

AGENDA
ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION (Councilwoman Wayne Ardoin)**
- III. ROLL CALL**
- IV. CONDOLENCES**
- V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**
 - **Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune**
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - **Special Meeting: August 9th, 2023**
 - **Regular Meeting: August 16th, 2023**

VII. PARISH PRESIDENT’S REPORT
RESOLUTION NO. 028-2023

FEMA Temporary Housing and Shelter Assistance Program Expedited Temporary Housing Assistance Waiver of Land Use/Permitting

WHEREAS, hurricane season in Louisiana presents unique and diverse obstacles for parish and municipal governments and their residents, and;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers programs to help in the recovery efforts after storms, and;

WHEREAS, one of those programs is the Temporary Housing and Shelter Program, that, once activated in the parish, allows homeowners to place a temporary housing unit next to their damaged home, and;

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and FEMA has been directed by Louisiana Act 526 to make the process of activating and implementing the Temporary Housing and Shelter Program as quickly and seamless as possible, they have created the Expedited Temporary Housing Assistance Waiver for Land to allow homeowners the ability to install temporary shelters, and;

WHEREAS, Louisiana Act 526 requires parish and municipalities to opt-in or opt-out of the waiver each year and return those waivers to the parish office of homeland security and emergency preparedness;

Be it resolved on this day 20th day of September, 2023, that the St. Landry Parish Council authorizes the Parish President to (opt-in/opt-out) of the Expedited Temporary Housing Assistance Waiver for Land Use for the year 2023-2024 and will be reevaluated in September of 2024 and would only go into effect if the Temporary Housing and Shelter program is activated once a presidential emergency declaration has been declared for St. Landry Parish.

RESOLUTION NO. 029-2023

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Ordinance Chapter 32, Article III, governs solar farms in St. Landry Parish;

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Ordinance Section 32-57 (c) states that a buffer zone of 150 feet shall exist between a solar farm and the center of any adjacent public roadway;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Landry Parish Council hereby grants a variance to St. Landry Parish Ordinance Section 32-57 (c) for Lightsource BP d/b/a Prairie Ronde Solar Farm , L.L.C. in St. Landry Parish to perform work within the 150 foot buffer zone while avoiding going beyond planned fencing and tree boundaries.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON THE 20th DAY OF September, 2023.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:
*Items passed through committee.

1. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for four appointment to the St. Landry Parish Planning Commission Board.

2. Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to Ms. Danita Auzenne Ricard advising her to come and address the council regarding the demolition of her property on Napoleon Street, Opelousas. Parcel #0103669500.
3. Authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign a Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Southside Caregiver's Inc. Community Outreach Program in the amount of \$5,000.00.
4. Approve a pay increase for both Council Clerks in the amount of \$2.00 per hour.
5. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments for a one year term to Fire District No. 7. (11-18-2022 – 11-18-2023).
6. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments for a four year term to East St. Landry Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1. (11-18-2019 to 11-18-2023).
7. Vote to re-appoint Mary Kathleen Lafleur to the St. Landry Parish Housing Authority for a five year term. (10-17-2023 – 10-17-2028).
8. Authorize the approval of a newly proposed 285' Telecommunication Cell Tower located near US Hwy 167, Opelousas, LA. Parcel #0500868500.
9. Vote to approve a seven member panel to discuss the fate of the Statue.

IX. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-022

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 18-85 OF CHAPTER 18 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CHANGE THE WORDING IN SECTION 18-85 (c) TO READ "50 lots or 5 acres, whichever is the lessor...."

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 1-06 of the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter states that the parish government shall have the power to pass all ordinances necessary to promote, protect, and preserve the general welfare, safety, health, peace, and orderly conduct of the parish, and this includes the power to pass ordinances on all subject matters not inconsistent with the constitution or denied by state law;

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-023

AN ORDINANCE TO ENFORCE CHAPTER 18, FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION, OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 1-06 of the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter states that the parish government shall have the power to pass all ordinances necessary to promote, protect, and preserve the general welfare, safety, health, peace, and orderly conduct of the parish, and this includes the power to pass ordinances on all subject matters not inconsistent with the constitution or denied by state law;

X. ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:

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
(Sponsored by Councilman Dexter Brown)

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

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statutes 47:2201, 47:2202, 47:2203 and 47:2204 provide that a political subdivision may provide by ordinance for the sale of adjudicated property at a public sale.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government shall offer for sale the following adjudicated properties with a minimum bid of \$500.00, plus the amount due on any liens, judgments, mortgages, and/or encumbrances that may be on each adjudicated property.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that the following adjudicated properties shall be offered for sale at public sale and there shall be a minimum bid of \$500.00, plus the amount due on any liens, judgments, mortgages, and/or encumbrances that may be on each of the following adjudicated properties:

PARCEL #	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	PROPERTY OWNER
1	8104372510J 1 lot 37 (90 x 194.50 (402 AC Devilles Country Subdivision N. Lot 38 S Lot 36 E. Deville W. Laurie Street Fronting 90' on Laurie St. in sec 42 T-6S R-3E 1034270*	HOSEA SHAW
2	8601997500 1 lot 12 (50 x 142) blk 3 N& B add 834627 (Don 63-845) 893232 (h-39-542) 1035606	BELINDA STRAUSS
3	8602699505 1 Lot (1 Ac) (140x311.4) N Cullivan S. Fuselier E Road & Ardoin W. Guillory In Sec 17 T-6s R-1e 1116106 1125431	MABLE CULLIVAN
4	8101769000 1 Lot 37 (50 X 100) Ballard Sub Div. 489438	1413 JANICE STREET CURLEY & GERTRUDE THOMAS JOSEPH
5	8600612000 2 Lots 6 & 7 (50 X 130 Each) Blk 2 Moosa Add 1 Lot (65 X 130) Sec 31 T-6S R-1E N Ash St S. Minerva St. E Dupre W. Higgins 1 Lot (50 X 130) Sec 31 T-6S R-1E N Ash St. S. Minerva St. E Richardson W. Dupre 759682 (K-33-728)	521 Fred Street Dupre Entp Of Eunice Inc.
6	0105164000 1 Lot 1 (155 x 235) Sunnyside Sub Div N. Lot 2 S Castille E HWY 749 w. Lot 3 in Sec 47 & 48 T-6S R-4E 1075927	1323 HWY 749 ELLA MARIE BIBBINS KADOR, ETALS
7	0101095550 1 Lot 2 (50 x 140) Blk 5 Lawler & Caldwell Add N. Lot 1 E Public Alley W. Market St. Fronting 50' on N. Market St. 815687 (Don 61-172)	1518 N. MARKET STREET LAWRENCE ESPREE ETALS
8	8603246700 2 Lots 1 (.648 AC) (148.03 x 190.56) & 2 (.551 AC) (128.04 x 168.48) Plaquemine Point Heights in Sec 28 T-6S R-3E 893475 (H-39-819)	JIM GUILLORY RD EDWARD HENRY

9	8501155500	984 COTTON PATCH RD	TIMOTHY STAGG
	1 lot N. Fontenot S. Stagg E By Beouff W. Road 1007742 1142392		
10	8101363800	826 N. MARKET ST.	BESSIE GOUDEAU ETALS
	1 Lot N. Donatto S. Locks E. Guidry W. Market St. Fronting 59.75' on Market Street 918426 (C-40-629) 967422 (K-42-9)		
11	8500207200	POPLAR STREET/KAVANAUGH	PEARLEY SIVERAND, ETALS
	1 LOT w/2 OF LOT 36 (96 X 122) Moore add N. Popalor St. S. Siverand E Anding W. Kavanaugh St. 598745 (K-20-55) 918691 (C-40-896)		
12	8103442500	NORWAY STREET	JAMES LEONARD JONES, III
	1 Lot 5 (108.3 x 102.88) Blk 1 North Park Add N. Lot 6 S Lot 4 E St. Landry Parish School Board W. Norway Street Fronting 108.3' on Norway St. 1141678		
13	8101358512	TRUMAN STREET	PETER & GERALDINE KENNISON
	1 Lot 6 (50 x 100) Blk G Pamella Melancon Add 536901 1001335		
14	8621576821	441 SOUTH MLK DRIVE	JUNIUS MONDAY
	1 Lot (42 ½ x 180) N. Prudhomme S. Moosa E. Duson W. Foote 882595 (Z-38-146) 1013332		
15	8100649839	FRANKLIN STREET	DANIEL SMITH
	1 Lot 3 (60 x 167) Charles F. Boagni Add N. McPherson S. Franklin St. E. George W. Narrow St. Fronting 60' on Franklin St. 843930		
16	8104274000	144 AVE OF ACADIANS	JANIS FAYE LAVERGNE DAIGLE
	1 Lot 1 (80 x 125) Blk M. Royal Gardens Sub Div Unit II 677353 (Q-24-299) Minimum Bid: \$5,260.00 (Includes St. Landry Parish Government Lien + Cancellation Cost)		
17	8614621102	SOUTH MLK DRIVE	ALFRED PRUDHOMME
	1 Arpent (64 x 86) N. N. & B. Add S. Edwards E. St. W. Foote 780944 (P-34-100) 840244 (I-37-747) 947218 (J-41-430)		
18	8100925500	NARROW STREET	MRS. FRANK DONATO, ETALS
	1 Lot N. Bowman S. Donato E RY W. South Narrow St. Fronting 50' on RR Right of Way 740075 (H-32-26) (Lot 9 Blk 5 Narrow St)		
19	8101446000	816 BURR ST.	ALLEN & SHIRLEY BATISTE GUILLORY
	1 Lot 17 (80 x 70) Blk 4 Mary Burr Add 552201 (T-17-113)		
20	8101813000	1632 EVANS STREET	EDDIE KENNERSON EST
	2 Lots 16 17 (48 x 100 ea) BLK a Artigue Sub Div. N. Babineaux S. Thomas E. Artigue St. W. Babineaux 217251 (O-7-65)*		
21	8100649971	CHURCH STREET	WALTER & WIFE WRIGHT
	1 Lot N. Mitchell S. Church St. E. Alley Or Plaisance St. W. Davis 859369 (D-38-862) 892087 (Tax 13-854) (Lot 2 Blk 3 W. Church St.		
22	8500117500	619 W. MULBERRY ST	JACOB JOUBERT JR.
	1 Lot N. Bienvell St. (Mulberry St.) S. Quirk E. Murphy W. Quirk Et Als 792664 (Don 57-826) 1071806		
23	0101946500	E. JEFFERSON STREET	JOSEPHINE A. LASTRAPES EST ETALS
	1 Lot 19 (40 x 125) BLK C St Cry Add 649236 (D-23-354)		

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-020
(Sponsored by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere)

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

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 47:2202 B. states that the governing authority of each political subdivision may allow an adjoining landowner to purchase adjudicated property for any price set by the governing authority without public bidding at a public meeting of the governing authority; provided, that the governing authority determines that the adjoining landowner has maintained the adjudicated property for a period of one year prior to the sale. Such a sale shall be deemed a public sale.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government has determined that Leroy Landor is the adjoining landowner of adjudicated property and has maintained said adjudicated property for a period of one year or more, and thus, Leroy Landor may purchase the adjudicated property through a public sale without public bidding.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that the following adjudicated property shall be sold by public sale to Leroy Landor, an adjoining land owner to the adjudicated property who maintained said adjudicated property for one year or more, without public bidding, for a price set by St. Landry Parish Government, as per LA R.S. 47:2202 B., and said adjudicated property is described as follows:

A certain lot or parcel of ground, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, situated in Section 42, Township 6 South (T-6-S), Range 4 East (R-4-E), St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, measuring 30 feet by 185 feet, and being bounded, now or formerly, as follows: North by Dourousseau; South by Donato; East by Lane; and West by Rachel. This adjudicated property bearing parcel number 8105499800 in the St. Landry Parish land records.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-021
(Sponsored by Councilman Harold Taylor)

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

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES AS PER THE RESULTS OF THE 2023 PRECINCT SURVEY

WHEREAS, all of the redistricting has been completed and approved for all entities within St. Landry Parish, and:

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Council has the authority to change the configuration, boundaries, or designation of an election precinct under R.S. 18:532.1.A., and:

WHEREAS, beginning on January 1st of the third year after the decennial census is released it is then necessary to canvass all precincts in the Parish and identify any precincts that have three hundred (300) or fewer active voters, and:

WHEREAS, Under R.S. 18:532.B.(4)(a) the St. Landry Parish Council must merge or consolidate all precincts that have three hundred (300) or fewer active voters, and:

WHEREAS, as required by state statute precinct surveys were conducted that identified those precincts which met the technical requirements of R.S. 18:532.B.(4)(a) et seq. for merging or for those precincts that did not meet the criteria for merging were reviewed for consolidation with another appropriate polling location and those surveys were submitted to the appropriate State entities including the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and the Louisiana Secretary of State, and:

WHEREAS, the State has approved precincts that are listed in the following section as approved for merging or consolidating of polling locations, and:

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Council has the final authority whether to merge or consolidate the State-approved precinct mergers and consolidations, and:

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Council recognizes that under RS 18:532.1 et seq., for any State-approved precinct mergers or consolidations they do not wish to implement they have the authority not to do so but the St. Landry Parish Police Jury shall bear all election costs associated with the exercise of that authority as provided in R.S. 18:1400.7:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the St. Landry Parish Council, in regular session assembled, that the following precincts are maintained as follows:

SECTION I: PRECINCTS MEETING SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS

The following precincts meet the exemptions as provided in R.S 18:532.1 et seq., as follows:

Precinct 01A (Exempt-Geographically Isolated)

Precinct 01B (Exempt-Geographically Isolated)

Precinct 01C (Exempt-Geographically Isolated)

Precinct 05 (One Precinct Municipality)

SECTION II- PRECINCTS NOT TO BE MERGED

The St. Landry Parish Council hereby exercises their authority under RS 18:532.1 et seq not to implement the following precincts that qualify for mergers and shall reimburse the State of Louisiana for all election costs associated therein provided for in R.S. 18:1400.7:

Precinct 21A (Qualifies to merge with Precinct 22)

Precinct 22B (Qualifies to merge with Precinct 25)

SECTION III- CONSOLIDATED PRECINCTS

The following precincts are approved as existing consolidated precincts:

Precincts 01 (Consolidated Polling Location with Precinct 02)

Precinct 02A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precinct 03)

Precinct 02B (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 02C and 05)

Precinct 02C (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 02B and 05)

Precinct 04A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 01D, 04B, 09A and 13)

Precinct 04B (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 01D, 04A, 09A and 13)

Precinct 01D (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 04A, 04B, 09A and 13)

Precinct 09A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 01D, 04A, 04B, and 13)

Precinct 10A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 19 and 22)

Precinct 13A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 14 and 15)

Precinct 16A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precinct 7A)

Precinct 18A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 18A and 18B)

Precinct 26A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precinct 26)

Precinct 29A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precinct 29)

Precinct 32A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precinct 32)

Precinct 33A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precinct 33)

Precinct 39A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 7, 16A, and 17)

Precinct 41A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 41, 42, and 43)

Precinct 44A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 44 and 44B)

Precinct 42 (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 41, 41A, and 43)

Precinct 50A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precincts 50 and 51A)

Precinct 51A (Consolidated Polling Location with Precinct 50 and 50A)

XI. RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

RESOLUTION NO. 026-2023

Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for a grant under any of the following FTA programs managed through Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

- 49 CFR 5311, Formula Grant for Rural Areas

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Transportation and Development is authorized to make grants for mass transportation projects;

WHEREAS, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the applicant, including the provisions by it of the local share of project costs;

WHEREAS, it is required by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development in accord with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the U.S. Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Applicant that minority business enterprise be utilized to the fullest extent possible in connection with this project, and that definitive procedures shall be established and administered to ensure that minority businesses shall have the maximum feasible

opportunity to compete for contracts when procuring construction contracts, supplies, equipment, or consultant and other services:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by St. Landry Parish Government. :

1. That the Parish President is authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of St. Landry Parish Government Community Action Agency with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, to aid in the financing of operating and/or capital assistance projects pursuant to FTA transit programs.
2. That the Parish President is authorized to execute and file with such applications an assurance or any other document required by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development effectuating the purposes of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.
3. That the Parish President is authorized to furnish such additional information as the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development may require in connection with the application or financial reimbursement of the project.
4. That the Parish President is authorized to set and execute affirmative minority business policies in connection with the project's procurement needs.
5. That the Parish President is authorized to execute grant contract agreements on behalf of St. Landry Parish Government Community Action Agency with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for aid in the financing of the operating or capital assistance projects.
6. This resolution is applicable for a period of one year unless revoked by the governing body and copy of such revocation shall be furnished to the DOTD.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly qualified and acting of the St. Landry Parish Government certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution, adopted at a legally convened meeting of the St. Landry Parish Government held on September 20th, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO. 027-2023

WHEREAS, there are documents and requests that St. Landry Parish Government needs to sign regarding Capital Outlay projects administered through Facility Planning and Control, Division of Administration.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the St. Landry Parish President, Jessie Bellard, is authorized to sign any and all documents and requests for state disbursements pertaining to Capital Outlay project "50-J49-23-01 Parish Wide Road Program, Planning and Construction" administered through Facility Planning and Control, Division of Administration.

XII. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9th, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W BELLEVUE ST
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

MINUTES

- I. This meeting was called to order by Chairman Jerry Red Jr.
- II. Councilman Easton Shelvin led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation
- III. Roll Call: PRESENT: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. Ex Officio: Jerry Red Jr. ABSENT: Coby Clavier.
- IV. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:

Ms. E. Lynn Lejeune addressed the council. She stated, "I am here this evening because I wanted to ask your support for the interim appointment for District 13. I want to be real, real clear that I am not running for any kind of office, it is just for the interim position. I would appreciate your support. I do have a resume for each of you. I would like to step in as interim until the next election that is coming up."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Thank you for coming, Thank you for offering your time for interim to serve that position. I am sure that the community will be well served."

Ms. Lynn Lejeune stated, "Thank you. I look at all of the work that you all are doing and all of the extra hours that you all spend developing our district, community and our parish. I would like to join hands and work with you all jointly to make things continue until January 2nd, 2024, whenever the elected councilperson steps in."

Mr. Leward Lefleur addressed the council. He stated, "Good evening, my name is Leward Lefleur. I live in Eunice Louisiana on Donald Richard Road. I have been in Eunice for 42 years and I am running for St. Landry Parish Council, District 13. I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you. Thank you for your time and service."

V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Discuss possible Voting Precinct Merger for St. Landry Parish

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters addressed the council. He stated, "Good evening. All of this may look a little unfamiliar to you all because it has been about five years since the surveys had to be done because they were frozen for a period of time before during and after reapportionment. This is my first time doing the surveys before they were frozen I was still in college. From now until the next time they are frozen after every canvas period we will have to do these survey on precinct that are over 2200 voters which St. Landry currently has none of those. Those that are under 300 voters which we have 28 total in St. Landry right now. Out of the 28 we have 18 that are eligible to be merged. It is up to you all to decide whether or not you all want to merge them or keep them as it is. I will say that out of the 18 there are 5 of them that would not change polling locations for the voters because they already vote there. Not all councilmembers have precincts that are affected by this. Depending upon what you all decide tonight I will be happy to sit with those affected councilmembers and go through everything individually."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. questioned, "Being that the election is held on October 14th, 2023 and if we plan to leave it as it is so we won't have any hick-ups or any problems as far as the election that is coming up can make those changes after the election?"

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "Any changes that you all make would not go into effect until the spring 2024. This is good as it currently stands. It won't affect this election."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "You made a statement that it will cost more money to have this election because of the way that the situation is."

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "Right, if you all choose not to merge those precincts that are eligible to be merged then the parish will incur 100% of the cost for those precincts and there will be no cost sharing except for when there is a state wide election on the ballot like this for, the Governors, the state will cost share with those. Let just say for an example the score board would decide to place a tax on the ballot and it is the only thing that is on the ballot, those 18 precincts, the school board would not cost share with the parish for those 18 precincts and the parish would be responsible for 100% of those 18 precincts."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Do you have a figure on how much this election will cost this parish?"

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "Roughly in an election that does not have a state wide race like Governor, the estimate that I received from the state was about \$36,000.00."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "With the State sharing it how much money are we looking at. The election that we are getting ready to have the state is involved. So how much money are we talking about?"

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "It varies on ballot items and things like that. It is about 25%, give or take a few percent that the parish would be responsible for on these big elections."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "You don't have a dollar amount."

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "No I don't have a dollar amount because there are other factors that goes into it. I did request it but I have not received it."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, "If a precinct has 2,200 voters how many machines do you place at that precinct?"

Ms. Lisa Doyle, Clerk of Court stated, "Three or four."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Opelousas High School is in District 9, a lot of those people were moved back from Sunset to Opelousas High School. Some were moved from OHS have been voting across the street from OHS and now they are going to Park Vista. The ones from Sunset to OHS, how many people are we talking about that will be voting at OHS?"

Ms. Lisa Doyle, Clerk of Court stated, "They have quite a bit that will be voting at OHS. They will have enough Commissioners there to accommodate them."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "We need to make it convenient for the tax payers to go and vote and have the poles as close as possible."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Mr. Stelly, what you are saying is that we don't need to be concerned about this election but the election in the spring when we will need to make any changes."

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "From the spring election moving forward, I think the day is around the end of September for you all to submit the surveys to the state. I think that Mr. Hefner stated the 24 of November is the deadline to apply any of the mergers."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "It is not law that we have to change those precincts is that correct Mr. Stelly?"

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "You all can leave it as it is. As I preciously mentioned those that are eligible, you all would be responsible for the cost."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Mr. Stelly, thank you for coming and explaining this to us. We have been through reapportionment and I understand that we may do some more reapportionment next year. We may not have the same senator, representative and there is a lawsuit that is sitting at the Supreme Court of the United States as we speak. They have already answered the Congressional and that will be reapportioned and we will have a different congressman more than likely. A democracy cannot survive unless we have a convenient way for our citizens to cast their ballots. I live on the north end of the parish and my district is 52% of the land mass of St. Landry Parish, it is very rural. I have probably 8 or 9 of those precincts that you all want to combine or that is being proposed. We spend a lot of money in this Government, if we had to prioritize the money that we spend that would be number one that we would finance, whatever it would cost to have elections and people would have convenient ways to vote. I have been doing this for a very long time. I was 22 when I was first elected to a public office and I worked election days to get people to vote and if we did not get 65% of the folks in this

parish to go to the poles and cast their ballots we did not do our job. We are electing people now with 20% of the voters going to vote. We can't make it harder for them, we have to make it easier for them. I suggest that we just leave it like it is. We have been through this three times. I just think that we need to leave it alone."

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "I think that we finally got the majority of the people satisfied on where they go and vote and things of that nature. I don't know parish finances and I don't need to know but I would really like to see it stay the same. I think the people are satisfied. That would be my profession recommendation if it is feasible for the parish."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Mr. Bellard, can we afford to do this financially?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes, I believe it is only \$9,000.00 to \$12,000.00 per election. Again we have to remember, when this council voted to do this they were told less than 300 hundred you risk the chance of having the merger come back on us. We took this and we said that we did not want to do this so I agree, let's just keep it like it is, it was changed to many times and it will start confusing the voters. Like Mr. Taylor stated we have to make it easier for the people to come to vote, not harder. I think if we change anything, anyhow if it is one precinct, it will cost confusion. My recommendation is the same as Mr. Taylor's and Mr. Stelly's and that is to leave it alone."

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "If you all are worried about the cost there are 5 precincts that if they were to be merged it would not change the polling location for the voters. That is something to consider as well, if you all would want."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "With that being said, I am concerned if there are any in my district, I will speak for the people in my district, if we can conjoin and put them in one location where it will benefit the parish lets' do that. If the others want to leave it like that, so be it. I know if we can make it a whole lot better where you have 5 or 6 people going to one pole that does not make sense. Put it in a precinct where they all can travel there to that precinct that makes more sense."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "On this report that we have, it says Fire District 6 Substation, same location, what does that mean?"

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "Look at the top of page one where the Ward and Precinct is listed. Whatever precinct is 44A and where you see same location that means that precinct is at the same location as 44A."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "They would still vote in the same building just at a different table."

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "Not necessarily. The precincts that are in your district would change locations."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I don't want to change anything until after this election is over with. I will make a motion that we leave all precincts as listed."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Second."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Lets finish the discussion then we will go to the motion."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I want to remind everyone when a precinct is overcrowded and there is not enough parking space we need to remember that not everybody is willing to let you use their facility. This is a good idea to keep it as it is and make it affordable because everybody has a right to vote."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I have a concern in the district that I represent. I have situation where Washington Town Hall, 758 voters and Washington Elementary

School, 135 voters and that is about four tents of a mile from the town hall, would it be possible to help save a little on that to have them merge?

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "If you look where the chart is, I have the lines and somethings cannot be moved because it would change the State District or Parish District. If that was something that you wanted to look at I could sit with you and go over everything to see if that would be something that would be possible."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "I have been contacted by members of Community Chapel Church and Opelousas Junior High School. They don't have vehicles. When they go and vote they walk to these precincts. I would be in favor of leaving these precincts as it is in District 10."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I am not fond of what happened at OHS and Park Vista because of the situation. People live right across from OHS and they have been voting there since they moved there. My concern is for you to look at it right there. I don't know why it was done that way but you have 62 people that would have to go to Park Vista. Why was it done that way?"

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "The reason why I had to change those people is because I was going through the maps and I noticed that they were incorrectly placed in a precinct from the start."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "They have been voting there all of these years."

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "I noticed an error and I had to correct it. We can work in the future to try to correct it and move the lines."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "When people come vote here at this court house can we try to accommodate them a little better? I know you had talked about going to the Delta Grand, maybe the Delta Grand may be booked up with a function but lets' try to accommodate the voters better. You made that promise when you came here."

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "I am all for it. I did inquire about the Delta Grand. I did put my name down but I think there was a discrepancy in the booking. There are events during that week but that is a goal to make the space better for the voters."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "Have you thought about the Yambilee Building?"

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "I never thought about the Yambilee Building because we have to stay in a close proximity to our office. The Delta Grand was the ideal location."

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to keep all precincts remaining as it is written for this period of time and the parish will assume the extra cost.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Does this have to be done by an ordinance?"

Mr. Byron Stelly, Registrar of Voters stated, "Yes, it is my understanding once the survey is complete and they have been submitted to the state they will approve the surveys. At that point the ordinance can be passed to make mergers or keep as it is."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "We can have our attorney draft an ordinance. If we announce it at our meeting next week we can vote on it for the middle of September."

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to keep all precincts remaining as it is written for this period of time and the parish will assume the extra cost.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor,

Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Coby Clavier. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 9th, day of August, 2023.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Once again we would like to say thanks to the Registrar of Voters, Demographer and Clerk of Court for coming out and addressing the council."

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR addressed the council. She stated, "I will just tell you all a little bit about myself. My name is Becky Rogers. I have worked in Human Resources since 1987, actually it was called Personnel back then. For the last 35 years I have worked as an HR Professional. I retired from Coca-Cola about 5 years ago. I was the Director of Human Resources for Coca-Cola Bottling Company for about 15 years. I currently teach Human Resource Management, Employee Selection & Placement in Leadership through LSU on line program. I currently do HR Consulting. I have a Master's Degree from Jack Welch Management Institute. I have several hours toward my Doctoral Degree in Organizational Leadership. That is a little bit about my academic background as well as my professional background."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Ms. Rogers, thank you for coming. I think you know a little bit of what we are about. I think the young lady attorney that was originally going to do this has moved out of the state. The firm has recommended you. I am glad that you came and gave us your background. You sound eminently qualified to do what we have to do. The issue is that we had some employees terminated and we just want to make sure that we are following our charter, state and federal laws. Do you have any questions or problems about that?"

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "No, we just need to make sure that we know what the expectations were and make sure that those expectations were carried through."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "What is your rate if you are active in this investigation?"

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "I will tell you all that I have been charging \$185.00 per hour but I will reduce it to \$165.00 per hour. I will definitely manage the amount of time so there is no surprises. I have estimated it initially based upon the scope of the project about 10 hours. It could be less than that, it depends on after I go through the process of the procedures and look at what have occurred. I do not charge any travel time. I do not charge any mileage or extra expenses. It is strictly the time allocated toward doing the work."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "You are looking at 2-3 hours per employee?"

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "I don't think it will take that long."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, "I would like to know how many employees you may know that we have to question? Mr. Bellard, can you answer that question?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Nope, I can't. That is an investigation that you all want to do so you all should know who you all want to investigate and how many. I can't answer that."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I believe there were 21 employees. I believe that was the number."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, "Did you realize it was 21 employees?"

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "No, I did not."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, "Will the rate stay the same? Did you honestly think that it still will be one, two or three hours per employee? I would like to have a better understating about what this will actually cost us."

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "It was my understanding that we had some terminated employees who felt like they were not dismissed properly so they are appealing that. I thought it was just a handful of employees, maybe 3-5 employees who were unjustifiably terminated. I was going to look at your ordinances, look at the process and find out the paper trail of expectations. I don't know if you have an employee handbook, training or if the employee failed to follow direction or failed to do something. I was going to look at what the standard was and look at the documentations of disciplinary actions, if there were any. I don't know if you all do three strikes and you are out of if you can only terminate for cause. I was going to look at those kinds of things. It was my understanding that they were only maybe 3-5 people who were unjustly terminated. That is what I was thinking. It will just take me a while to find out what your standards are and go back and do an audit. I typically go and do a human resource audit just to make sure that that companies are doing sexual harassment training or they have a good employee handbook so they will know what the expectations are and they are filing regulatory forms timely with cobra and all of that stuff. From the Audit standpoint I just go in and see your 5500 and make sure that they were filed timely. I go in with a Compliance mindset to make sure that there is no exposure. I did not know that there were 20 people that had been terminated and felt concerned about that. It may be beneficial for me to learn more about the scope. It was my understanding that the scope was just to look at the ordinance and make sure that we don't have any exposure or risk because we want mitigate that. I could come in, look at it, access it and give you all a recommendation but I was going to talk individually to the employees. I was thinking it was only a handful. You raise a good point."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Would you rather us wait and give you a chance to think about this or look into this before we would actually vote to say we want to hire you for 21 employees?"

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "This is nothing for me. I do HR Consulting every day. I do leadership development training every day. I teach at LSU everyday so I am happy to help."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Based on the information that you just received, how much do you think and how much time do you think you need? What do you think my invoice will be? What will my billing cost be?"

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "I will talk to 21 employees who feel like they were wrongfully terminated. I did not realize the scope of that. I initially said 10 hours but I think we would probably have to say maybe 20 hours. There is 40 hours in a work week and I will spread it out because I want to sit down face to face and I want to listen. When you sit down and listen to people tell their story it is not going to take them one hour. They will be able to say this is how I feel, this is what happened and this is why I am going to pursue litigations against St. Landry Parish. I don't think that it will take that long to do that. I can schedule those. I am happy to do milestone feedback to let you know what my accomplishment and what my findings are so I don't have to wait until the very end. The first thing to do is to find out what the standard is and did we follow our own policy."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I would feel more comfortable with us giving her the opportunity to go through the things that she needs to through and then we decide what we are going to do and not rush to judgement."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "We had approximately 21 employees that were terminated. The purpose is to find out why and if it was justified."

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "What is the relevant period? What date are we going back to? Are we going back a long time?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "There were 21 employees terminated in 2022."

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "What is the total population of the employee base?"

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "130 employees, is that correct Mr. Bellard."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I can't give you all a number because I don't know exactly how many employees we have."

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "I don't need to know the exact amount of employees. Do you have 25 employees or 100 employees? I just need a ball park figure."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They are the ones that is hiring you. You need to ask them the questions. I am not answering any questions."

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "Do they report to you?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Everybody that works in Parish Government except the two employees that work for Parish Council report to me directly, not to this council."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "I think it is about 130, 135, maybe 140."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. questioned, "How long have you been practicing?"

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "Since 1987."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Your cost is almost \$165.00 compared to \$465.00 and that is a big difference. That is the price that Ms. Rhines was going to charge. Your price for 20 hours would equal around \$3,300.00. For 10 hours for Ms. Rhines it would be about \$4,600.00. My question is this: If we do hire you and you are doing the job for the council, I am not sure it will be 21 employees like they were speaking but the least employees the price would be a lot cheaper. If we do hire you next week will you start then?"

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, "Absolutely. I would say that I would like to wrap it up in about 2-3 weeks. It will take me a while to get down in the weeds. I need to find out what happened? I will be totally flexible and I will go where they are. There is a lot of communication that is nonverbal. I really like to sit and look at their eyeballs and listen to them."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Ms. Becky we have a pending lawsuit right now from one of these folks. We are going to have to hire an attorney to represent us. We don't have insurance to cover that. That is just one lawsuit. We will hire someone to represent us to hear the facts from these disgruntled employees. Regardless if we have another lawsuit we need to get this done from a professional or at least have this on record that if we are sued, here is what we found. If I am in order I would like to entertain the motion to go forward to hire Ms. Rogers to do this."

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to approve hiring Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR to investigate the firing of the 21 employees from the Parish Government.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy and Wayne Ardoin. NAYS: Easton Shelvin, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. ABSENT: Coby Clavier.

ABSTAINED: None.

Tie Vote.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I would like to make a motion to give the council time to think about this instead of making a choice now. We have a meeting coming up next week. Let's think about it and you all can decide next week.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Since it was a tie vote it failed. It will have to come from the winning or the losing side. I think if you all place it back on the agenda it

will be the same vote and it will be the same issue. But in your packet you have a letter from me explaining to you all what the process could be and simple because I am just going to tell you all in front of the people here, I am not giving you all personnel files. That will be the issue at hand. The option on the table is for you all to ask the employees to come and get their own personnel file if they want to do it and I can give it to them and you all can do whatever they want to do with it. As far for the parish government I am not releasing the personnel file to anybody.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “So you are saying that the former employees can come to parish government and pick up their file.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes, they can come and pick up their own files. Whatever they do with it is on them. This way will save a lot of time and a lot of money.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “We will give you all time and you all can make that decision next week. If it fails then it fails.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “The previous lady, Ms. Helen, she well stated that we could be held personally liable if these people start suing. Now we don’t have any insurance and as a council member we will have to hire us an attorney to represent us.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “There is insurance on every officer, director, official, councilman, parish president for any decisions that you all make if you all are sued but the loophole is it will not cover termination of employment.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It does cover errors and omissions. That is what this insurance is for. They would be covered in the scope of their duties but it did not have nothing to do with the termination of employees so it is irrelevant.”

Ms. Becky T. Rogers, MBA, SPHR stated, “So yes you can be held personally liable. My concern is that you all will get into a class action. It is not just one or two people, now they all will get together and it will snowball.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I have a legal question, Mr. Duplechain, if an employee is terminated, how long they have to file suit against you?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “They have one year.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Okay, that takes care of that. So that is the answer to the question Mr. Ardoin.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I am loss on this. The council does not hire nor fire so how can those people sue the council when the parish president hires and fires. So why should we be liable?

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “When the plaintiff files a lawsuit they can name any defendant they want. After they do that whatever happens with the defendant exception, no cause of action, no right of action, whatever happens after that happens but a plaintiff can name any defendant they want if they have the wrong defendant they have no cause of action those exceptions will be filed and a lawsuit can fail, many lawsuits fail.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If he council is sued personally they can opt out and file a motion in the court to show cause why they can just opt out of the lawsuit.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The plaintiff may have no right of action or no cause of action and the attorney will file that exception and the exception if filed right after the lawsuit is heard by the judge. If the judge finds that plaintiff has no right of action against that defendant or no cause of action against that defendant then that lawsuit will fail as to that defendant.”

Update on Litigation in Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to enter into Executive Session, turn off recording and have the audience leave the council chambers so Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain can give the council updates on a Litigation.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor,

Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Coby Clavier. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 9th, day of August, 2023.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "The first item for discussion is Parish Government versus St. Landry Parish Council. The second item is Ms. Terri Courville vs. St. Landry Parish Government. That is what the two executive sessions are about."

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to return back into Regular Session and turn on the recording.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor,

Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Coby Clavier. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 9th, day of August, 2023.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I would like to make a motion that we hire Mr. Lance Pearson as our representing attorney being he was approved by the DA's Office. This is dealing with Terri Courville vs. the St. Landry Parish Government."

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to hire Mr. Lance Pearson as the council's representing attorney.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I want to make a substitute motion that we wait after we get more information tomorrow about an extension from the DA."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "The motion is that we wait until we get a call back and ask for 30 days and then we will make a decision on hiring an attorney."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I withdraw my motion."

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to wait until we get further information from the DA to extend 30 days before we hire an attorney.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor,

Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Coby Clavier. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 9th, day of August, 2023.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will contact the DA in the morning. I will ask him if he can ask for that time and I will copy you all in an e-mail."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "What happens if they say 'no'."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "There will be two people that they will contact. They will contact the DA's Office and the other attorney. We are asking for favor for 30 days. If the answer is no we will have to take another route."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will call a special meeting."

Discuss appointing someone to fill the remaining interim seat for Council Member District 13 at the Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 1, 2023.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “No one has come forward except for Ms. Lynn Lejeune. I will offer a motion that we place her on the parish council as an interim until the election is held and someone has been elected. I would like to forward her name to the full council. I would like to have it as the first item on the agenda that night so that she would be able to participate in the meeting. We also need someone available here to swear her in so we can move on and have someone representing District 13.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Mr. Chairman, we do have more than one person that have offered to be interim. His name is Mr. Darryl Huckby. He spoke at the last meeting.”

Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, “Mr. Huckby is not planning on running. He just want to finish the term.

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “There were 3 people here. Mr. LeFleur, Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Huckby and they said that they were seeking the office. I think that is when I made the dissertation about we should appoint someone that is not going to run. That is where this all came in. I think that we have a motion and a second, I think that we should just vote on it, if it fails then we will do something else.”

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday August 16th, 2023 to appoint Mr. Darrell Huckaby or Ms. E. Lynn Lejeune to fill the seat for the remainder of a 4 year term expiring January 1, 2024 for Councilman District 13.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor,

Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Coby Clavier. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 9th, day of August, 2023.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Whoever wins we will have a judge at the meeting and we will sweat that person in so they can join in on the meeting.

VI. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin,

to adjourn the Special Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor,

Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Coby Clavier. ABSTAINED: None. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 9th, day of August, 2023.

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 2023
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Councilman Easton Shelvin called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Councilman Wayne Ardoin led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.

3. Roll Call: Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune and Lynn Lejeune. Ex-Officio Jerry Red Jr. ABSENT: Dexter Brown.

4. Person to address the Committee:
• There was no one to address the council.

5. Parish President & Finance Report:

• Approval to advertise for four Committee Members to serve on the St. Landry Parish Planning Commission Board and list the qualifications in the advertisement. Sec. 36-6 Minimum Qualifications.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Last month we approved a Planning Commission. The next move is to post for the Board Members. One member is recommended by SLED and the other four is appointed by the council. I am asking the council to start the advertisement for the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for four appointments to the St. Landry Planning Commission.

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

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot stated, "In your packet is a request for demolition of a property on Napoleon Street. Parcel #0103669500. The primary owner is Danita Auzenne Ricard, ETAL. I put a time line according to the actions. On May 9, 2023 I went out and inspected the property. On May 16, 2023 a property violation letter was sent via certified mail and U.S. Regular mail. The letter was signed and received by Ms. Danita Ricard on May 19, 2023. One of her siblings contacted the office and said that he will start demolishing and cleaning up the property. He asked for a little time. I told him that we will give him 30 days. I asked him to show us progress that he is making to clean up the property. I went back out and nothing was done to the property. It is a big eye sore. We did a compliance check On June 12, 2023 and the property is still in the same condition. On August 9, 2023 I went and place a sign stating that the property was in violation of the Code of Ordinance. It has not been brought up to code and at this time we are asking for authorization to go ahead and get some quotes to demolish the property."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Mr. Duplechain, have you looked over the particulars to make sure that we are in compliance?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "I have the certified letter here. A notice was sent and the time line have come and gone. The next thing is to demolish the house."

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot stated, "Yes Sir. I have photographs attached. It is a shed. The son of the original property owner stated that his father would work on cars. It is like a house/shed and it is halfway torn down as you can see on the photographs that is attached."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "In reference to this item the next move is for you all to authorize the council clerk to send out registered letters to the constituent asking them to come before you all at a regular council meeting to show just cause why we should not demolish their property. We have to do one more round of certified letters stating that they have to come before the council."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "That is correct. A certified letter is sent by certified mail. A copy is recorded with the Clerk of Court. The person will either answer or not answer. They will be given the opportunity to come before the council. The council will authorize going forward if they want to demolish the house. Usually the

Council Clerk and I get together and make sure that it is mailed and given the right address on the certified letter. After the required amount of time goes by the certificate of mailing and a copy of the letter is recorded with the Clerk of Court. It is then forwarded to the council meeting authorizing demolition of the house. I recommend that we go forward with it.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned if the property was vacant.

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot stated, “The property is vacant. It is the front side that needs to be demolished. It sits on the corner of Hwy 190 and Napoleon Street.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned the timeline to clear up the property near Super Loop in District 1.”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot stated, “I did meet with a vendor this week. They came and cut the grass in the front. They did not realize that the property goes all the way to Lofton. I went all around the property to show her the size of the property and what needs to be done. They will be getting back with me in about two weeks.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “On the back side of the Lofton Property they have some rotten trees. Many of the branches are falling and some of the kids walk to school in that area. Just for safety of the public we want to make sure that is taken care of.”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot stated, “I did stress that to them. It is a mortgage company out of Texas. I did talk to the contact person and stressed that it is near a school and it is dangerous. The will get back to me in about two weeks.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 to authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to Ms. Danita Auzenne Ricard, ETAL who owns the property on Napoleon Street, Opelousas, Parcel #0103669500 authorizing her to come to the next full council meeting to address the council to show just cause why her property should not be demolished.

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

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, “When will the council receive a copy of the budget?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Before October 1st, 2023.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “Can you give us an update on the Audit Report?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They will come for the September Full Council Meeting. I will check back with them tomorrow but that is their plans.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to accept the Parish President & Finance Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune and Lynn Lejeune.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Dexter Brown. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

6. Authorize Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign a Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Southside Caregiver’s Inc. Community Outreach Program in the amount of \$5,000.00

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Chairwoman Lynn Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 to authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign a Disbursement of American Rescue

Plan Act Funds to Southside Caregiver's Inc. Community Outreach Program in the amount of \$5,000.00.

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

Motion forwarded.

7. Forward to Full Council RESOLUTION No. 026-2023.

A Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for a grant under any of the following FTA Programs managed through Louisiana Department of Transportation Development.

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "What is the FTA?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That is for the Community Action Agency. That is their Transportation Van that they give us to utilize their programs."

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 RESOLUTION 026-2023.

A Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for a grant under any of the following FTA Programs managed through Louisiana Department of Transportation Development.

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

Motion forwarded.

8. Forward to Full Council RESOLUTION NO. 027-2023.

Whereas, there are documents and requests that St. Landry Parish Government needs to sign regarding Capital Outlay Projects administered through Facility Planning and Control Division of Administration.

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "Could you explain Capital Outlay Project "50-J49-23-01.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "This program is for \$1,000,000.00 that we received

for roads in District 8, Domengeaux Road and Chris Road."

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "Did we receive the permits from the Core and every one else to do this project?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No we have not even started the process. We have to get this done and then it starts the process. This will be just an overlay project."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "So what you are asking is for permission to get the money?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes, that is correct. We will have to sign a CEA if I am not mistaken."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "What happens if we don't get the permit to do the project?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "This is just an overlay project for roads in District 8, Domengeaux Road and Chris Road."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Mr. Bellard can you explain that again. Was it done for District 8 only?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That is some Capital Outlay Money that was in the state this year. It was earmarked for Domengeaux Road and Chris Road.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “We have 13 Districts. We could not have asked for any other Districts except District 8? Was that the only two roads that we saw where it was needed?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That is not what was needed, that is what was given.”

They gave us \$1,000,000.00 and it came from the State.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor

to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023

RESOLUTION

027-2023.

Whereas, there are documents and requests that St. Landry Parish Government needs to sign regarding Capital Outlay Projects administered through Facility Planning and Control Division of Administration.

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

Motion forwarded.

9. Update on the Class Action Lawsuit for the Billing of Insulin. (Garett Duplechain)

Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “At the last meeting the council voted for me to see if there was a local law firm that specializes in this class action lawsuit regarding Insulin Manufactured. I did find a local law firm who was interested in representing the Parish Government in this class action lawsuit. I am in contact with that law firm and I am working with them right now.”

Chairman Jerry Red questioned, “Who is the law firm?”

Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “Morrow, Morrow, Ryan & Basset.”

10. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments for a one year term to Fire District No. 7. (11-18-2022-11-18-2023).

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointment for a one year term to Fire District No. 7. (11-18-2022 – 11-18-2023).

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

Motion forwarded.

11. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments for a four year term to East St. Landry Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1. (11-18-2019 – 11-18-2023).

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointment for a four year term to East St. Landry Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1. (11-18-2019 – 11-18-2023).

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

Motion forwarded.

12. Discuss the proposal for a salary increase for the Council Clerks.
(Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I will ask that this item be tabled until we get our budget so we will know where we are at on travel and everything else in our council."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I prepared something that we need to keep at the forefront of our minds. On April 5th, 2023 Ms. Vivian Olivier made a motion and it was seconded by Mr. Taylor to forward to the regular meeting to gather information from the neighboring parishes on their salaries of their clerks. On April 19th, 2023 copies were e-mailed and placed on each one of our desk. During this meeting on April 19, 2023 it was stated that there was no ordinance for salaries in place for the clerks. A motion was made by Mr. Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Mr. Clavier to forward to the next committee meeting on May 3rd, the data of an old ordinance regarding the salaries for the council clerks and the data was presented. On May 3rd, 2023 Mr. Ardoin stated that he will ask that we amend our ordinance so that we can put the money into the budget so we can go ahead and give the clerks a raise. Ms. Vivian Olivier made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. Easton Shelvin. On May 17th, 2023 an introduction of a budget with a salary was included. On June 21st, 2023 Ordinance No. 2023-011 was pulled until the main budget is adopted. The main budget was adopted and signed on June 21st, 2023. It was placed back on introduction on June 16th, 2023. It seems like we are going around in circles. We have been dealing with this since April. It is time for us to come to a decision and some type of conclusion as to what we are going to do. If I was a council secretary I would have resigned by now. It makes me feel like my services are not really being appreciated. I feel these two ladies go above and beyond their call of duty. I am at a point where whatever we can legally give them at this point I am ready to stand behind it. We have been playing with this for a long time."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I respect Ms. Thierry's statements. I want to bring the budget forward. When we will give the raises to these two young ladies it will be retroactive from the time that we first discussed it. I am not against giving them a raise. All I am saying is that we need to look at the budget. How much money we will have in our budget for the council and for the clerks. We need to look at the budget. That is why it is being delayed until we get our budget. When will we get our budget Mr. Bellard?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "You will get the budget later on this month. I would not say that you all will retroactive anybody's pay. You all did not agree to anything. We have an increase in the budget that you all asked for in 2023. It is in there already. I think what will end up happening and I will not talk for these ladies but I am like Ms. Thierry, I don't think that you all realize what you all have and what you all pay them. What will end up happening is that they may end up leaving and you will have to pay someone else more money to come in who knows a lot less than what they know. You can't pay for experience and you can't pay for the knowledge and have a new person come on. I think that you all have been tossing that can around like Ms. Thierry said. It is in the budget already. My recommendation, and they are your people, but do what you all have to do. It is in the budget."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I still stand by my motion. Let the budget be brought forward and we will see about giving them their raise but I am not on the Finance Committee. I had ask to give them a raise before. When I brought it up about the dollar amount I got shot down. Now I want to look at the dollar amount that we have. I am not against giving them a raise. I would love to see them get a raise."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I make a motion that we give them \$2.00 an hour raise. Do we have enough in the budget to cover that Mr. Bellard?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes, Sir."

Councilwoman Vivian Oliver stated, "I second that. I think that is what we should do. We have been playing around with this long enough."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Are you looking for a point of Parliamentary Procedure? The author of the motion withdrew the motion and it means that it is dead

until he brings it up again. Unless someone else wants to put it on the agenda for the next meeting to take action.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Ardoin is not on the Finance Committee.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “He is not on our committee but he is the author. Mr. Bellard if you want to be our Parliamentarian I am fine with that.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am just making sure that we don’t mess up to bad and lose two good people.”

Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “I started it and it flunked because nobody wanted to give them a raise. What they wanted to do was give them twenty-five cents. I would walk out myself if somebody offered me twenty-five cents.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is on the Finance Committee Agenda. A motion was made and it was seconded.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “It is a Committee Meeting. It can become item #15 on the Agenda. On Committee you can add things on the agenda to forward to the full council. If we don’t take a vote on it now we will take a vote on it at item #15.”

13. Discuss future plans for employment with Parish Government.
(Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune).

Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune stated, “I would like to pull this item off of the agenda.”

14. A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Oliver to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 to authorize giving the two council clerks each a \$2.00 raise.

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

15. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.
None.

16. Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to adjourn the Administrative/Finance Committee Meeting.

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

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 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, Wayne Ardoin and Jimmie Edwards. Ex-Officio Jerry Red Jr. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly.

3. Person to address the Committee:

4. Public Works Report:

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, “For August our department Boom Axe 20 roads, culvert cleaned 16 roads, culvert insulation to 16 roads, ditching on 7 roads, flushed culverts to 11 roads and graded 35 roads. Spread material on 9 roads, patched 30 roads, shoulder repair on one (Country Ridge) will come back and fill smaller parts, sign installation 56 roads, shredding 34 roads, and 9 washouts.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the Public Works Report.

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

Motion carried.

5. Forward to Regular Meeting all applications received 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 Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday September 20th, 2023 all applications received for one appointment for a five year term to St. Landry Parish Housing Authority. (10-1-2023 – 10-17-2028).

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

Motion forwarded.

6. Authorize the approval of the Newly Proposed 285’ Telecommunication Cell Tower located near US HWY 167, Opelousas, LA Parcel #0500868500

Chip Lions (201 St. Charles Ave. New Orleans, La) addressed the council, “I’m here on behalf of vertical bridge which is the applicant for the tower permit. I can provide you quickly with some information with the need of the tower and answer any questions committee members may have at this time. The tower is located off Hwy 49 near the intersection of Hwy 157; it sits back about 700 ft. from the road. No structures near the tower so we believe it is in a safe location and will provide additional cell phone coverage for the area. The tower is indicated as 285 ft. high, it is referred to as a soft support 3-sided tower to have necessary structure for tower of that height. It meets all local standards and code requirements we do not need any waivers. In the unlikely event of some type of structural issue, the tower is designed to essentially collapse on itself so it would not affect any adjoining properties. The applicant Vertical Bridge is a contraction company and they work similar to a landlord. The anchor tenant on this tower is T-Mobile but it will have room for two additional tenants on it. It meets all the criteria in the Ordinance we do not need any waiver or variances.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I have two questions one is jobs. Locally will you be employing any people to participate in building this tower?”

Chip Lions stated, “The contractors that builds it would have to be licensed in Louisiana. If we get zoning approval then it would get bid out to different contractors within Louisiana.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “My second question is as far as the parish benefiting as for as finances how would that help the parish.”

Chip Lions stated, “The tower is being built near I-49 but it’s on private property. It is a lease from a private landowner. If another carrier come on then they would apply for a permit from the parish and pay permit fees. The value of the tower is taxed because that is a property tax once the assessor does tax roll.”

Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune stated, “I didn’t see in the package an ANS was that done.”

Chip Lions stated, “Termination of no hazard to navigation issued by the FAA because of the tower height which is 285. FAA height limit requiring tower lighting is 200. The tower would have dual function lights so during the day it would have white lights and at

night it would be red lights which creates less potential disturbance to others so yes FAA has reviewed this and they don't have any issues with it."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Do you have a decommissioning clause in the lease with the landowner."

Chip Lions stated, "There is a decommissioning requirement in the parish Ordinance saying if you haven't used it in a certain amount of time the tower has to come down or the parish has the right to bring it down. Generally speaking, the leases with the landowners would require removal of the tower upon the expiration of the lease because the tower company does not want to leave it there because it is a liability."

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edward, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 to authorize the approval of the Newly Proposed 285' Telecommunication Cell Tower located near US HWY 167, Opelousas, LA Parcel #0500868500.

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

7. Discuss Handicap Parking on the Courthouse Square. (Chairman Jerry Red Jr.)

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "I brought this on the agenda because I have a constituent in my district that is handicap and when she's doing business at the courthouse they can't find a place to park. I know we just newly renovated the courthouse and have some areas to go in the back area."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That's not for the public. Those spots are for employees that are handicap. The front of the courthouse has handicap parking on Court Street. The handicap ramp is in front on the side."

8. Status on Bayou Carron and Bayou Mallet. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Mr. Bellard, I would just like an update on that I know the funds supposed to be in do you know if they have actually started the cleaning of these bayous."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No mam the core engineers are holding up the project. They are worried about birds and trees but we are in the process of getting a plan together with the engineers,"

9. Update on Broadband. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Can you bring us up to date on that."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They are laying down lines throughout the parish right now. Different companies that are through the MTIA, Gumbo, and other grants that came through the state. Ride down the roads you will see companies that are subcontractors putting lines down you will not see Charter or LUS. I was told people around the Eunice area another six months before it's actually completed."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "What about the rural area the Plaisance, Grand Prairie, and Frilot Cove area."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They all should be the same time. Its different companies doing the work now but the money did come down from the state and MTIA."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "So Mr. Bellard you are stating by the beginning of year 2024 the whole parish."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Not the whole parish but everything that was included in the MTIA grant and the Gumbo grant with the state which is a lot of it but not the entire parish."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "My reason for asking that is because I understand that the Covid numbers have started rising back again and I'm concerned about that in case the kids go back to at home learning. Working from home, we want to make sure everyone have access to the internet."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "What I am being told by contractors it will be first of the year before they start seeing the live streaming."

10. Update on the Smooth Ride Home Project. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I thought it was necessary to bring this up because I been hearing a lot of conversation about the Smooth Ride Home. Some saying as if when the previous administration came they said every public road in the parish would be paved. I try to explain to them this is a 15 year plan and we still have about 4 or 5 years left in the plan."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We still have until year 2029."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I just thought that maybe it needed to be mentioned."

11. Update stripping and Reflectors on Jules Lagrange and Oscar Rivette Road. (Councilman Alvin Stelly).

Barry Soileau stated, "I was contacted by a lady who lives there so I took the liberty of contacting a company who does it and for one mile of just stripping it will cost \$15,000.00 and that's without the reflectors. Another issue is the width of the road; I do not think we can. We can possibly put strip on the side but not in the middle of the road."

12. Readdress the Shoulders of Country Ridge Road. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Thank you it was addressed in Mr. Barry Soileau report for what you have did and try to get the rest of it done."

13. Request Tori Logan Road be put on the list to dig ditches. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Barry Soileau stated, "When we went to dig ditches the contractor had got there prior to us. Now we have to wait for that road to cure in order to put excavators on that road and destroy it."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Tori Logan been overlaid about 3 years now."

Barry Soileau stated, "I stand corrected I will check on it in the morning."

14. Discuss letters that were sent out by Mr. Bellard to all Council Members of their duties. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I am here to get something straight. I know sometimes I come on pretty strong but I been here a long time and out of all due respect to you Mr. Jessie Bellard that letter that was sent to me on August 22, 2023 and sent to every one of the Council members a copy of the letter. Mrs. Vivian you did not get a copy of it. Mr. Shelvin you stated to me you did not get a copy of it. It goes back to what I look at as a Council member. We have a Judiciary responsibility when a constituent calls us with a complaint that we go and see about their complaint and turn it over to the public works department or to your office Mr. Bellard. On the evening of the 21st, we had a meeting here and I told you that I received a complaint from Representative Dustin Miller about a gentleman having his issues on 113 Helen Garland Drive, Opelousas,

Louisiana where his patio was caving into the lateral that comes off Grant Road. This gentleman is Mr. Ernest Brooks that bought that house and been living there about ten years. The drainage board was contacted some years back and they stated it would cost too much money to fix that lateral in reference to his problem. Dustin spoke to that gentleman over the weekend and he called me and asked that I would go look at that gentleman problem and I stated to you that evening Mr. Bellard that I would go look at that problem. I did meet up with Mr. Brooks that evening and gave him a contact of Mr. Mitch Wyble who is on the drainage board in that area. Mitch stated he would be glad to go over there and look at the situation but if they do any work there they would have to address everybody situation over there because you have some neighbors over there Dale Vidrine, Greg Ardoin, Larry Quebedeaux, Scott Ploxy they all have issues. Mr. Bellard you took photos with that same drainage board where we put some rocks along Tillou Andrus Drive to keep some caving in from going on with that road way. I have no ill feelings towards you on this matter right here, it's just that when a constituent going to call me in District 9 or in this parish I will try to put them in the right direction whether it be with your office, Mr. Soileau, or if it's to deal with the State. The other day I had a lady call me about a tree that was leaning on Highway 182 where two people got killed some years back a tree fell on their car and killed them. A lady by the name of Ms. Carol stated can you look at those trees on Hwy 182 one of them are leaning and ready to fall on the road. Mr. Soileau got a call from me that same day because why that tree would have fallen and my duty was to help someone that tree would have fallen on their car and killed them. When people call me I will go see about them and turn it over to whomever it needs to be turned over to. I just think as a leader you could have said Wayne let's go look at this situation. I'm finished with that but like I said when people call me I will go look at it because I have a duty to turn it over to you but I will go look at it cause I live in that area. Thank you."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "This is the issue. It is not the issue of any Councilman going look at an issue or doing anything with the constituent. What I am saying is nobody speaks for Parish Government but me or my employees. The Council do not have the authority to tell anyone that we will do something or not do something with certain situations such as that one. We will take care of that problem right there. It is more than just a canal and I promise you do not want to get involved in that conversation in this meeting. We will take care of that problem and make sure that man is made whole for the problems that put in place. You can rest assure it will be handled. It will be handled by Parish Government, if the drainage board if they do not want to deal with it that is up to them but my issue is nobody speaks for Parish Government besides the people that works here. Whether we do something or not do something that is a decision made by Parish Government not by the Parish Council that is what the letter is about. You can go see about your constituents all you want and turn it in to Public Works that's perfect but all I'm saying is don't speak on our behalf because we decide that."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "If you going to take care of that gentlemen than the rest will want to be taken care of too."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will take care of the issue at hand I can promise you that."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "Mr. Bellard I agree with you I called Mr. Barry this past week on a couple of issues and he took care of it. I had a constituent at a place I went to on Saturday complaining and I had to tell him it is the responsibility of the parish president or designee and then after it was taken care of this week he was appreciative. I think sometime the people just have to understand it is no longer a police juror system. It is a home rule charter and when I say home rule charter, it is taken care of by the parish president or his people in that place but at the same time, we have to have a working relationship. Parish Government and Parish Council getting things done for the people of the parish."

Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated, "I have called Mr. Soileau many times and he have gotten out done more than what he was supposed to do and I thank him. He have answered every call that I have ever asked him about."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I don't know what happened with all of your conversation but I will say this I too am very involved in my district and have people that call me and I go out and see it. I too refer them to the proper agency. Again, thank you Mr. Barry for all that you do but I do refer and go because they calling me first because they have a complaint and want me to see it. I never say I am going to take care of it or you going to take care of it. I say let me get the proper person. I don't know what all happen but I do go out and I do go see what the problem is if it's something simple then I do it if not I will refer it."

15. Further discuss Private Roads and Private Subdivisions. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I ask that this be placed back on the agenda in reference to Fleur Des Coteau.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We had an attorney look at it to see what would be our best route to take. Everybody knows here that it becomes an issue of public safety. With that approach I will send you all a copy of the opinion that I received from the attorney. At that point we can send it to our attorney for them to draft ordinances to make this happen. To put everything in context if the road and Fleur Des Coteau is the road that I gave them, if it is impassable because of the condition and an ambulance or a firetruck or a police cannot get down there then we can go and fix the road. Like we had talked about with the people who are living down there to pay for the material or whatever it may take. We can do it. We just got that opinion last week. What I will do is send it to you all. I will give it to Garrett and let them look at it and see if they agree with it then I think we will be on the right track."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "At this time Mr. Bellard, I want to tell you that road is in better shape than it has been in a long time. They have a couple of gentlemen that have taken it upon themselves to go with a tractor and a blade and they sort of turtle-backed it. It is in better shape. You don't have to go with a four-wheel drive truck anymore. At least it has come a little ways. I am trying to get them to sign over where they can get garbage collection. It is in better shape than it has ever been yet it is still considered a private road. They just need all the help that they can get. The garbage collection is really bad because they all have to come to the front."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That was one of the questions that was raised for the betterment of the parish to pick up the trash at the resident instead of at the end of the road."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "And get mail delivery at their house. When they brought that property and they signed over that property and received their title for that property it was not explained that they were considered as a private road and we could not give them any help at that time and no services at all. Like you stated before when we had a meeting there for the health and the welfare of those people and that is what that Home Rule Charter says."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Mr. Bellard, what is the status if a road comes up to par can we consider adopting it? If they all get together and get it all up to par can we consider adopting a private road?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "If they bring it up to the specifications that is required I don't have a problem with that."

Councilwoman Nancy Carrier stated, "Can I get a copy of that, I have also spoken to people on that road and that would be a good idea if they are willing to get it up to par. I would make it better being a public road."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We will get you a copy."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "While we are n Fleur Des Coteau, Mr. Bellard how about that easement that is in the back. What is the status on that?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The last we talked they did not want to dig it because it was not going to relief enough pressure because it would not connect to the road in front. They never did anything from that."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "They are all concerned. There is a lateral that is between the two areas."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have somebody that will go and dig it and they won't charge them anything but they did not see where it will get enough relief. I will get back with them."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Will you continue looking at it?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I definitely will. I will call them tomorrow."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "Mr. Bellard, while we are on that subject, private roads and private subdivisions and I believe everyone may have private roads and private subdivisions in their district and it is a major topic. When you don't have a school bus going down a road to pick up kids to go to school you can't receive your mail, the mail carrier can't travel down the road and your trash can be picked up because it is a private road and yet we have to realize that trash truck have several tons traveling down that road. In inclement weather the road will become a whole lot worse. We have to look at this because in order to get better we have to do better. I think the first step is the people the is living on that road regardless how we look at it they are living there and regardless of what they pay for the lot that they live on they may have paid a whole lot less than other but they would have to bring the roar up to par first before the parish can start assuming to take care of it. If the parish goes on that road and assume one thing it will become our responsibility."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will send you all the opinion that we asked for."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, "Mr. Bellard, if we service a road three times does it automatically become a parish road?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "No, it becomes a public road when the parish government takes it in. If the parish government does not take it in it is a private road. That is how it can go from private to public or public to private."

Chairman Jerry Red stated, "can you explain to us this: If we go and do work on a private road, whose responsibility is it then?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "If you do work on a private road it is your responsibility."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Hold on Mr. Duplechain. You just said if we work on it three times it is not our responsibility. Now you said if we do work on it one time it becomes our responsibility. Which one is it?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "It is the first one where it is not your responsibility. If it is taken in by the parish then it is a public road but if it is not taken in it is a private road. There is no way around that where it can become your responsibility."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "So it is best that we don't do anything on it until it becomes our responsibility?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The only thing is that I will look at that opinion and I will see if it leads where if that road becomes threatening of life, health or property that could open the door where work can be done. It is not going to transform it into a public road but it can be a way where for a public purpose to protect property, life or health. Parish Government may be able to go into that private property and do some work on it. It does not transform it into a public road but that opinion which we will look

at and we will have to go over and look at it and it may be a way for parish government to go in and perform the work on a private road.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “That is a vague statement Mr. Duplechain.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “We have an intergovernmental agreement with the city. Would this be like that they are footing the bill.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is my understanding that there is some type of agreement between the parish and the landowners who own the land and it would be their expense like we are doing with the city.”

16. Discuss appointing members for the removal of the Statue.
(Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).

Mr. Tommy Dejean addressed the council. He stated, “My two cents on the roads is this; go and see what Acadia Parish or St. Tammany Parish does. They have a big rural parish that is having phenomenal growth. They have encountered the same problem time and time again. Getting back to the issue at hand. I was told to get three members from the organization I represent, which I did. They selected me, David Richard and Link Savoie. Another issue has come up about the monument. I want you all to be mindful about this. That monument was built in 1920. From 1917 to 1919 the United States was involved in World War 1, a very horrendous war and none of us has ever look at the purpose that is behind that monument. On two or three sides, it has some names but on the front, it has the purpose and I will read it.

The principal of our forefathers and the hero’s in gray consummated by our young hero’s in grey consummated by our young hero is 1917 to 1919. So that monument went up there for two reasons. It went up for the confederate soldiers but it also went up there for the World War 1 soldiers. Someone from that group needs to have a say on that. I can ask Link Savoie who is an eminent veteran to take that task. I do not want to give up my three positions on this committee. That is all I have to say.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “The only reason why I have it on the agenda is because Mr. Ardoin made a motion to select three councilmembers. I wanted to have that suggestion changed. I wanted to select three people that are not councilmembers. That was the main thing. I know it will be very hard for them to give an opinion and be involved. This is where we have been having problems. I have three public people that are involved and they are interested in serving on this.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr, stated, “Mr. Dejean, can you give her the names of three members that you have selected.”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, “Mr. David Richard, Mr. Link Savoie and myself. My concern is that someone needs to represent the World War 1 Veterans on this thing.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I will give him the names but I have to confer again with my three. I wanted to get it straight first that I can do three people.”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, “Can I ask how this committee is supposed to operate? Are these 6 people suppose to meet and come up with an opinion?”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Once she has her three names then you all will have six people and you all will form a meeting and that will start the process.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Dejean has a good point. Do you have anybody that will represent the VFW?”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, “I can ask Link to do it. He would be the perfect guy. I would ask someone from the VFW to represent the World War 1 Veterans. Link is already one of the three that we have selected.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Are you satisfied with that Mr. Dejean?”

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, "Whatever we are supposed to do with six of us having to make that decision.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Actually it should be seven people. You will always end up in a tie with six people."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Ms. Nancy are you in agreeance with that? They get someone from the VFW to represent the World War 1 people and bring his three people on board and then we will have seven people. We will have a 7-member committee. It is time to move on with this. I will offer it as a motion that Mr. Dejean find someone from the VFW."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I will find someone from the VFW. I know plenty of people. It will be a seven-member board. The ball is in my court. I will find four people. He has his three and it is done."

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, "I will look for a veteran too."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "You have Mr. Link Savoie. That is one of your choices and he is a veteran."

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, "That is correct, he is a veteran. Let him represent me and I will pick three from my group."

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

Mr. Tommy Dejean stated, "If you want Link Savoie to be it. I think everybody here would agree that Link Savoie is the most renowned veteran that we have in the parish. I can allow him. He can be the Veteran for the World War Group and let me pick my three."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Mr. Dejean, we are being cordial. You asked for Mr. Link Savoie. You have Mr. David Richard. You have great people there and Ms. Nancy have three people. If she chooses one more that will be seven people. Let's come to a common ground and move forward."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I will offer a motion that we have seven people. You will have an odd number where they will be able to come and they will be able to vote. It is time to move own. If Mr. Dejean wants to use Mr. Link Savoie as World War representative and Mr. Dejean comes up with three names and Ms. Nancy has her three names."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Mr. Ardoin, this is fine what you are saying. Leave his three, leave her three, and let the council select one more. Then there will be seven people. Let the council select a VFW Member. Then that will make the seven."

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 to authorize Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to select three people and authorize Mr. Tommy Dejean select three people and the council select one person to form a committee to discuss the faith of the statue.

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

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

17. Discuss any other business brought before this committee.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Bellard, you had stated about 3 or 4 months ago that you were going to look at overlaying Suzanne Dejean Dr. Can you still possibly move on that?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I have made this comment before and I will make it again in the public meeting. We have gravel roads that is in district 9 that have never been done. I went and ride on Suzanne Dejean Road and that road is passable. It is great and there is nothing wrong with it. I do not see where we are going to do this right now. People are paying taxes the same as everyone else. We are going to do it but I am not going to submit to doing it right now. We still have roads that needs to be done that have never been blacktopped in that same district and I stand by that. If people on Suzanne Dejean Road have a question, they can call me and I will be more than glad to go and sit with them. They have to understand and I don't think that there are too many people on Suzanne Dejean Road that is asking that question."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "You have a group of them that are asking where those old speed bumps are it is sinking."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We can cut those out and put some new asphalt. But to re-do the whole road again is expensive."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Yes, I totally agree, you are looking at a big price tag. That is one of their biggest complaints. The other complaint is this: Why do they have gravel in their driveways, I am talking about the old ground up asphalt, and in Magnolia Ridge, and they do not have that. I told them it is because all of the heat that we have been having, that is why that asphalt is starting to peel off of that concrete because it is so hot. Can you please try to address those old speed bumps?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We can look at that and cut those out and put some new asphalt but the road is in good shape. The people in that district that have a gravel road is paying that same millage. We have two roads left with gravel roads in District 9."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "You did Tom Schexnayder, you did Lane Drive and you did Fusilier Road. That is all that you really have."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "There is a couple of more roads."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Tatman Lane is gravel but it is not in the road district."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "There are a couple of roads that Precious gave us about two months ago. As soon as everything gets done I promise you we are going to do it. We did Aspen Lane the other day because it is going to save that road. It was an asphalt road. But to do Suzanne Dejean Road will cost a fortune."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I have 4 questions. Mr. Bellard a while back I spoke to you about money to fix houses. There were some other parishes that had gotten money to help the landowners to fix their houses so they won't become adjudicated. Do you have any information on that?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That was in Iberia Parish. The program from what I remember was not what it seemed to be, not as easy. St. Mary Parish have a program that we are trying to bring back here to our parish that is kind of the same."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, "We talk about Broadband a lot. I am just curious to know what percentage have been done because in my area a lot have been done."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "There is a website. I will get you that information. It will not be up to date as of this week or nothing but it will give you a good broad look at what has been done and what is in the process of being done. We will get that to you all."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, "I know that we have a burn ban here in St. Landry Parish but in Lafayette Parish they started a watering thing. Do we have that here? Does the burn ban include any open fire pits because I see people barbecuing."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The burn ban is no open fire. It is not recommended that you barbecue and it is not that you cannot. All we are saying, and that is coming from the State Fire Marshal is that if you do barbecue and it gets out of hand you will be liable for any damage that it may cause and you may be cited. We are not saying that you cannot barbecue. As long as it is not on the ground."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, "On Hwy 31 they did a lot of cleaning up on the left side coming across from Fleur Des Coteau. Can you give me updates on that area? I was concerned about construction."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "It will be the drainage board. They installed a culvert, which was purchased by Mr. Ken Fakori. They had removed his culvert out of that canal because it was too small and he was blocking the water. That is the project that is going on."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned. On the Creswell Lane Extension which is in my district. I see they have one camper that is next to the camper site that is already up there before you get to the caution light. I was just curious to know if that is going to be another camp area or camp ground."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I am not aware of anyone getting a permit for another camp ground but I can find out in the morning."

Councilwoman Nancy Carrier stated, "On Ranch Road, you and I spoke about that before Mr. Barry. At the end of Ranch Road, we talked about the sewage. We did not know if they had a permit because it seems like they added some more campers. I just want to make sure that it is properly done."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will find out in the morning. I do not think anybody pulled a permit for that for another campground or anything. I will find out."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I asked Ms. Sherell and Ms. Karen if they had any information on Shawnee Farms. Was it done by Resolution or Ordinance?"

Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, "It was not done by either. It as an act of dedication restrictive conversance, which I have here. It has to be signed and this copy was not signed, maybe it was. It has to be recorded with Clerk of Court. Maybe it was but it is this subdivision responsibility to enforce their dedication for restrictive conversance. There are 37 of them. They range from not putting a basketball goal near your driveway to your yard being too big and not parking a car in your front yard, your garage have to be facing the right direction. Maybe they have a HOA, maybe it is not funded which is why they are asking local government to enforce it which is really not what local government does. Local Government is exactly tuned and built for drainage, sewage, water, fire stations, and road. They are not built to make you move your basketball goal somewhere else. That is why we cannot be the HOA. It is perfectly a niece subdivision in St. Landry Parish but maybe they cannot fund a HOA to file lawsuits. It is really not what local government does. If you have 20 people violating the HOA in this subdivision and you try to force them to file a lawsuit then you will have all the other subdivisions. Do you pick out the special subdivisions where you enforce their restrictions or do you do it for every subdivision in St. Landry Parish? What Parish Government can do: We can do sewerage and water and roads and fire district things like that. We have a special taxing district that is what we do. That is really, what parish government looks at. They don't really look at whether your garage is facing the right direction."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry thanked Ms. Cynthia Fontenot and Mr. Barry Soileau for all that they do to assist her and her constituents."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned the Truancy Program. He questioned if there is anything that will be toward the parish on this issue?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Once the School Board does everything that it can and they get to the end of what they can do administratively then they will ask us to step in and help on the criminal side and push the issue so we won't have these kids skipping school. On our part basically the investigators that we have, one of them is certified to do everything and that is Mr. Spencer Cornet. Whenever he gets the call, he will go and do his part and do the reports. Hopefully he will not have to arrest anyone but if need be that is as far as we will go with it. He will be working with the school board only on cases that are brought to our attention. The school system will do everything that it has to do. We don't get involved until they have done everything that they can."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned, "Do we need to put something toward the budget on that matter?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No, we are good."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Usually the sheriff handle the truancy. Will you go before the sheriff or will you go in conjunction with the sheriff Department and isn't Mr. Cornett handling the animals?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They are both handling animals and our ordinances that we have in place now. That is who is giving out citations for the burn ban. They are doing all of the enforcements side of our ordinances. The problem in the parish now is that everybody is short of manpower. The city of Eunice is short. Opelousas has a person that takes care of truancy but that is the only one. The rest of the parish is left with nobody. The Sheriff and I talked about it and we will use Spencer. He is already trained to do that and help us with that problem."

Councilwoman Nancy Carrier stated, "Will he help in line after the School Board and after the Sheriff? I am just trying to understand."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated. Spencer will be the next person to address the issue from the School Board. It will not go to the Sheriff's Office it will come to our office."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned if Spencer will give out citations to the parents or will he pick up children."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "He will do the investigation and whatever determine the cause. The end result if that we don't want to put nobody in jail. We want to try to get them in school. The last resort is to put someone in jail. When they get to a dead end that is when they will call us."

18. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adjourn the Public Works Committee.

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

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

Motion carried.

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

XIII. ADJOURN