction of Justice, yet they were sent to North Carolina."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Mr. Chairman if any one of the councilmembers would like to come and see the file in my office they are welcome to come and see the file."

Ms. Alxsia Maloney stated, "I would love to see the file, can I see the file?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No, not public. We cannot share the information with the public. For you all to see what the file looks like and what is in it so that way you all can see what is happening I will be more than happy to share the file with you all so you all can see the real story, not what people are telling you all."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "If the council would like to see the files it is in the Parish President's Office. You are able to go and see it. If you would like to get her copy and go and see his."

Ms. Alxsia Maloney stated, "You all are welcome. I can make copies and e-mail everything that I have here from my recorded conversation with the DA Office to any witnesses, you all can have it."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "If I still have the floor I am going to ask that you give Ms. Sherell or get with her and give your side so if we want to go and look at what Mr. Bellard has in his office we are welcome to. Thank you Mr. Bellard."

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to approve **the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 15th, 2023** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

VII. PARISH PRESIDENT REPORT:

- **Discuss possible girls group home located at 216 Jeremy Dr. Opelousas, La.**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The first item was discussed already. The other item is the budget that I gave to the council today."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Any questions?"

Chairwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "My question is not about the budget. Can I ask the Parish President something? Mr. President, I am coming to you right now on behalf of some of my constituents. I have received a large number of calls asking me questions about the termination of certain individuals. I explained to them that in the Home Rule Charter, Item No. 11 on page 13 says that the Parish President has the power to remove, suspend or release any parish government employees. They said that they understood that and they said for me to make sure that I tell you that they see that you are doing great work, it is noticeable but they would like a discussion from you or an explanation. I will give you the three then you can say what you have to say. This is what came to me: One of the questions were: They said there was a situation where two employees work status did not change while being investigated. Another situation said there were two employees were fired and an investigation was done and a third situation said that one employee was placed on administrative leave and they would like an explanation. I told them that I was not able to give them that so I would bring it to you."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I can give you details only to a certain extent because it is personnel issues. The first issue is because of the letters that are being sent around kind of elude to the investigation or the allege allegations against Mark Kidder and Spencer Coronet the two investigators that this young lady was speaking of earlier when she went to the Sheriff's Office and filed a complaint. She wanted to know why I did not put them on leave. Number one, that is no criminal investigation on that so there was no need to put them on leave there is no investigation on that so there is no need for that. If an investigation is warranted and if a person needs to be put on leave to help with that investigation in other words get them out of the way so there is no kind of issues where one person can tell another person what to say or what to do that is normal practice but in the first issue that you talked about those two employees there was no need to put them on leave, there is no investigation done. The second one dealing with the two, I am assuming the two that got terminated and an investigation happened, yes they were terminated, noting to do with an investigation. Investigation happened after the fact and that was criminal investigation and you witnessed one here tonight getting arrested and there is another one getting arrested right now. That is how it works. The third one is on administrative leave like I mentioned earlier if a person is in the office and there is an investigation going on by the auditors or by the police department it is best that the employees that they are around are not in the same office as the person being investigated. Nobody saying anything that they did wrong it is just a good practice to keep them away from the office until the investigation is over with."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Thank you."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Because Ms. Thierry brought this up, I thought that one of the two young ladies you mentioned early on that you could not discuss because they were under investigation."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Which lady?"

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Ms. Wagley, I thought she was under investigation. I did not want to say the name but you asked me."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Those who are under investigation they were investigated."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "That is what I think the concern was that she was under investigation so why wasn't she on a paid leave until you were through with the investigation."

Parish President Bellard stated, "Her termination was not part of the investigation. They were terminated prior to an investigation starting. That investigation has two warrants right now. One was served here tonight and the other one is being served right now."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “We have so much investigations going on and so many things going on I know you can’t discuss it but we never get to the bottom of knowing what is going on. If they were not coming to the meetings I would not know that there was an investigation.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If there is an investigation when it comes to a criminal matter and it involves an employee that are still employed I will let you all know. But as of right now there is no criminal investigation dealing with employees.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “With a criminal investigation, does your staff do that? Or the sheriff? Or the city police?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It depends on the jurisdiction that they have. The investigation at Animal Control was started by our people and the Sheriff said for us to complete the investigation since it was already started and he rather us do the investigation related to Animal Control.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “So the arrangement we have with Pet Detective, they don’t have limited jurisdiction to do criminal investigations or they do have criminal.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, they are law enforcement officers. They can do criminal investigations just like any law enforcement.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Any criminal investigations that may happen, is it just animals that have been abused or something like that. There is no restrictions on their investigative power.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “On Animal Control issues.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Just on Animal Control. So it is sort of restricted to Animal Control.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes it is restricted for us but in the scope of work they could do more but the agreement that we have with the sheriff is they do the Animal Control.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Thank you.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “So they work for us but they were doing investigations for the Sheriff.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They work for us, they are doing investigations for us, they are arrest authority and they are commissioned with the Sheriff’s Office as a Deputy.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “The warrants were because of their investigations.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Who is filing the charges? Are we filing the charges?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Does the Sheriff get that opportunity to look over the charges? I guess because they work for the Sheriff also do you think?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They don’t work for the Sheriff.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “They are commissioned.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am commissioned through Opelousas Police Department. I am post certified. I am commissioned through them. I don’t work the streets

anymore but I am commissioned. You have to be commissioned through a law enforcement agency.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I am just trying to understand. So you tell the Chief of Police in Opelousas something because you are commissioned he would take your word and he would therefore send out a warrant or arrest that person because you are commissioned.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If I was doing an investigation for Opelousas Police Department it would be my investigation to conduct and then the warrants are being done based off of your affidavit. So it not so much as the chief can tell you what to do or the Sheriff can tell you what to do it is what the warrant or what the affidavit calls for.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Bellard, so the other two detectives that walked in here tonight did not advise our Chairman that we are here to arrest someone and remove the man from our audience here. They are certified, I know that they are post certified but they are commissioned by the Sheriff of St. Landry Parish. They are on loan to you or you are paying them their salary.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Parish Government is paying their salary.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Every other Security Person here are commissioned by who?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Either Opelousas Police Department or the Opelousas City Marshall.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “According to your disciplinary book they are commissioned by the Opelousas Police Department. You don’t mention anything about the City Marshall.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They could be commissioned through Opelousas Police Department, they could be commissioned through the Marshall’s Office which ever one having jurisdiction. It does not have to be one or the other.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Now we have accepted this personnel policy that you put out as far as your security people? Was that brought to us so that we could review it and accept it?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am not sure what you all are looking at.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “You are not sure what we are looking at.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Nope.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “It is a disciplinary booklet that is put out for the security people. Was that brought before this Parish Council so that we can accept it?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Probably not.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Why was it not? All of the others were brought to the Parish Council.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It was brought to the Parish Council by a previous administration.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “So in other words you are not going to do that as the Parish President here and as Parish Government you are not going to do it.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If there are issues that I can do in my own office that is right.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Is that correct that we can do it that way Mr. Duplechain? I will lean on you a little bit.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Well I don’t see anything in the Home Rule Charter that says that that particular personnel guideline have to be approved. There are personnel guidelines that was approved in 2019 and 2020 as far as employees with the Parish Government. It is probably about 80 pages long and it was passed in 2019 – 2020. As to what you are referring to there I am not sure what that is.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “What I am referring to here is the St. Landry Parish Government Security Personnel Policy and Procedures. It is one of five pages here, the effective date is 05-26-2022. This is the first time that I have ever seen it. I have asked a couple of other council members and it is the first time that they have ever seen it. I want to why did we had to accept the others when Ms. Mandy Cain and Richard Lucito took all of the time to put it together and we had to accept it and now with this one we have never seen it until it was brought to my attention the other day.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Ms. Cain and her Lieutenant wanted the council’s approval of it and the council approved it. I don’t think as far as I can recollect they approved it by ordinance or by resolution but it was passed before the council and the council approved it and it was just a vote. I believe it was about 80 pages long because it came through my e-mail. As far as what you are referring to there I would not know it if I looked at it.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I will be glad to give you a copy of it. I am just asking why did we have to accept the other one and this one is brand new and we don’t know nothing about it. It was brought up the other night whenever these employees, these ‘X’ employees or suspended employees on furlough or whatever you want to call it brought this up that we have this that we have to follow. In fact that young lady she went back to work the next day. God Bless her, I am glad that she went back to work. I am not going to name her but she was put back to work and I am glad for her. But the thing about it is some others did not have that privilege but yet this policy was floated around, why is it that we are not involved with it? We are the legislative body here or we are just nothing.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “If it is here tonight is because it was provide to the council tonight.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Yes, but do you plan on bringing it before the council Mr. Bellard? The Security Personnel Policy and Procedure.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Not unless I have to, no.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “It is shocking. It is shocking. It is shocking.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “We need a motion to accept the Parish President’s Report.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I have another question. Mr. Bellard on that property that the Parish Government had, adjudicated property that was sold on the corner of Ivy Drive, I brought it up in a meeting the other night and it has been cleaned. I want to tell you thank you very much that it was cleaned yesterday, Ms. Cynthia Fontenot got it cleaned up and the neighbors are all happy. Now, the gentleman that brought the property happens to be an attorney here in St. Landry Parish, I think that you are very aware of that and I don’t want to start naming the people. That attorney has he not signed some papers where it did some sales here for Parish Government when they sold some adjudicated properties.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, I mean that attorney if he did he did work for his client that non warranty cash sale had maybe come in front of us but no. In getting back to that property the reason why it took so long is because I wanted to make sure that property was adjudicated and it was not sold because it is not sold. It was awarded but I am almost positive we are going to have to re-do that one as well because of some problems with it. That is why we went and clean it up because it has not been sold. This is no cash sale, no nothing. So it is really adjudicated property at this time so we went and clean it up.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I am going to go on record here as the Parish Councilmember representing District 9. Mr. Ken Manuel who is a neighbor in that

neighborhood cut that grass numerous times so that we would not have to go and spend some money to cut it. He was never given the opportunity to bid on that property. I am asking at this time that you look at that situation and you know who Mr. Ken Manuel is, he is a friend of both of us, give him the opportunity to let him purchase that property.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Let me ask you this question. I am not familiar where Mr. Manuel lives but does he adjourn that property?”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “He adjourns it a couple of doors down but he went and cut the grass on that property thinking that he would have a possibility because if you remember right we had some provisions where as if people would go and clean up the property they would have first preference.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They would have to be adjourning land owners. That is the only stipulation.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I will ask that you look at that and give this gentleman an opportunity. I think he has a daughter that is an employee over here. But I am also concerned if this attorney signed some papers, if he did some sales and he was involved with buying that property because it was rumored that he had brought that property and it stayed and it stayed and it just was getting uglier in the neighborhood. Everybody was asking questions when we are going to clean this up. I want to say thank you again that it was cleaned up.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Just for the record he did not purchase the property. He was awarded it as the highest bidder but he did not purchase the property. We will get into that as some point in the near future. If an adjoining landowner signs an affidavit that they clean up the property for what I think is a year then they have the right to buy it straight out at the assess value from the Assessor’s Office.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I will ask you to look into it.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Thank you.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Mr. Bellard, the only fair way to do it because this is sealed bids. Is that correct?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If it is going back up for an adjudication sale then it is going to be sealed bids that is correct. If he is not an adjourning landowner but I want to see it. If he is an adjourning landowner it can be sold to him with the affidavit and all of the stipulations have to be met.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “But if he is not an adjourning landowner.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Then it has to go back to public bid, that is correct.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Seal bid.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes sir.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “But then he will be notified.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Are you all still putting the signs. I thought we had passed something where we were putting the signs that it was adjudicated property for sale so someone in the neighborhood would see it and know that it is adjudicated.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We have the signs right now.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Have they been put up?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We did not put any up until this is all over with. When we will start back adjudication sales the signs will be put up.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “The signs will be put up on all adjudicated properties.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “On every one that we got, that is correct.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I remember bringing it up and asking that it be put in that ordinance.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “And we have the signs, yes.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Thank you.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, “Where are we at on those people from Leonville in my District.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr, stated, “Mr. Stelly, I believe that is a lawsuit. That is a lawsuit right? That is in lawsuit, is that correct?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “That is in lawsuit.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “We can’t discuss that.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I am just saying what Mr. Bellard just said about keeping the land up for a year.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “I understand but theirs is in a lawsuit. They filed a suit.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Stelly, I will talk to you after the meeting.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Let’s just keep it in order. We need a motion on the Parish President’s Report.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to accept the Parish President’s Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

***Items passed through committee.**

1. Vote to appoint Michael Meche for one appointment to Ward 3 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for the remainder of a four-year term. (12-21-2020 – 12-21-2024.)

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to appoint Michael Meche for one appointment to Ward 3 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for the remainder of a four-year term. (12-21-2020 – 12-21-2024.)

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

2. Vote to re-appoint Susan Fontenot for one appointment to South St. Landry Community Library District for a five year term. (04-01-2023 – 4-01-2028.)

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to re-appoint Susan Fontenot for one appointment to South St. Landry Community Library District for a five year term. (04-01-2023 – 4-01-2028.)

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

3. Authorize the beginning process for the study of Speed Bumps on: Belmont and Plantation Road.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I have concerned citizens and I am asking that we send out the letters so that we can see if we can get this approved to do the Speed Study."

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to authorize the beginning process for the study of Speed Bumps on: Belmont and Plantation Road.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

4. 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.)

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin 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.)

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

5. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Waterworks District No. 3. (No Set Term.)

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Waterworks District No. 3. (No Set Term.)

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Fire District No. 2 for a two-year term. (05-15-2023 – 05-15-2025.)

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

7. Vote 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 appoint Lieutenant Ryan Young to serve on the St. Landry Parish Communications District E-911 Board. Recommended by Chief Kyle LeBouf.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

8. Authorize 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.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry 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: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

9. Authorize forwarding Allen’s Communications Request to the SLED Board for Mr. Bill Rodier review and report the findings back to the council.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “This item was discussed earlier in the meeting by Mr. Bill Rodier.

Parish President Jessie Bellard questioned, “Mr. Chairman, did you all take any action on that item?”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “No action was taken on item.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If you all are going to deny it we could maybe take action so none of the other companies come up and ask for it again.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Number 9: Authorize forwarding Allen’s Communications Request to the SLED Board for Mr. Bill Rodier review and report the findings back to the council. That was just finding out but if we want to take action of not granting them the tax exempt we will need a motion on that. That is not to grant Allen Communications the tax.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “It is not to grant.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Not to give them the Tax Exempt. Is that correct?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That is correct?”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to **Deny** Allen’s Communications Request for a Tax Exemption.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

10. Vote to authorize 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.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Item No. 10 was dealt with already. We will move to Agenda Item. No. 11.”

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

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to retain an Independent Resource Specialist to Investigate the Human Resource Department and any other Parish Government Department to determine that the proper protocol was followed and that the terminations were justifiable.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, “My question on this is, when this investigation takes place will this person be put on paid leave? What is going to happen here? That is my question.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I think we are going to have to retain someone that specializes in the field of Human Resources to take a look and see that we followed the policies and procedures that are in place at this time. Mr. Chairman you will be obligated to find someone to do this.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Who is doing the investigation?”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “That person will do the investigation and report back to us.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Chairman to answer your question, no.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “What.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “She will be at work. I will ask you all right now to hire an attorney because tomorrow morning I am filing an Injunction in court. You all will have to hire an attorney for that.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “This council voted unanimously to do an investigation.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am aware of that.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Because they felt that some things were done improperly.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am aware of that also.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Now at the same time you are telling us no.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am advising the council right now that they need to get an attorney to handle their own business because tomorrow morning I am going to file a motion in the court. That is all that I am telling you all. Let a Judge decide.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I just want to remind the council that this investigation is not only of the Human Resource Department. I am just reminding them because what he is saying is that the Human Resource Person is not going to be on Suspension, they are going to be at work and they are still going to get paid. I also want to remind everybody that we just voted. It is to investigate the whole system, not just Human Resource because there is other things that the Human Resource is under directions of.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I want to remind the council that you all have no authority on no employees other than your clerk and assistant clerk. I will make sure that you all are aware of this, you all cannot put anybody on leave, you all cannot do any kind of disciplinary action to any employee other than the two that work for you all. I am just letting you all know that tomorrow morning and that will be any department that is under my direction. So tomorrow morning we will go to court and we will let the court decide.”

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

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I have a comment. Mr. Bellard I respect what you are doing but did you respect this council when you choose to give our Finance Director a pay raise and we are the people that ratified her employment and ratified her salary and you choose to give a raise and you told us the other night that you would not let her come here. I begged her whenever we had meetings. I said, Ms. Caryn, would you please give us our Financials early in the week so that we can discuss it and not have no embarrassing situations. You choose to make those comments the other night just like you are choosing to make these comments tonight. It is like we are the dogs here and you are just a big German Shepard and we are just the puppies.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Is there a question that I need to answer or not.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I am saying if you are going to do it one way continue doing it. You were not fair to this council. You could have come to us and said that I am going to give this young lady a pay raise and ask us to ratify it. I am finished, Thank you."
Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Anyone else have anything that they would like to say? Moving on."

12. Vote to consider retaining an outside Counsel on how to implement Resolution No. 006-2023 passed by the St. Landry Parish Council to get a Declaratory Judgement from the Court to interpret the Home Rule Charter.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to approve retaining an outside Counsel on how to implement Resolution No. 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: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier.

NAYS: Dexter Brown. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

IX. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-003 Sponsored by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE CHAPTER 44, SECTION 44-14 so that Harmon Lane in Opelousas can be included on the list of roads in St. Landry Parish that are designated as "No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic" routes.

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Ordinance Chapter 44, Section 44-14 lists the roads in St. Landry Parish that are designated as "No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic" routes.

WHEREAS, this Ordinance amends St. Landry Parish Ordinance Chapter 44, Section 44-14 so that Harmon Lane in Opelousas can be included on the list of roads that are designated as "No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic" routes.

X. ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to Adopt **Ordinance 2023-002.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry and Coby Clavier. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "Mr. Bellard, one of the things that was in the Ordinance before we took it out was about the puppy mill business. I went to a couple of your meetings around the parish and you said that was the main emphasis of this particular ordinance but it is not in the ordinance anymore. What changed your mind?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Number one, the whole thing was the way that the law is written. We can take care of that without having to have an ordinance in place specific to that. I think a lot of people were worried about us having the authority to go inside someone home and I think this ordinance did that but that was the most controversial issue. So not having it in there or anything to do with breeders we can still do our job by doing our animal cruelty side."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Thank you."

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-002
(SPONSORED BY COUNCILMAN TIMMY LEJEUNE)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL THE ANIMAL AND FOWL ORDINANCES IN CHAPTER 8, ARTICLES I, II, III, IV, V, VI, AND VII IN THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES AND REPLACE THEM IN CHAPTER 8 WITH THE FOLLOWING ANIMAL AND FOWL ORDINANCES.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter Sections 1-02 and 1-06 establish that, aside from the Section 1-05 management of Parish government affairs power, the Parish government has the special power to pass all ordinances necessary to promote, protect, and preserve the general welfare, safety, health, peace, and orderly conduct of the Parish.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT the animal and fowl Ordinances in Chapter 8, Articles I, II, III, IV, V, VI, and VII in the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances are repealed, and replaced, in Chapter 8 with the following animal and fowl Ordinances which are attached to this Ordinance.

XI. RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards To adopt **Resolution 009 of 2023**.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

RESOLUTION 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.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of (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 (the "Districts"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 26 thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, special elections are hereby called and ordered to be held in the Districts on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023**, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said elections there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said elections under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following propositions, to-wit:

**SUB-ROAD DISTRICT NO. 1 OF ROAD DISTRICT 11A
OF THE PARISH OF ST. LANDRY, STATE OF LOUISIANA
PROPOSITION (TAX CONTINUATION)**

Shall Sub-Road District No. 1 of Road District 11A of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy a 9.56 mills tax on all the property subject to taxation within the District (an estimated \$304,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2023 and ending with the year 2032, for the purpose of improving, maintaining and operating public roads and bridges within the District, including the purchase of equipment therefor?

SUB-ROAD DISTRICT NO. 2 OF ROAD DISTRICT 11A
OF THE PARISH OF ST. LANDRY, STATE OF LOUISIANA
PROPOSITION (TAX CONTINUATION)

Shall Sub-Road District No. 2 of Road District 11A of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy an 8.43 mills tax on all the property subject to taxation within the District (an estimated \$228,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2023 and ending with the year 2032, for the purpose of improving, maintaining and operating public roads and bridges within the District, including the purchase of equipment therefor, said millage to represent a .04 increase (due to reappraisal) over the 8.39 mills tax authorized to be levied through the year 2022 pursuant to an election held November 6, 2012?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Elections. A Notice of Special Elections shall be published in the official journal of the Districts once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the elections, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full. Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Elections, the Chairman of the Governing Authority is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing propositions that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the Old City Market, 131 W. Bellevue Street, Opelousas, Louisiana, on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023, at SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special elections.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts in the Districts are hereby Designated as the polling places at which to hold the said elections, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special elections as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said elections for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the Districts will be entitled to vote at the special elections, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Clerk of the Governing Authority is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said elections, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said elections and the Chairman and/or Clerk of the Governing Authority are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the elections.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of St. Landry Parish and the Registrar of Voters of St. Landry Parish, as notification of the special elections, in order that each may prepare for said elections and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special elections as herein provided, and in the event said elections carry for further consent and authority to continue to levy and collect the special taxes provided for therein. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to Adopt **Resolution 010 of 2023.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

RESOLUTION 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.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission, and under the authority conferred by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, including Article VI, Section 26 thereof, the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election is hereby called and ordered to be held in the Parish on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023**, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, and at the said election there shall be submitted to all registered voters qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and laws of this State and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION

(MILLAGE RENEWAL)

Shall the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), continue to levy a 2.17 mills tax on all the property subject to taxation within the Parish (an estimated \$1,626,200 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033, for the purpose of maintaining and operating public health units in the Parish?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Election. A Notice of Special Election shall be published in the official journal of the Parish once a week for four consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election, which Notice shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference the same as if it were set forth herein in full. Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to the publication of the Notice of Election, the Chairman of the Governing Authority is authorized and directed to make any amendments to the foregoing proposition that may be required to comply with any state or federal regulatory agencies.

SECTION 3. Canvass. This Governing Authority shall meet at its regular meeting place, the Old City Market, 131 W. Bellevue Street, Opelousas, Louisiana, on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023, at SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election.

SECTION 4. Polling Places. The polling places for the precincts in the Parish are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be the same persons as those designated in accordance with law.

SECTION 5. Election Commissioners; Voting Machines. The officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, shall hold the said special election as herein provided, and shall make due returns of said election for the meeting of the Governing Authority to be held as provided in Section 3 hereof. All registered voters in the Parish will be entitled to vote at the special election, and voting machines shall be used.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Officers. The Clerk of the Governing Authority is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish to said election officers in ample time for the holding of said election, the necessary equipment, forms and other paraphernalia essential to the proper holding of said election and the Chairman and/or Clerk of the Governing Authority are further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the election.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call to Election Officials. Certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Parish Custodian of Voting Machines of St. Landry Parish and the Registrar of Voters of St. Landry Parish, as notification of the special election, in order that each may prepare for said election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application is made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the special election as herein provided, and in the event said election carries for further consent and authority to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of this Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of this application.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to Adopt **Resolution 011 or 2023.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, "Can we get an explanation on that Mr. Duplechain."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I am trying to find the rest of it because I am trying to see what this is about."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "If I am not mistaken I think that Ms. Carriere asked that you all reverse the prior Resolution to call for that."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "But she could not."

Councilwoman Nancy Carrier stated, "Is this about some sales for Adjudicated Property? Is that what you just read? Or you read about the tax. I thought he read something about adjudicated property."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “That is Adjudicated Sales. This was not Adjudicated Sales. I remember you voted no. You could not repeal. It had to be someone else. So who was it that voted? Was that Mildred Thierry? Did you make that motion?”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I don’t remember.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Red, my question is to Mr. Duplechain. Mr. Duplechain, can you discuss this us? What are we talking about here? They are asking for a Resolution. What are we talking about here?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “You are talking about the lawsuit that was filed against Parish Government. We filed our response pleading in accordance to what we know from the Legislative Audit of the Adjudicated Properties. If the council wants to repeal this resolution and the council will have, I am trying to think of the right word, if the council repeals the resolution then they will repeal the resolution which says that they want to cancel the non- warranty cash sale.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I remember now. You gave us some bad information. You told us all parties were contacted and they were not. This is our reason for asking it to be repealed because we voted on something based on you telling us something that was not true. Everybody was not contracted so rather than have us vote to have this cash sale we said that we rather not even have nothing to do with it. So that was our reason to repeal it.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I thought what you meant was Mr. Thomas aware of the situation. Mr. Thomas had been in discussion with Parish Government for weeks before that.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “No one contacted him.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “What you meant was; did he have notice of that council meeting which he may not have, so okay.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Because nobody contacted him, we don’t want to have nothing to do with it.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I thought he had been contacted but you are right he probably was not about that council meeting that took place.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Somebody want to make a motion. Who made the motion to bring this to the full council? Ms. Nancy could not do it.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I can’t remember who made the motion.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “It may have been me.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I believe it was you Ms. Thierry.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Well I am making that motion.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I will second that motion.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I am reading the minutes here now. We are going to Null and Void this sale?”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “No, we are not null and voiding the sale.”

RESOLUTION NO. 011 OF 2023

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Council has resolved to repeal Resolution number 005 of 2023 which calls for the Non-Warranty Cash Sale recorded under Act number 1236966 to be declared invalid by the St. Landry Parish District Court.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Landry Parish Council hereby repeals Resolution number 005 of 2023 which calls for the Non-Warranty Cash Sale recorded under Act number 1236966 to be declared invalid by the St. Landry Parish District Court.

XII. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the **Administrative Finance Committee Meeting Minutes** from **Wednesday, March 1st, 2023** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes** from Wednesday, **March 1st, 2023** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. Chairman, I have a question for our Counsel if that is okay. Mr. Duplechain the Parish President said he was going to file action against the council.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Mr. Taylor, it is not on the agenda.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Yes, but it is just a question.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “It is not on the agenda.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Okay.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Item 13. Adjourn.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I move that we adjourn.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Second.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Mr. Chairman, I have a question.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Item 13. Adjourn with a motion and a second. Roll Call.”

XIII. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. **NAYS:** Nancy Carriere. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of March, 2023.

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