**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 5th, 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.

1. Councilwoman Nancy Carriere led the Pledge and Invocation
2. **Roll Call:** Nancy Carriere,Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin and

Jimmie Edwards. **Ex-Officio Jerry Red Jr**. **ABSENT**: None.

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

***Mr. Thomas Dejean addressed the council.*** He gave the council an update on what is going

on with the monument. He stated he found Mr. Mike Baskin to come and look at the monument. He is an expert and he is from Georgia. Mr. Baskin stated the statue is composed of forty-one pieces, it is hand carved and very delicate. It will have to be removed by layers. It will take Mr. Baskin a couple of days to dismantle it and reassemble it but he is awaiting his bid. Mr. Dejean stated payment discussions will have to be made because he has paid $997.00 for Mr. Baskin to come down and he has paid $1,000.00 in consulting fees. Mr. Dejean stated there have been three monuments that have been moved in the state of Louisiana and seven that have not been moved and every case where the monuments have been moved the governing body paid for the monuments to be moved. He stated this monument was put up in 1920. In 1909 the parish police jury selected the St. Landry Clarion to be the Official Journal for the Parish of St. Landry. In 1910 the local Confederate Veterans Association asked the police jury to donate the north east corner for the erection of that monument. On June 11, 1910 there was a motion by Mr. Durio who was a member of the board. The motion was that the petition of the R. E. Lee, United Confederate Veterans Camp No. 14 asking that a plot of ground 20 feet in diameter on the north east corner of the courthouse square be donated and set aside for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of General Mouton be received and granted, motion carried. In 1910 that corner was donated to put that monument up and it has not been un-donated. Before we spend a lot of money to move that monument we need to find out who owns that corner. Maybe your attorney can research this. Maybe we can file a lawsuit or get a declaratory judgement on who owns that monument.

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “How long has it been since those people were suppose to come?

***Mr. Thomas Dejean stated***, “It has been since the last meeting. After mother’s day he was suppose to come but his daughter was hospitalized so he had to postpone. I need your cell number so I can keep you updated. I have been updating Jessie on what is going on.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “***You could have gotten my number from the council clerk but we as the council in 2022 made a decision. I am asking the council what we need to do about this. We did have someone that wanted to take the statue.”

***Mr. Thomas Dejean stated,*** “The Sons of the Confederate Veterans will take it if it has to be moved. I am here representing them. We are the ones doing the research and looking for someone to move it.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “For the last year and one half it has been the same thing. We made a decision and it has not been moved. Can Mr. Bellard respond to this?”

***Councilman Alvin Stelly stated***, “If it was donated it is not ours to give away. That is my concern. If it is ours then we will have to see. If it was donated like I hope it was it is not ours to give.”

***Mr. Thomas Dejean stated***, “The only evidence that we have is the minutes that are reflected.”

***Councilman Coby Clavier stated***, “I remember that Mr. Charles Cravins had mentioned that he would pay for the removal.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “It was Mr. Cobb Bellard.”

***Mr. Earlest Savoy addressed the council***. He stated, “I wanted updates on the Subdivision

on Marks Road and the drainage system. He stated the ditches needs to be dug on Marks Road. When it rains it floods.”

***Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated***, “I will go and look at it tomorrow and I will send my drainage guy. I will take care of it.”

1. **Public Works Report:**

***Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, “***We have grated 84 roads in June, shredded 32 roads, patched 36 roads and installed 17 driveways. We have ditched 14 roads and removed piles of debris. We placed material on 16 roads and boom-axed 17 roads. We put up 6 signs and cleaned out culverts and repaired 3 washouts.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the Public Works Report.

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

**Motion carried.**

1. **Forward to Regular Meeting all applications received for three appointments for a**

**four-year term to Lawtell Water District No. 1. (08-12-2023 – 08-12-2027).**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, July 19th, 2023** all applications received for three appointments to Lawtell Water District No. 1. (08-12-2023 - 08-12-2027).

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Forward to Regular Meeting all applications received for two appointments for a four-year term to Faquetaique Gravity Drainage District No. 1. (08-19-2023 – 08-19-2027).**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, July 19th, 2023** all applications received for two appointments for a four-year term to Faquetaique Gravity Drainage District No. 1. (08-19-2023 – 08-19-2027).

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Forward to Regular Meeting all applications received for one appointment for the remainder of a four-year term to Ward 3 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1. (12-21-2020 – 12-21-2024).**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, July 19th, 2023 all applications received for one appointment for the remainder of a four-year term to Ward 3 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1. (12-21-2020 – 12-21-2024).

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Forward to Regular Meeting Resolution No. 022-2023**

A Resolution requesting the US Corp of Engineers, Teche-Vermilion fresh Water District,

St. Martin Parish Government to accommodate Drainage and Retention in Preparation for Excessive Rainfall in the Teche-Vermilion Watershed.

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, July 19th, 2023** to Adopt **Resolution No. 022-2023**.

A Resolution requesting the US Corp of Engineers, Teche-Vermilion fresh Water District,

St. Martin Parish Government to accommodate Drainage and Retention in Preparation for Excessive Rainfall in the Teche-Vermilion Watershed.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Fire District No. 7**

**for a one year term. (09-19-2023 – 09-19-2024).**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, July 19th, 2023** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for a one-year term to Fire District No. 7.

(09-19-2023 – 09-19-2024).

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Update on the removal of the Statue. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).**

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere*** questioned the wishes of the council for the removal of the statue. She ask that the council move forward for what they voted on.

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned*** “If we move forward for what we voted on is that saying that we are responsible for paying for it to be removed?”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “The daughters of the confederate stated they would pay for it because they have built a platform for it.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “You all donated it to the Sons of the Confederacy. It is not your statue anymore. According to Mr. Dejean the land was donated. Right now you all donated it back to them and we should not be touching it because it is not ours anymore. We will move it and we will do it peacefully and we will do it right but we can’t pay for it unless you all change the resolution. The liability rest upon me as the Parish President. You all did a Resolution instead of an Ordinance. I will not destroy property that has been there unless I get a clear answer from the attorney or get a judge to do a declaratory judgement.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, July 19th, 2023** to discuss the removal of the statue.

**On roll call vote:** **YEAS:** Jerry Red Jr., Nancy Carriere and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT**: None. **ABSTAINED**: Mildred Thierry.

***Votes Tied*.**

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “**Can you all make a motion to authorize Mr. Duplechain to do research on who owns the monument and present the findings to the council.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated*, “**I began research on this item this morning. I went to the Clerk of Court Conveyance Records to look for any kind of a transfer or donation of ownership of that plot of land on the courthouse square to the Sons of Confederate Veterans or the United Daughters of the Confederacy and I did not find any Conveyance conveying any land to them on the courthouse square or anywhere else. I did not find any Conveyance transferring ownership to them by Parish Government. I went to the Tax Assessor’s Office and the Tax Assessor’s Office does not have any Assessment of any land or plot of land owned by Sons of Confederate Veterans or United Daughters of the Confederacy. Every parcel of land in St. Landry Parish is listed with an owner in the Tax Assessor’s Office, local government or non-profit corporation or an individual and they don’t have any listing of land owned by Sons of Confederate Veterans or the United Daughters of the Confederacy, so there is no conveyance. Let’s say I was going to convey ownership of a piece of land to you, you and I have to sign a conveyance and it has to be recorded at the courthouse. I can decide to convey ownership of a piece of land to you all I want but until you and I sign a conveyance and record it I will remain the owner and I will get the property taxes every year and I am the only one that can place insurance on it. That is what I found this morning when I researched that plot of land on the courthouse square. I also researched it everywhere else in the parish and I found no conveyance in the Clerk of Courts or the Tax Assessor’s office showing a conveyance of ownership to the Sons of Confederate Veterans or the United Daughters of the Confederacy.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “So that means it was never donated.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “Right it was not donated. If it was donated you would have a private piece of property on the District Courthouse square and that is nothing wrong with that, you can have that but it would be very unusual. It is important information for the council and the government to know that they owned all of the courthouse square. If there was a piece of it that you did not own you would need to know that and it would have to be recorded in the courthouse. I looked at it this morning and it goes back to the 1800. Those records goes back to the 1800 and they come up to today and I did not find any conveyance of ownership to either of the organizations. The Tax Assessor’s Office does not have it either and the Tax Assessor’s Office maintain ownership records of every piece of property in the parish because you have to in order to access property. I will continue to look but there is really no other place to look unless you have the conveyance which would be about 100 years old. It does not appear that there is any conveyance conveying ownership of a piece of the courthouse square to someone.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “I stand at my motion. Let’s forward it to the full council.”

1. **Review plans on Crimpson Cove Subdivision-Hwy 182. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).**

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “I ask that this be brought up. It is a subdivision that this council let get started some years back on HWY 182. It would be about two miles pass Megan Drive. I was contacted by Mr. Jarrell. He has talked to the parties involved with this subdivision.”

***Mr. William Jarrell stated***, “Basically the subdivision was created in 2007. It was built and constructed with an asphalt roadway, water and electric. It was developed as private. It was developed before our subdivision ordinance that we have now and before you all passed the ‘***No Private’*** Subdivision. The developer was requesting to re-develop the lots into 60 feet frontage and 6000 square feet with a Community Sewer System in it, not individual plans and to keep the subdivision as private. We can provide the parish with asphalt and we would discuss a HOA and a private maintenance agreement for the parish. It would be noted on the plat if he did sell the lots that St. Landry Parish is not responsible for the roadway. We would still need to go through DHH approval to put our sewer plan in if we went with these size lots which is an approved lot in our ordinance to this date.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “I know we need to change the size of the lots. In the future we need to start looking at that.”

***Mr. William Jarrell stated***, I think the lot sizes are hooked up to a community sewer and that is what we are asking for approval for. We are asking to change it to those lots and keep the subdivision private since we do have the ordinance in place now for no private subdivision.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on ***Wednesday, July 19th, 2023*** to authorize the approval of the plans for the Crimpson Cove Subdivision – Hwy 182.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Check Audio System. (Councilwoman Wayne Ardoin).**

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “***Mr. Tom stated that he has checked out the system and we did have a little difficulty last meeting. The audio system was not working correctly and people could not hear the meeting.”

***Tom Nicholson, IT Director stated,*** “There was one setting that I needed to correct for Facebook. That is fixed up and there should not be any problems. Just make sure that everyone speaks in their microphones. That is all that we are asking.”

1. **Discuss changing the Speed Bump Ordinance.**

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated*, “**Last meeting I had evidence that the ordinance that we have in place presently is not very effective. I brought up the number of letters that had been mailed out and we did not receive 75% on none of the cases and that is like a waste of time. I am hoping that we could look at some other ordinances that would be more effective than the one that we have in place now and possibly come together as a council and make those necessary changes with the guidance of our legal advisor. I think that it was agreed upon at the last meeting that he would go and look at different ordinances and present them to the council so we could decide on which one we wanted to utilize.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “I could do that but I am going to assume that the change that the council would make would be: Instead of mailing the survey to the registered voters on that road it would have an option of mailing it or going house to house to do the survey. Is that the change the council would make? If that is it we could make that change to that ordinance. It could be introduced two weeks from now if that is what the council wants.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard questioned***, “Who will go from house to house?”

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated***, “In the past the old ordinance, whoever made that request they took that document and they went door to door in their neighborhood and they were the person responsible for getting the signatures. Once they got the signatures they would return it to their councilmember and their councilmember presented that document to public works and it was forwarded on with the procedures. That is the way it was done in the past.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “I would love it we did not place any speed bumps, especially on our new roads. All that does is put a whole in the road and the water get in it and it messes up our brand new roads. A speed bump study was done and it indicates that in between speed bumps they go faster than they would without the speed bumps.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “The way we normally do the speed bump ordinance, the councilmember normally goes and knock on the doors. The reason is because you want to make sure that you are getting everyone if they are for it or against it and not let the other person right down a person name. You want to make sure that you are getting everyone covered. I think that it is really important that every councilmember of that district for those people that want to have speed bumps that you and go and make sure that you cover every one on that road. It is really that councilmember responsibility and not the person that really want it.”

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune*** questioned if the list of signatures could be notarized before it is presented to the council?

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “You would have to have a notary going door to door. Some charge.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “I had an incident. I had a young lady and she has some young children that lives on Longwood Drive. She have already received 85% of the signatures. She will bring them to the Council Clerk. I think that would be better than sending out 200 letters and getting 40 of the letters back. So Ms. Thierry you will be the sponsor and you are asking that he make those changes.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, July 19th, 2023** to introduce an ordinance regarding changing the Speed Bump Ordinance to have the councilmember or the person requesting speed bumps to go door to door requesting signatures to have speed bumps placed on the road.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Update on the cleaning of Bayou Carron and Bayou Mallet.**

**(Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry*** asked Parish President Jessie Bellard for an update on the cleaning of Bayou Carron and Bayou Mallet.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “I cannot tell you a time line. It is in the hands of the Core of Engineers right now. It is dealing with the wetlands. We handed it to them six weeks ago for their permission to give us the next phase and we are waiting on them to do their part. The funds are in, it is not an issue about the funding it is the Core approving the project. We will mulch the banks and mulch all of the debris. They don’t want us to do that, they don’t want us to cover the banks so they are giving us some options and we are working with them now.”

1. **Update on Broad Band. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry*** asked Parish President Jessie Bellard for an update on the Broad Band.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***Same as last time, money is coming into the state through the GUMBO Program. We have our NTIA Grants and everything is moving along. It is working now and you will see people putting lines down. It will be up to Charter and Allen Cable and the providers to do their work at this point. The funds are available so it is just doing the work now. They have been working on this out of their own pocket for a while now but they will really focus on the area where they bided.”

1. **Update on the status of material to complete gravel roads especially in District 4. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated***, “I remember when we were told that we were having problem receiving material. I had some roads that had been on hold since October. Periodically I would check to see if it had been done. Some of these roads have been done since but I would like to know if we are getting more material to take care some of these roads in the parish.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “The material is available now. It is all done on a priority basis. We look at it to see if it is really needed at this time. Whenever a road needs to be done Mr. Soileau takes care of that. Not every road gets done immediately because the funds comes in monthly. We are two months behind from getting the state funds from the Racino and from the State. We are always working on two months of money that we did not receive. As the money becomes available we start buying more material to put on roads but if it is an emergency we take care of it sooner.”

1. **Preliminary and Final approval showing Marek Kopeiczek partition of a 12.918 acre tract lots 1-9 located on Marks Road, Opelousas, LA.**

**Mr. William Jarrell stated, “**This is what the gentleman brought up earlier about the roadside ditch needing to be cleaned. I got with Mr. Barry on that and we will take a look at it. That is the complaint that we received with the roadside drainage. We are trying to get that done or have a plan of action before the full council meeting.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, July 19th, 2023** to authorize the

Preliminary and Final approval showing Marek Kopeiczek partition of a 12.918 acre tract lots 1-9 located on Marks Road, Opelousas, LA.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

1. **Preliminary approval showing A & M Capital Ventures LLC re-subdivision of 6.295 acre tract lots 1-26 on Edgar Dr., located off LA HWY 182, Opelousas, LA**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

1. **Discuss any other business property brought before this committee**

***Councilman Dexter Brown stated***, “Mr. Soileau, did we cut the branches and the low hanging limbs on Richard Road off of HWY 357?”

***Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated***, “I will check on it and get back to you in the morning.”

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated***, “A few months ago there was a complaint about debris being thrown throughout the parish. Brandon Latchlois at 203 Cushman Road, Opelousas called in a complaint because there was a truck load of debris that was thrown such as furniture and a stove. Last night they unloaded another truck load of debris down there. We spoke about getting some type of camera system that can be temporarily installed in certain areas to try to catch some of this activity. Can you tell me, what is the status on the cameras?

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “We have cameras out at locations that we are not going to disclose. I can look at that area because we have a lot of repeat offenders that goes to these places and our investigators arrest them or cite them, whatever is needed to be done.”

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated***, “I will forward the address to you and Mr. Soileau.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “Mr. Soileau, on Patty Street and Acadiana Road they have a guy with a camper and they have some low branches when he is traveling with his camper the low branches are rubbing against his camper can we cut those branches back in that area?”

***Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated***, “Not a problem.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “**What is the status on Graham Road? I will call you tomorrow about Jennings Road. It was holding water.

***Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated***, “Graham Road is on the list for repairs, we just have not gotten to that point yet.”

1. **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adjourn the Public Works Committee Meeting.

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

**Motion carried.**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE**

**KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK**