

AGENDA
ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION (Councilman Vivian Olivier)**
- III. ROLL CALL**
- IV. CONDOLENCES**
- V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**
 - Councilman Coby Clavier
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - Regular Meeting: July 19th, 2023
- VII. PARISH PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
 - Presentation to Council Member Coby Clavier
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - *Items passed through committee.

1. Vote to appoint an interium Council member for District 13 seat on the St. Landry Parish Council. Applicants are: Darrell Huckaby and Lynn Lejeune
2. Vote to re-appoint Leroy Randall Jr. for one appointment to Fire District No. 7 for a one-year term. (09-19-2023 – 09-19-2024).
3. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for a five-year term to St. Landry Parish Housing Authority. (10-17-2023-10-17-2028)
4. Authorize the council to form a Committee consisting of three members from Public Works and three members from Administrative Finance to further discuss the Removal of the statue. Councilwoman Nancy Carriere will lead the committee.
5. Authorize a background check to be done on all applicants that apply for any Boards in St. Landry Parish.
6. Authorize Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain to Contact Attorney Clay Jenkins of Loncar Lyon Jenkins, Attorney at Law to get more information regarding the Class Action Lawsuit for Billing for Insulin.
7. Discuss Private Roads and Private Subdivisions.
8. Vote to hire Becky Rogers to do an Internal Investigation.

IX. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-011

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE SALARIES OF THE CLERK FOR THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL AND THE ASSISTANT CLERK FOR THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-018

AN ORDINANCE TO SELL PROPERTIES THAT HAVE BEEN ADJUDICATED TO ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-019

AN ORDINANCE TO INSTALL LIGHTING ON PARISH ROADS THAT ARE IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL LIGHTING AT NIGHT

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-020

AN ORDINANCE TO SELL ADJUDICATED PROPERTY TO AN ADJOINING LANDOWNER OF THE ADJUDICATED PROPERTY AS PER LA R.S. 47:2202 (B)

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-021

AN ORDINANCE TO MAINTAIN THE UNDER 300 ACTIVE VOTERS PRECINCTS AS THEY CURRENTLY ARE FOR 2023 ELECTION YEAR

X. ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-014
(Sponsored by: Councilman Harold Taylor)**

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE ST. LANDRY PARISH PLANNING COMMISSION IN CHAPTER 32, PLANNING, ZONING, AND DEVELOPMENT, ARTICLES I, ST. LANDRY PARISH PLANNING COMMISSION, SECTION 32 – 1, SECTION 32 – 2, SECTION 32 – 3, SECTION 32 – 4, SECTION 32 – 5, AND SECTION 32 – 6, TO BE PLACED IN CHAPTER 32 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government will create a planning commission to regulate, oversee, and facilitate planning, zoning, and development in St. Landry Parish.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT the St. Landry Parish Planning Commission is hereby created in Chapter 32 – Planning, Zoning, and Development, in the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances, with the enactment of Article I – St. Landry Parish Planning Commission, Section 32-1, Section 32–2, Section 32–3, Section 32–4, Section 32–5, and Section 32–6, which shall read in the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances as follows:

ARTICLE I. – ST. LANDRY PARISH PLANNING COMMISSION

Sec. 32-1. - Created.

There is hereby created the St. Landry Parish Planning Commission, herein referred to as “the Commission.”

Sec. 32-2. - Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective ten days after its passage, approval, and publication in accordance with the laws governing St. Landry Parish. The provisions and requirements outlined within this ordinance shall be enforceable as of the effective date, establishing the Commission in St. Landry Parish.

Sec. 32-3. - Members.

- (a) The Commission shall consist of five (5) members approved by the Parish Council, who may remove any member of the commission, after public hearing, for inefficiency, neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.
- (b) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, shall be qualified as set forth herein, and shall hold no public elected office. Members of the Commission shall be qualified electors required to reside within St. Landry Parish.
- (c) The members of the Commission first appointed shall hold office for staggered terms in accordance with the Commission's bylaws, respectively; their successors shall be appointed for a term of five (5) years from and after expiration of the term of their predecessors in office. If a vacancy occurs otherwise than by expiration of term, it shall be filled by approval of the Parish Council for the unexpired term.
- (d) St. Landry Economic Development (SLED) shall make a recommendation for the selection of one of the five members of the Commission.

Sec. 32-4. - Powers and Duties of the St. Landry Parish Planning Commission.

The Commission, as hereby created, shall have and exercise all of the powers and duties as provided for in R.S. 33:101 through 33:120, as now or hereafter amended, and any other authority, which may be contained in the constitution and laws of the state relating to the work of parish planning commissions. The decision of the Commission shall be final, subject to appeal to the appropriate court.

Sec. 32-5. - Organization, Meetings, and Procedures

- (a) The St. Landry Parish Government shall call the first meeting of the Commission within 30 days of the approval of a majority of the members of the Parish Council. The first meeting of the Commission will be to establish organizational, administrative procedures, and a regular meeting schedule.
- (b) The Commission shall elect a chairperson from among its own membership, create, and fill each other of its offices as it may determine.
- (c) The Commission shall meet at least once per month.
- (d) The Commission shall adopt rules for transaction of business and shall keep a public record of its resolutions, transactions, findings and determinations.
- (e) The St. Landry Parish Government staff shall serve as the staff of the Commission, providing administrative, technical, and operational support to ensure the effective functioning of the Commission in accordance with its duties and responsibilities.

Sec. 36-6. - Minimum Qualifications

- (a) The Commission members shall have minimum qualifications to serve as members of the Commission. Qualifications shall include a minimum of 3 years of professional experience in any of the following fields: planning, architecture, engineering, real estate, economic or community development, or other professions related to land development.
- (b) In accordance with the minimum qualifications outlined in this section, individuals applying to serve as members of the Commission shall be required to submit an application utilizing St. Landry Parish Government's application form and a comprehensive curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, providing a detailed account of their relevant experience, qualifications, and background.
- (c) The St. Landry Parish President is hereby authorized to verify the minimum qualifications of applicants prior to nomination to the St. Landry Parish Council.

Sec. 32-7 – 32-18. Reserved.

**ORDINANCE No. 2023-015
(Sponsored by Councilman Harold Taylor)**

An Ordinance to permanently close and abandon a portion of the WPA Road also known as Williamson Spur Road and Relinquish all claims by the St. Landry Parish Government of the listed portions of rights of way as being public rights of way and further that said Ordinance be recorded in the office of Clerk of Court in St. Landry Parish.

WHEREAS, as per Notice of Intention, duly published, it is the intention of the St. Landry Parish Council to permanently close, abandon and quit claim a portion of the WPA Road (aka) Williamson Spur Road located at the Westernmost point of the concrete apron or guardrail on the West side of the Williamson Spur Road bridge traversing Swayze Lake and extending in a Northeasterly direction through the North East Quadrant of Section T5S/R6E Sec. 11, thence North East through T5S/R6E Section. 4, thence through the North West Quadrant of T5S/R7E Section 4 to the termination of the Williamson Spur

Road near Half Moon Bayou for a total of 1.93 miles from the point of beginning, the westernmost point of the Williamson Spur Bridge to a point ending at the termination of the Williamson Spur Road, and

WHEREAS, herein attached are sworn statements from each of the partitioners who are requesting abandon of said road, all of whom declared that they are the sole and only owners of various tracts of land situated on both sides of Williamson Spur Road in St. Landry Parish, LA of that portion described above, and

WHEREAS, no public comments or protests were received or recorded at a Public Hearing held on August 16, 2023, now therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED That the St. Landry Parish Council does here by permanently close and abandon and quit claim, thus relinquishing any and all claims by the Parish Council of the above listed portions of rights of way and being public rights of way and further that said Ordinance No. 2023-015 be recorded in the office of the Clerk of Court.

ORDINANCE No. 2023-016
(Sponsored by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE SECTION 36-132 WHICH IS IN ARTICLE VI OF CHAPTER 36 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES.

Whereas, LA R.S. 32:41 (13) grants the parish governing authorities the authority to direct the installation of speed bumps in their parish;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT Section 36-132 in Article VI of Chapter 36 of the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and shall now read as follows:

SEC. 36-132. - HOUSEHOLD SURVEY FOR INSTALLATION OF SPEED BUMPS.

Upon request of the parish government to install speed bumps on a specific parish roadway, a survey will be conducted by parish officials, or a member of the parish council, going to the household of each voter registered with the registrar of voters on that specific roadway, or by mailing such survey to each household voter registered with the registrar of voters on that specific parish roadway. The survey shall request that each household voter state if they are "for" or "against" the installation of the speed bumps on that specific roadway. If the survey is mailed, the survey is to be returned to the council clerk of the parish government in the provided self-addressed stamped envelope within ten days upon receipt. If the surveys were mailed, after 15 days have lapsed from the time the surveys were forwarded to the households, the clerk will tally the returned surveys. The clerk will refer the installation of the speed bumps to the public works director for a feasibility study in accordance with section 36-133 only if 75 percent of the households surveyed are in favor of installing the speed bumps.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT this ordinance shall become effective on the date of the full council meeting that this ordinance is passed.

ORDINANCE No. 2023-017
(Sponsored by Councilman Alvin Stelly)

An Ordinance to Amend St. Landry Parish Ordinance Chapter 44, Section 44-14 so that Oscar Rivette Road will be removed on the list of roads in St. Landry Parish that are designated at “No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic” routes.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE CHAPTER 44, SECTION 44-14 so that Oscar Rivette Road will be removed from 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 Oscar Rivette Road will be removed on the list of roads that are designated as “No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic“ routes.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that Chapter 44, Section 44-14 is hereby amended as follows:

The following roads are hereby restricted and designated as “No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic” routes:

Andrepoint Road (Parish Road 6-10	1
Beck Miller Road (Parish Road 6-340	2
Beck Miller Road (Parish Road 6-340-1	3
Begnaud Road	4
Belmont Road	5
Country Ridge	6
Darjean Road	7
Dresser Loop	8
Federal Road (Council District No. 1	9
Fisher Road (Parish Road 4-110	10
Fort Hamilton Drive (Parish Road 1-319	11
Frank Road	12
Frilot Cove Road	13
Gordon Street (Parish Road 6-45)	14
Government Road (Council District No. 3)	15
Greg Drive	16
Harmon Lane in Opelousas	17
Hidalgo Road (Council District No. 3)	18
Highway 1244	19
Iseringhausen Road	20
Jacob Road (Parish Road 6-345	21
Jeff Thibodeaux (Parish Road 6-345)	22
Judson Walsh	23
Lawyer Road	24
Littell Street (Parish Road 6-40)	25
McClelland Road (Parish Road 6-35	26
National Road (Council District No. 3	27
North 6 th Street between Hwy 190 and Hwy 104	28
Perry Drive (Parish Road 6-40-1	29
Plantation Road	30
Rainbow Drive	31
Rolling Oaks Drive (Parish Road 1-397)	32
Sir Thomas Henry Drive	33
Smith Lane (Parish Road 5-30)	34
Soileau Road (Parish Road 6-275)	35
Soileau Road from Hwy 13 to Hwy 757	36
Thibodeaux Street (Parish Road 6-35-2	37
West Loop and Hwy 190 West Intersection	38

XI. RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

RESOLUTION NO. 023-2023

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, November 18, 2023, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Fire Protection

District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on August 10, 2023, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, November 18, 2023, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the District has requested that this Parish Council, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of this Parish Council to approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, this Parish Council hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION
(TAX RENEWAL)**

Shall Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy and collect a 21.95 mills tax on all property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$1,797,000 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 2025 and ending with the year 2034, for the purpose of maintaining and operating the District's fire protection facilities (including emergency rescue equipment), and paying the cost of obtaining water for fire protection purposes, including charges for fire hydrant rentals and service?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, this Parish Council does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

RESOLUTION NO. 024-2023

WHEREAS, Title 2 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 provides that cities, towns, parishes, and other political subdivisions of this State may separately or jointly acquire, establish, construct, expand, own, lease, control, equip, improve, maintain, operate, regulate, and police airports and landing fields for the use of aircraft; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development, Division of Aviation (formerly the LA DOTD-OAPT) is charged by Title 2 with the responsibility for the development of aviation facilities within the State to foster air commerce and to safeguard the interests of those engaged in all phases of the aviation industry and of the general public; and,

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government hereinafter referred to as "Sponsor", has completed an FAA and DOTD approved Master Plan, Action Plan, and/or Airport Layout Plan which outlines the specific future development of the St. Landry Parish Airport; and, the sponsor is desirous of implementing a portion of the approved Plan recommendations which provide for the critically needed improvements as stated below to substantially improve the safety and usability of the Airport, but does not have sufficient funds of its own required for completing the needed improvements; and,

WHEREAS, the LA DOTD, Division of Aviation, is authorized by Title 2 to expend funds for the construction or enlargement of airports for the safety and advancement of aeronautics;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION I

That the St. Landry Parish Government, hereinafter referred to as "Sponsor" does hereby formally request that the LA DOTD, Division of Aviation provide funds required to complete the airport improvements at the St. Landry Parish Airport specifically as described in the Six (6) year Capital Improvement Program Application for State Financial Assistance which is dated August 1, 2023 and which commences in the year 2024.

SECTION II

That the said LA DOTD, Division of Aviation be and is hereby assured that all necessary servitudes, rights-of-way, rights of ingress and egress and means thereof will be furnished by the Sponsor and the titles thereto will be valid and indefeasible, and that the Sponsor will assume ownership, financial reporting, and complete responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the airport after completion of said improvement.

SECTION III

That the Sponsor will save and hold the said LA DOTD, Division of Aviation, its officers, agents, and employees harmless from any liability or claim for damages arising out of the project, including death or injuries to third parties including, but not limited to, liability or claim for damages out of the negligence of said LA DOTD, Division of Aviation, its officers, agents, or employees, and expressly agrees to defend any suit of any nature brought against the DOTD Division of Aviation as a result of this project.

SECTION IV

That the President of the Sponsor be and is hereby authorized and directed to evidence this agreement by affixing his signature at the place provided therefore on this resolution and on subsequent related documents/agreements as required by the rules and regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration and the State of Louisiana and the Clerk is hereby authorized to attest said execution.

SECTION V

That this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

RESOLUTION NO. 025-2023

WHEREAS, in the course of service to the public and the community, elected and appointed public officials may draw wisdom and strength from faith in a higher power that inspires unyielding commitment to service and compassion for all people;

WHEREAS, as an inspiration that the needs and safety of the public must be addressed and tended to above all else, the St. Landry Parish Council stands in full support of all twelve incorporated municipalities in St. Landry Parish putting the words

“IN GOD WE TRUST” in their Council chambers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the St. Landry Parish Government stands in full support of all twelve incorporated municipalities, Opelousas, Eunice, Sunset, Grand Coteau, Cankton, Leonville, Arnaudville, Port Barre, Krotz Springs, Melville, Washington, and Palmetto, putting the words “IN GOD WE TRUST” in their Council chambers.

XII. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2nd, 2023
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Councilman Harold Taylor called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Councilwoman Vivian Olivier led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.
3. Roll Call: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. Ex-Officio Jerry Red Jr. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin & Coby Clavier.
4. Person to address the Committee:
 - Mr. Ernest Blanchard addressed the council regarding fulfilling the vacant seat for District 13. He stated he has retired from Shell Oil Company after 34 years of service and he have served on the City Council in Eunice, Ward 3 for four years. He is planning on running for District 13 Councilman's seat for the next coming election.
 - Mr. Darrell Huckaby addressed the council regarding fulfilling the vacant seat for District 13. He served 21 years in the Army and retired in 1990. He worked as a Branch Manager for a Pest Control Company. He worked at Fort Johnson as a Coordinator and retired in 2015. He was an Auxiliary Policeman and he is now a Sergeant with the Eunice Police Reserve. He feels he would be an asset to District 13 and he ask the council for their consideration to nominate him for the vacant seat.

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Ms. Ellen Rhines was suppose to be here tonight but she has moved to North Carolina. Her Firm has referred a substitute but the substitute could not attend tonight because she had a prior commitment. It will be discussed later in the meeting."

5. Parish President & Finance Report:

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Something was brought to my attention this afternoon about the precincts. The state is requesting 28 precincts that are under 300 voters to merge. The State is saying if 19 out of the 28 precincts are not merged the Parish will have to pay for those elections. It will cost about \$1,200.00 a precinct. I will forward you all a copy for your review and maybe we can make a decision at the full council meeting. I will forward this to Sherell and she will have a copy of the map on which precincts that they are requesting to be merged."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "You are saying that we have to merge because of the numbers. I am thinking that our Demographer was supposed to know about this, now we are right back at square one. Some of the areas were switched for the betterment of the people. Do you think that we still need to have a working relationship with the Registrar of Voters and the Clerk of Court? All three of us have to work together to get this to co-exist. The council only vote to make sure that is how they want it but they know more about different areas. We need to call a meeting and it needs to be done soon because election is two months away."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated he can call a meeting next week so they can see what the recommendations are going to be. If nothing is done it will cost the Parish \$22,000.00 per election."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "We can call a Special Meeting next week."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "This does not change district lines, it only moves people in precincts."

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to accept the Parish President & Finance Report:

On roll call vote: YEAS: Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin and Coby Clavier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

6. Discuss hiring Attorney Ellen C. Rhines, HR Specialist to represent the Council for the Injunction filed by the Parish President.

Councilman Harold Taylor stated calls have been made to Ms. Ellen C. Rhines. After speaking to her law firm they recommended Ms. Becky Rogers, MBA, SPHR. The council was presented a copy of Ms. Rogers Bio and Mr. Taylor read the Bio. He stated Ms. Rogers has spent the past 35 years working in Senior Leadership Roles in Human Resource Management."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. requested that Ms. Becky Rogers come to the Special Meeting next week to address the council.

Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated, "I make a motion to invite Ms. Rogers to come and address the council.

There was no 'Second from Councilman Dexter Brown nor Councilman Timmy Lejeune."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I second. Before we go any further let's check with our Legal Counsel. Can I second the motion?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The Ex-Officio can vote."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I can make a second, is that correct?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Yes."

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier, seconded by Chairman Jerry Red Jr., to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 to invite Ms. Becky Rogers, MBA SPHR to come and address the council.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Harold Taylor and Vivian Olivier.

NAYS: Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin and Coby Clavier.

ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

7. Discuss the payment from the first trial for Attorney Gary McGoffin.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I have Mr. McGoffin fees from the first court date that we had with him."

Parish President Jessie Bellard questioned, "What is the amount of the bill?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "\$15,737.62. Do we have a motion to send this to full council? We have to pay our debt."

"No action was taken by the council to forward this bill to the full council for payment."

Motion dies from a lack of a motion.

8. Discuss doing a Background Check for all Boards and Appointments by St. Landry Parish Council.

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "What would be the cost for these background check per Individual? What would St. Landry Parish Government have to sustain for these background check fees?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We don't want to pay for any background checks. The employees pay for their own background check whenever they get hired. It is \$18.00 if they go to the Sheriff's Office. Once it is completed they bring us back the completed copy."

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 to authorize Background Check for all applicants that apply for Boards.
On roll call vote: YEAS: Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune.
NAYS: None. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin and Coby Clavier. ABSTAINED: None.
Motion forwarded.

9. What is the status of meeting with Race Track Personnel about Finances?
(Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Ms. Ledoux was supposed to set up a meeting. At the last committee meeting we had discussed that we would meet with the people at the race track to try to get more funds from the race track proceeds for Parish Government to put on roads. I don't think that meeting was ever set up. I am asking that we possibly get it set up so we can discuss this."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Evangeline Downs Racetrack and Casino does not decide how much they give us, it is done by State Statue. The law would have to change. I did speak with Evangeline Downs and I would have to get with their Cooperate Office to see if they would come down and meet with us. I did print out the Revenue from day one up until now and their revenue is down, the people are not going to the casino like they use to. The Racino cannot tell us if they can pay us more or not because it has to be done by the State Legislature."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I am looking out for this parish to see if we can get more money from the Racino and put that funding on some roads. We still have roads that are in dire need of repair. I want to look at the situation. If we need to get something with the Legislature let's start the ball rolling."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am not in favor of asking Evangeline Downs for funding but if you all pass it as a motion I will do it."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I would like to discuss it. They have a lot of gravel roads in the parish that I would like to see paved."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Do we have a motion to meet with Racetrack personnel to discuss finances?"
Motion dies from a lack of a motion.

10. Discuss the removal of the Statue.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I would like to ask the council if they would be in favor of making that a Memorial for all Military, not just one but everybody that may have served or passed away. Make it a Memorial for everyone that served in the Military from St. Landry Parish, rather than tearing it down or removing it. We have a statue on HWY 182 and it does not bother anyone."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "We have a lot of military people that are honored at the Veterans Site on HWY 182. I think that would be an appropriate place for the

statue if that is what they want to do but it should not be at the court house. We already gave it away so we need to resolve that issue. We gave it to the Sons and the Daughters. Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated that she did research on the Meaning of a Confederate Monument and she read the findings to the council.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “The last time the issue came up about forwarding the discussion about the Statue to the Committee Meeting to move forward, I abstained and it was an ‘Aww’ with some. My reason for doing so is because of the fact that when we first got started I had a few who called me, not many but the few who called stressed that it does not really matter to them whenever way that it may go. I had not heard any other concerns. As we progress along the way I began to hear from other constituents and realized that it was important to some. With me trying to be fair with my constituents I decided that at that point until I get more information, not conflicting information that the best thing for me to do at that time is to abstain. That is why I abstained that particular night.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “On April 21st, 2022 I have a letter that was given to all of us from Mr. James Bellard. It reads, I am writing this letter so there will be an accurate written record of my offer to St. Landry Parish Government regarding the removal of the above reference statue. I have noticed that you all have repeatedly said in the public meeting that no one is willing to remove the statue. As you all know that is not true. I have offered to remove the statue at no cost to St. Landry Parish Government. Last night St. Landry Parish Council voted 9 to 3 to instruct and authorize you to remove the statue. As a result of that vote you have the authority to accept the following proposal. I am willing that St. Landry Parish Government donate the statue to me. I will carefully remove the statue and place it in a safe storage for up to one year. I will agree that I will turn over the statue to the person or entity designated by Parish Government at any time during that one year period providing that the person or entity reimburse me \$15,000.00 for my work in removing the statue plus \$500.00 per month for every month that statue remains in storage. The person or entity receiving the statue will be responsible for hiring someone to remove the statue from storage, the cost of removal from storage and the cost for relocating the statue from storage. At the end of a one year period if no one or no entity have designated by Parish Government to receive the statue I will accept the statue giving in payment for the cost of removal and storage of the statue. This would not be a donation it would be a payment of a debt by an in time payment. All that I ask from the Parish Government is a certificate of insurance. My alternative proposal is that I will remove the statue from the courthouse square for a cost to the parish of \$15,000.00 and I will accept the statue as payment for the removal. Again, this is not a donation but an in time payment for service. You have told the council and the media that no one wants to remove the statue, if your statements are true the removal for the statue does not have to be bid. You can accept this proposal under the sole source doctrine. I am copying all Parish Council Members so that they will have a clear and fair explanation of my proposal. I believe this proposal is fair and does not present any legal problems what so ever. This proposal is the best interest of St. Landry Parish and it is consistent with your obligations to fulfill the wishes expressed by the council. Again I hope you Mr. Bellard will use the authority given to you by the Parish Council in last night 9 to 3 vote to do the right thing for the Citizens of St. Landry Parish and accept this proposal. The only problem that I have with this is that the council took action over 1 ½ years ago. Over the period of time we have a tendency to want to change our minds and go another direction. I don’t have a problem with that. Whatever way this council so choose to go we should not hold nothing on anyone else head but that person should be responsible for themselves for whatever decision that they make. St. Landry Parish is a large parish and you have some people may want to keep the statue and some want it removed. Deep down in your heart you should know who you are. In regardless of a statue or not you should know who you are. We as 12 councilmembers now need to make the right decision. Whatever decision that you make I am still fine with it but we need to move forward.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I make a motion that we forward the further discussion of the statue to the Full Council.

Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “I second that motion.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. Lejeune you also stated that you wanted to look at repurposing it instead of removing it. If we go that route and I am just talking, we need to talk about the particulars. We need to form a committee of folks that are involved in this discussion. We gave the statue to the Sons of Confederacy so we need to get folks from that group and we need to get folks that are wanting to remove, maybe equal members to get the particulars on how we progress with this and how we will put this together and report back to the council.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, “The discussion should be in the committee and you move it to the full council to take action. This is where you should do your discussion, right now and now you want to move it to the full council to discuss even more. I believe we are 1 over the place with the motion.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I would like to make a motion that we form a committee from every side. If they want to re-face it, deface it, add a plaque to it or leave the pelican standing on top we can have that discussion so we can get to the end of this.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Your motion is to form a committee of 6 members. Three members from Public Works and Three members from Administrative Finance to sit down and come to the council with a proposal. Ms. Carriere will lead that committee for the council.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 to authorize the council to form a Committee consisting of three members from Public Works and three members from Administrative Finance to further discuss the Removal of the statue. Councilwoman Nancy Carriere will lead the committee.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin and Coby Clavier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

11. Forward to Regular Meeting RESOLUTION NO. 023-2023.

A Resolution approving the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, November 18, 2023 to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 to approve Resolution NO. 023-2023.

A Resolution approving the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, November 18, 2023 to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin and Coby Clavier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Just to be clear is this a renewal for next year’s taxes for Fire District 1?”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Yes it is a renewal.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Just to give you all a little bit of information the taxes that will be on the election in November, we will probably have to skip a year of collections because it was called two late and it failed last year so it will be on next year’s tax notices if it passes. This one is a renewal so this one will be okay. It is Fund 42 and Fund 28, they will not collect this year’s money because it is too late.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “That is in District 9 and District 10. Would it be possible and now is the time for us to hold back the funds or pro-rate the election because the election is in November. Our road fund will have to pay for that election. I am asking this committee to look at holding back a pro-rate on what the election would cost so that the cost of the election would be paid for out of that taxing district.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It is already done. We took care of that."

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

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "Last week at the NACO Convention an attorney from the group was speaking to us and informed us that it would be beneficial to us to join a class action lawsuit. His name is Clay Jenkins and he is with Loncar Lyon Jenkins, Attorneys at Law. It is about Medicaid Billing for Insulin. The State of Louisiana could receive funding. I would like for you to look into it and Give Mr. Clay Jenkins a call. I would like the council to get involved in this class action law suit regarding the charging of insulin to individuals. Personal Insurance and Medicaid Billing. It is like they are triple billing everyone. It is a class action lawsuit that is going on now. His Toll Free Number is:
800-285-4878."

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 to authorize Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain to Contact Attorney Clay Jenkins of Loncar Lyon Jenkins,

Attorney at Law to get more information regarding the Class Action Lawsuit for Billing for Insulin.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin and Coby Clavier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Mr. Duplechain would you like to update us on any litigations?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Is there any litigations that you are referring about?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "You have a report. What do you have?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Even though it is not on the agenda are you referring to the lawsuit that was filed against St. Landry Parish Government by the former Animal Control Director?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Yes."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "It is a pending litigation and I can't really comment on it. I became aware of it over 10 days ago since our last meeting and it is being handled."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Do you think that we need to go into Executive Session and you can give us the details?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "We can't go into Executive Session today. It was not on the Agenda."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Shouldn't you had advised us about that before tonight and we could have gone into Executive Session and discussed this? You don't think so? So we are in the dark about this, only you know about it?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "It is a pending litigation. It is being handled."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "I understand that but typically our Attorney informs us about what is going on. If we personally have liability in this and I would like to know that."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “You can put it on the agenda for the next meeting and then we can go into Executive Session. There are only certain circumstances where you are able to go into Executive Session.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “You are suggesting that we have a motion to send to the full council to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigations, is that correct?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “You can do that if you want to.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Were we going to know about this? You are our attorney and you represent us. Who are you representing? What do you mean we can do this? Don’t you suggest that we do this?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Yes.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Do we have a motion to send this to full council so we can go into Executive Session and discuss possible litigations against the council.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “You can have a litigation report on the full council meeting. At that litigation report at the end of the council meeting of the litigation report pertaining going into executive session we can go into executive session, is that correct?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Yes, it will state on the agenda that our clerk will produce that we are going into Executive Session.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Chairman Jerry Red Jr., to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 to authorize the council to enter into Executive Session to discuss the lawsuit filed on the St. Landry Parish Government by the former Animal Control Director.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Easton Shelvin and Coby Clavier. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

13. Adjourn

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

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

Motion carried.

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2nd, 2023
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.

2. Roll Call: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin and Jimmie Edwards. Ex-Officio Jerry Red Jr. ABSENT: None.

3. Person to address the Committee:

- Mr. Jonathan Dupuis addressed the council regarding the company “Parish Inspections.” Mr. Dupuis is a resident in St. Landry Parish and he represents Parish Inspections. They are certified, legally trained and up to date Code Enforcing Department. Mr. Dupuis presented the council with a pamphlet of all of Parish

Inspections Certifications and their Building Code Services. He explained to the council that inspectors are vital for the safety of St. Landry Parish. Parish Inspections are a Third Party Building Code Enforcing Company. They have been a Code Enforcement business since Hurricane Katrina, over 17 years and they have conducted over 50 thousand inspections. Parish Inspections take the burden off of St. Landry Parish by maintaining building code departments. Parish Inspections handles Plan Reviews, Scheduling of Inspections, Conducting these Inspections and answering questions for Resident and Commercial businesses. They handle things like Residential, Commercial, Federal, Military Construction and they perform assessments for condemnation or storm damage. He stated that all Municipalities and Parishes shall enforce The Building Code and shall use building Code Enforcement Officers or third party providers like Parish Inspections. They are Certified Building Officials that handles plan reviews, scheduling inspections, performing inspections, documenting inspections and communicating with the builders. All inspection will be performed and documented for the safety of wellbeing of St. Landry Parish. The Inspectors will know how to identify and provide solutions for Code Compliance and businesses will be attracted back to St. Landry Parish. The Benefits of Parish Inspections is certification and they do not charge for re-inspections and they do after hour inspections. They have Engineers and Fire Marshalls on staff. Mr. Dupuis asked the council for consideration to allow Parish Inspections to be a part of St. Landry Parish Government and stated that all pricings are negotiable.

- Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I recently had an experience with a building inspector and I did read all of your credentials, I would like to know if you carry your Legal Code Books with you? Do you have something that you can reference on the spot?”
- Mr. Jonathan Dupuis stated, “Absolutely. I can show them to you on the spot in the code book. I also use my table and my phone. We have our Code Books in our vehicles.
- Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Is there a difference between a Home Inspection and a Home Inspector?”
- Mr. Jonathan Dupuis stated, “Whenever you are going to buy or sell a home you usually hire a Home Inspector. We deal with construction or modification of a home or if you are changing over a tenant or something.”
- Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, “Are we looking for an Inspector for the Parish?”
- Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No Sir we are not and we are not changing. That is my job. If he would have come to me first we could have had a discussion in my office. Instead he chose to come here. I will tell you all right now, that part of the Government is my side. I appreciate you coming by but we are not changing.”
- Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “Mr. Bellard, the gentleman that does our inspections, do we just have one fire that is doing the inspections?”
- Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We have one.”
- Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “Is he certified with the state to do this work?”
- Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “He is certified in some areas but he is not the main official.”
- Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “What do you mean in some areas? What does the law say about having someone certified?”
- Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Everything that we are doing with this right here is in accordance with the law. We were in the Third Party Business when I got here and our job was to get us away from the Third Party Business and that is what we

did. We are in complete compliance with everything else. The laws are followed as per the ordinances in the state laws. My job is to make sure that we follow through and that is what I am doing. I am not changing.”

- Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I am not saying that you are changing. I am just asking if the guy is certified to do the work and keep us in compliance with state and federal law.”
- Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes, he is certified to do exactly what he is doing.”
- Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I am sure what he is doing. Can he handle all of the things that this guy is talking about?”
- Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “He is handling everything that needs to be handled for the Parish Government. The CBO is the one that is signing off on the permits. So we are good. We are in accordance with the law.”
- Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Mr. Dupuis, how often do you all get certified? How often do you all have to be recertified?”
- Mr. Jonathan Dupuis stated, “With Louisiana, once a year. It show that we have insurance and it is linking back to the ICC to show that our credentials are what they are claiming to be. Anytime that we lapse they will contact us to make sure that we are up to date for the state. The state goes back to the international code council to make sure that all of our actual certifications are in order. We have to make sure that we stay on top and get further educated.
- Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Mr. Bellard, with the gentleman that we have working for us how many more do we have?”
- Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “One person.”
- Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “One person, is he certified in every branch that we need?”
- Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Our people that are doing the job now are legal. Everything is fine. If there was anything that is not right it would be on me. I make sure that my job is done right. When it gets to the Code Enforcement side of things, Code Enforcement is being handled exactly like it suppose to be. What they don’t have and what we have is law enforcement authority to take care of business. We don’t go and tell people what they have to do with their houses if their landlord does not fix things that is not our job. The ordinance does not allow us to do that. If he did his research he would have seen that. Everything that we are doing for Code Enforcement and for the building permit is being handled correctly, no issues what so ever. They dealt with Ms. Carriere, everything that was told to her was exactly what had to be done. Everyone that is working here is doing their job and it is being done by the certified building official.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “By the State.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, by our people. The Certified Building Official works for us.”

4. Public Works Report

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “In your packet you have Resolution 024-2023. It is a Resolution for DOTD for Aviation. We do this every year.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy

to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 to Adopt Resolution 024-2023.

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

Motion forwarded.

RESOLUTION 024-2023

WHEREAS, Title 2 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 provides that cities, towns, parishes, and other political subdivisions of this State may separately or jointly acquire, establish, construct, expand, own, lease, control, equip, improve, maintain, operate, regulate, and police airports and landing fields for the use of aircraft; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development, Division of Aviation (formerly the LA DOTD-OAPT) is charged by Title 2 with the responsibility for the development of aviation facilities within the State to foster air commerce and to safeguard the interests of those engaged in all phases of the aviation industry and of the general public; and,

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government hereinafter referred to as "Sponsor", has completed an FAA and DOTD approved Master Plan, Action Plan, and/or Airport Layout Plan which outlines the specific future development of the St. Landry Parish Airport; and, the sponsor is desirous of implementing a portion of the approved Plan recommendations which provide for the critically needed improvements as stated below to substantially improve the safety and usability of the Airport, but does not have sufficient funds of its own required for completing the needed improvements; and,

WHEREAS, the LA DOTD, Division of Aviation, is authorized by Title 2 to expend funds for the construction or enlargement of airports for the safety and advancement of aeronautics;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION I

That the St. Landry Parish Government, hereinafter referred to as "Sponsor" does hereby formally request that the LA DOTD, Division of Aviation provide funds required to complete the airport improvements at the St. Landry Parish Airport specifically as described in the Six (6) year Capital Improvement Program Application for State Financial Assistance which is dated August 1, 2023 and which commences in the year 2024.

SECTION II

That the said LA DOTD, Division of Aviation be and is hereby assured that all necessary servitudes, rights-of-way, rights of ingress and egress and means thereof will be furnished by the Sponsor and the titles thereto will be valid and indefeasible, and that the Sponsor will assume ownership, financial reporting, and complete responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the airport after completion of said improvement.

SECTION III

That the Sponsor will save and hold the said LA DOTD, Division of Aviation, its officers, agents, and employees harmless from any liability or claim for damages arising out of the project, including death or injuries to third parties including, but not limited to, liability or claim for damages out of the negligence of said LA DOTD, Division of Aviation, its officers, agents, or employees, and expressly agrees to defend any suit of any nature brought against the DOTD Division of Aviation as a result of this project.

SECTION IV

That the President of the Sponsor be and is hereby authorized and directed to evidence this agreement by affixing his signature at the place provided therefore on this resolution and on subsequent related documents/agreements as required by the rules and regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration and the State of Louisiana and the Clerk is hereby authorized to attest said execution.

SECTION V

That this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, "Our department Boom Axe 10 roads, culvert insulation to 7 roads, debris removal to 46 sites, ditching on 9 roads, flushed

culverts to 11 roads and graded 62 roads. Spread material on 10 roads, patched 9 roads, one road widened, sign insulation to 8 roads, seven tree removals and seven washouts.

Councilman Jimmie Edwards questioned a tree removal on Max Road.

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, "It was cut down and removed completely."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned the Leonville Water Leak.

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, "They have a very bad pot hole on Rainbow. It is the Leonville Water System leak. I have called and Ms. Nancy has called the Leonville Water System to get it repaired. I can't fix the pot holes as a result of the water leak. Tomorrow I will drive to the Leonville water system to speak with someone."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned Graham Street.

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, "Graham Street is complete. The ditches have been dug and the culverts have been flushed."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "On Howard Road there is a tree that fell on the fence line. It is not in the road but it is right by the road."

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, "Not a problem, I will look into it."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned Black Gold. She questioned if she could get some on Donatto Lane.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated we are getting some but not like we use to get. We are using most of it on the side of the roads to do expansions on the side of the roads.

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, "We limestone that all the way to the driveway. I will go and re-check it tomorrow."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, "What is the status on ditch digging? You had the contractors lined up. We had a situation on Muscadine Road."

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, "We have not put it out for bid yet. We are trying to catch up on what we have done. We are getting there but it is a slow process. One of my issues is I am short of an operator and I am operating with one employee right now. So that is what is slowing me down."

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to accept the Public Works Report.

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

Motion carried.

5. Forward to Regular Meeting all applications received for one appointment to Fire District No. 7 for a one-year term. (09-19-2023 – 09-19-2024).

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday August 16th, 2023 all applications received for one appointment to Fire District No. 7 for a one-year term. (09-19-2023 – 09-19-2024).

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

Motion forwarded.

6. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for a five-year term to St. Landry Parish Housing Authority. (10-17-2023 – 10-17-2028).

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edward, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for a five year term to St. Landry Parish Housing Authority. (10-17-2023 – 10-17-2028).

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

Motion forwarded.

7. Discuss Grass Cutting Ordinance. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I would like to see this go the full council for discussion. When you have vacant property or an abandon home that has grass that is over grown we call Code Enforcement. Code Enforcement go and get the process going and they get the grass cut and it is not cut anymore. It continues to grow until you have to call Code Enforcement to go back a second or a third time to get the grass cut. Maybe if we could look at that ordinance and put something into place whereas we make sure that once Code Enforcement goes out there they will have to keep it cut without us having to go back there each time and going through the process again."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That is the process now. We have so much property over the parish that nobody cares about. When we see the grass getting tall we send someone out there to cut it. We send it to Mr. Duplechain for a lien on the property. People don't care even if you put liens on their property. We continuously try to do that. If you see something that is not being done let us know. Once we do the initial letter we are good to go. We will charge them the fees and Mr. Duplechain places a lien on their property."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Due to the how weather we do have a burn ban."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The burn ban is on as of today until further notice."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "At another meeting it was stated that it would probably be good to round up the whole yard after it was cut so we would not have to go back on a regular basis and maintain the level of cutting grass. Did we state that?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No we did not. Let me get with the Department of Ag and Forestry and get their opinion to make sure."

8. Discuss filing locations of Subdivision restrictions. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Constituents can find Subdivision Restriction filed in the Clerk of Court Office. The Permit Office can also access this information from the Clerk of Court.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Even though we have access to it I am still asking that they get their own copy upstairs so they can get a certified copy from the Clerk of Court. We can't give a Certified Copy but the Clerk of Court Office can."

9. Discuss Private Roads and Private Subdivisions. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "One of my issues was with Choupique Road and we kind of got that settled. The other thing that I wanted to bring up is that we had some private roads and recently some black gold or something was put on them and then I asked a question because I thought we were not going to do anything on private roads and it was Annointing Drive and it was an error it was a Parish Road then."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "So Annointing Drive is adjudicated property. The whole road was never owned by anybody. The people owned up until the ditches. Both subdivision they owned until the middle of the road. That one right there was owned by nobody, it was never taxed and it never had anything to do with anything. Whoever

developed that knew what they were doing and it is adjudicated to the parish now. So it is not a private road, it is actually a parish road.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “We fought that for years and I am glad that we can help them. I just wish that we can find a way to help the people on a private road. I understand about the tax dollars and I understand that it is a private road but in the future I that we could help them. I know that we started and said that no road are going to be private and all new subdivisions the roads have to be paved or over laid. My last question is this:

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Can we address that. We talked about this probably for the last 10 years. We did discuss it with Mr. Duplechain and everybody else. If there is a way that we can go and do the work on that road with the consent of the property owners, I am all in favor of that. If there is a way that we can do it legally because a lot of these people and everybody have it in their districts, they brought property and maybe they should have looked better, but a lot of them did not, and now they are stuck. It is not only for that but I come from emergency services so I understand the fire department, police department and the ambulance services have to get down there. In Mr. Ardoin’s District, they have one road, Fleur Des Coteau, I promise you they can’t get down there. I think that it is incumbent upon us to figure out a way to do that legally. I know that we discussed it and the issue was to get every person owning the property to consent and they pay for the material. I am good with that if we can get that to happen.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Maybe we can get Garrett to look into it to see if it is legal. I know in my district, since I am planning on campaigning and walking, I know that I can get my people to sign to get their road done. The next thing that I want to ask is this: Are we going to consider adopting any roads right now if they get it up to par? At one time we talked about it. If they bring a road up to par we may adopt it.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If they bring it up, I think our ordinance requires that if they bring it up to our code, yes.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “At any point can you all give me a copy of that.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes Ma’am.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I have people that are interested in it and they did not know what it would take.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will get with Mr. William Jarrell. Actually if they need to talk to him he would be a good person to talk to regarding that but we will get the paperwork.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Taylor would you like to elaborate on the ordinance that you are trying to get together with the Engineer in reference to us taking in some of these private roads that we are talking about where everybody have to sign and turn it over to the parish and bring it up to specifications that the parish requires.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Some months ago, several of us, including Mr. Bellard talked about these roads that we are talking about like Fleur Des Coteau that these folks live down and they can’t get an ambulance, fire truck or a police car down there, it is a third world country. If we look at the United States Constitution, the Constitution of Louisiana and the Charter of St. Landry Parish clearly say that our purpose is to provide for the health, safety and general welfare of its citizens. When you say that you can’t get an ambulance down a road that is a safety matter. The whole ordinance is revolved around when you have things like these impassable roads at least we can grade it and get them where you can get an emergency vehicle down it. There are 677 miles of private roads in the parish. We certainly can’t do all of them but those that are in total disrepair we have to have some kind of way that we can get into it. Because there were opposition about doing this from the council we have 5 roads districts with

public funding for roads within those districts. Two Public Service Districts that have their own funds. As a pilot I was going to suggest that we allow these district to allocate dollars to grade these roads, not necessarily put rock or gravel or whatever but that is up for discussion also. I am just saying at least grade the road where these emergency vehicles can get in and out. That is the just of the ordinance. It is sitting on my desk. It has been there for several months. I did want to get with the engineers and let them peruse it before I bring it to the council. If you all are ready to do that we will get on it pronto.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I am in favor of helping with these private roads. If we can get the people that live down these roads to pay. We had did an agreement with the city where we would charge them only for the hours of use for the labor. They are already paying taxes for the equipment, I get all of that but these people developed these subdivisions and they made a profit off of that. It is a shame that they made a profit at the expense of somebody else without supporting after that. I can tell you that I had property in a private subdivision and Harold Taylor was the one that was responsible for making sure that the subdivision stayed in order. It was probably better than a State Highway. We all had to pay. I don’t remember what we had to pay but it was not a lot. If we got every homeowner on that road to contribute to the cost, they are already paying taxes for the equipment. If it was 5 hours to grade it, what is the cost for that and get it done on a once a year payment. They all will have to agree. Somebody has to pay, every property owner. If there is one property owner he will have to pay the whole thing or it won’t ever get done. We can come up with something of that nature.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Bellard hit it on the head, everybody will have to be involved with it. It is a pity that these people bought this property and never studied their bill of sale and they own until the middle of the road. Their neighbor across the street don’t want to pay to get some limestone placed on the road and they don’t want to pay to get it graded, it is a sad situation. In reference to Fleur Des Coteau, that subdivision owner was asked to let us get it into the system. It was years ago and it was not taken in. These people did not pay attention when they got their bill of sale and now they are stuck with a road. Are you going to get everybody to pay? That is where we will have a problem. Let’s try to iron it out. Mr. Taylor said that he had the ordinance drawn up and waiting for Mr. Jarrell to look at it and give the okay.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting Held on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 to further discuss Private Roads and Private Subdivisions.

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

Motion forwarded.

10. Discuss lighting at the intersection of LA HWY 31 and Tom Schexnayder Road. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I ask that this be placed on the agenda. What we have is a situation where you have cane fields on each side of that road and it is dark. You are traveling on HWY 31 and when you notice there is the road and you have missed it because there is no lighting. Mr. Bellard you said that you were going to talk to our auditors. Can we set up some kind of fund? I know some other councilmembers here have the same situation. I have a situation here and I would like to get these people some help because it is a safety. Like it was stated earlier, health and the safety of the welfare of the people.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I believe we can do what we need to do when it comes to what we talked about. I want to caution everybody if we do one we will have a bunch of them standing in line.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I truly understand. I called Mr. Phillips who represents the Electrical Company. Public Service Commissioner stated that they can’t do that where he was going to put us a light on the corner and they were going to go ahead and absorb the cost, probably \$12.00 per month to have that light there. It is a

shame that the Public Service Commissioner for the State of Louisiana and the area that is represented there will hold up something like that to try and maybe save someone's life. I will ask this committee to send this to the full council so we can set up a fund so we can pay for this."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Is that legal? Where do you want the lighting?"

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I would like to have the lighting on the corner of Tom Schexnayder Road where the Utility Pole is at on Schexnayder Road. It will be placed on a Parish Road."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Before we go too far we will set some type of policy to guard us with that. I agree it is a dangerous situation there because the way that it is made but not in peoples yards because I think that we will have a problem."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Let's place it where it will be at an intersection. Do we have to do it as an ordinance? If we do it as an ordinance we will have some guide lines on it. Mr. Duplechain are you listening in on this conversation? You need to go and look at this situation. Everyone needs to go and look at it. It is a bad situation. It is in a curb."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "If you all can bring it to the full council I think we can get some type of ordinance drafted to stipulate what we need to do."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Would you draft something up Mr. Duplechain?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Yes, lighting at the intersection of HWY 31 and Tom Schexnyder Road or do you want it only on Tom Schexnyder Road?"

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "No Sir, I want it to where as other councilmember would be able to bring it up and we will look at the situation and let the Public Works Director be involved and whoever else that would maybe involve."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Don't limit it to one intersection. We will have to word it where we could do it at intersections that have the same issue. It is an issue but we just can't say one because it is not just one. I do agree it needs to be on a parish road at the intersection. We will have to work it correctly."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Is there a particular kind of lighting you are requesting?"

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Regular lighting that they have already. I am not sure what they call it. It may be LED Lighting."

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 to authorize Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain to draft an Ordinance to install LED Lighting on Tom Schexnayder Road.

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

Motion forwarded.

11. Discuss any other business property brought before this committee

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Mr. Bellard, when the graders go out to grade the gravel roads a few constituents asked that the graders call before they go and grade that road. They are saying that it makes a lot of dust when they grade the roads."

Public Works Director, Barry Soileau stated, "Many roads in the parish are gravel. If I don't grade they ask why we are not grading, when we grade they complain about the dust. We are maintaining the roads to be safe. Grading will cost dust because we have not had rain in some areas in over six weeks. We have to grade the roads for safety"

reason because of mail carriers and school bus drivers. I have to make the judgement call for safety reason and then we do it. I get the same calls that you do.”

Councilman Dexter Brown questioned updates on Broadband.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Because of the GUMBO Plan and the NTIA Grant that we received last year they are all over. You will see the third party contractors laying down the lines. Everybody that is supposed to be getting broadband will get it. Right now the process is to put everything down. Unfortunately we are seeing where one provider is lying on top of another provider and it makes no sense that you are dropping up on fiber at that expense. You will see a lot of people out there lying down fiber and it is up to the company to actually go to the house. That is happening right now. You would be surprised on how many homes are being turned on because of that.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “When I was at the conference in Austin I spoke to a person that spearheaded the In God We Trust that we have in our Council Room. They want us to trickle it down to the twelve municipalities in St. Landry Parish. If we can adopt a Resolution and send it to the other 12 municipalities and they could do the same thing.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 16th, 2023 to approve a Resolution to forward to the twelve municipalities in St. Landry Parish to place “In God We Trust” in their meeting room.

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

Motion forwarded.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I am curious because of the paying of the attorney. We voted to hire this attorney even though you may not have voted for them. We still have a bill to pay. My only question is this: If we have members on a committee that did not support to get it paid I am wondering how can we get this forwarded to the full council? Garrett can you answer that?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The council votes to send matters to the full council from the committee meeting to the full council. That is how it is done.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I understand that. My take on it is trying to get it forwarded to the full council. We had some committee members that did not want to forward it. Can we forward this to the Public Works Committee?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The only way to forward this item to the full council is for the committee to vote to forward it to the full council. There is no other trick to it.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. Duplechain, what if we put it on the agenda before the meeting, would that work?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “You vote unanimously to put it on the agenda before the meeting. You can add something to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting if you vote unanimously to put it on.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “This item was in Public Works to start with. It was placed on the finance side. I don’t know how that happen?”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “The appointing of a Councilmember. We had two people come here today about wanting to serve in District 13. We are waiting for a letter from the Secretary of the State. We can’t take any action until that letter comes.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It has to be vacant before you take the action. Once it is official vacant you have 15 days to appoint an interim which has to be someone

who is 21 years old or older, a registered voter and they have to have lived in St. Landry Parish for one or more years and live in their district for 6 months or more. That is the qualifications for the interim. The clock starts to tick once it is officially vacant. According to the Home Rule Charter you have 15 days to make the appointment.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “In this matter we are waiting for the letter first then this council will have to choose if we will appoint someone.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “A seat have to vacant before you appoint someone. Once it becomes vacant then you have your 15 days to appoint your interim. The interim has to meet all of the qualifications to be a councilman or councilwoman.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “So it is vacant when a person resigns, is that correct?”

Legal counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It is vacant when our clerk receives the notice that it is vacant and the clerk has not received a notice yet.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “As a follow up to the candidates that are seeking that seat that are here tonight, I would like to say to each councilmember, in all fairness I suggest that we try to find someone to do this in the interim and not run for the office. They are going to qualify next week and they will be in the race. We will appoint one of these guys and he has an unfair advantage to the rest. I will ask that you think about that, we will get someone that just will fill it until the election is over and he is declared the winner then that person can step down and the elected person can be appointed. This is just food for thought.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Regarding the attorney fees, it was my understanding that the Chairman would just sign the invoice and it would be paid. I did not hear the Resolution whenever you all hired the attorney but normally the chairman would sign the invoice as being the person that authorized the payment. I think that it is high but it is not my choice. I think that it needs to be paid because it is a debt that we incurred. I really believe that the chairman can sign it unless Garrett tells me differently.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I will look into it to see if the chairman can sign the invoice.”

12. Adjourn

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

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

Motion carried.

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

XIII. ADJOURN