**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2nd, 2023**

**OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.**

**OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

1. Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin called this meeting of the Public Works Committee

of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.

1. **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. Jonathan Dupuis addressed the council regarding the company “Parish Inspections.”*** Mr. Dupuis is a resident in St. Landry Parish and he represents Parish Inspections. They are certified, legally trained and up to date Code Enforcing Department. Mr. Dupuis presented the council with a pamphlet of all of Parish Inspections Certifications and their Building Code Services. He explained to the council that inspectors are vital for the safety of St. Landry Parish. Parish Inspections are a Third Party Building Code Enforcing Company. They have been a Code Enforcement business since Hurricane Katrina, over 17 years and they have conducted over 50 thousand inspections. Parish Inspections take the burden off of St. Landry Parish by maintaining building code departments. Parish Inspections handles Plan Reviews, Scheduling of Inspections, Conducting these Inspections and answering questions for Resident and Commercial businesses. They handle things like Residential, Commercial, Federal, Military Construction and they perform assessments for condemnation or storm damage. He stated that all Municipalities and Parishes shall enforce The Building Code and shall use building Code Enforcement Officers or third party providers like Parish Inspections. They are Certified Building Officials that handles plan reviews, scheduling inspections, performing inspections, documenting inspections and communicating with the builders. All inspection will be performed and documented for the safety of wellbeing of St. Landry Parish. The Inspectors will know how to identify and provide solutions for Code Compliance and businesses will be attracted back to St. Landry Parish. The Benefits of Parish Inspections is certification and they do not charge for re-inspections and they do after hour inspections. They have Engineers and Fire Marshalls on staff. Mr. Dupuis asked the council for consideration to allow Parish Inspections to be a part of St. Landry Parish Government and stated that all pricings are negotiable.
* ***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “I recently had an experience with a building inspector and I did read all of your credentials, I would like to know if you carry your Legal Code Books with you? Do you have something that you can reference on the spot?”
* ***Mr. Jonathan Dupuis stated, “***Absolutely. I can show them to you on the spot in the code book. I also use my table and my phone. We have our Code Books in our vehicles.
* Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Is there a difference between a Home Inspection and a Home Inspector?”
* ***Mr. Jonathan Dupuis stated, “***Whenever you are going to buy or sell a home you usually hire a Home Inspector. We deal with construction or modification of a home

or if you are changing over a tenant or something.”

* ***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned***, “Are we looking for an Inspector for the Parish?”
* ***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “No Sir we are not and we are not changing. That is my job. If he would have come to me first we could have had a discussion in my office. Instead he chose to come here. I will tell you all right now, that part of the Government is my side. I appreciate you coming by but we are not changing.”
* ***Councilman Harold Taylor questioned***, “Mr. Bellard, the gentleman that does our inspections, do we just have one fire that is doing the inspections?”
* ***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “We have one.”
* ***Councilman Harold Taylor questioned***, “Is he certified with the state to do this work?”
* ***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “He is certified in some areas but he is not the main official.”
* ***Councilman Harold Taylor stated,*** “What do you mean in some areas? What does the law say about having someone certified?”
* ***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***Everything that we are doing with this right here is in accordance with the law. We were in the Third Party Business when I got here and our job was to get us away from the Third Party Business and that is what we did. We are in complete compliance with everything else. The laws are followed as per the ordinances in the state laws. My job is to make sure that we follow through and that is what I am doing. I am not changing.”

* ***Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “***I am not saying that you are changing. I am just asking if the guy is certified to do the work and keep us in compliance with state and federal law.”
* ***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,*** “Yes, he is certified to do exactly what he is doing.”
* ***Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “***I am sure what he is doing. Can he handle all of the things that this guy is talking about?”
* ***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***He is handling everything that needs to be handled for the Parish Government. The CBO is the one that is signing off on the permits. So we are good. We are in accordance with the law.”
* ***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “***Mr. Dupuis, how often do you all get certified? How often do you all have to be recertified?”
* ***Mr. Jonathan Dupuis stated,*** “With Louisiana, once a year. It show that we have insurance and it is linking back to the ICC to show that our credentials are what they are claiming to be. Anytime that we lapse they will contact us to make sure that we are up to date for the state. The state goes back to the international code council to make sure that all of our actual certifications are in order. We have to make sure that we stay on top and get further educated.
* ***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “***Mr. Bellard, with the gentleman that we have working for us how many more do we have?”
* ***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***One person.”
* ***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “***One person, is he certified in every branch that we need?”
* ***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “Our people that are doing the job now are legal. Everything is fine. If there was anything that is not right it would be on me. I make sure that my job is done right. When it gets to the Code Enforcement side of things, Code Enforcement is being handled exactly like it suppose to be. What they don’t have and what we have is law enforcement authority to take care of business. We don’t go and tell people what they have to do with their houses if their landlord does not fix things that is not our job. The ordinance does not allow us to do that.

If he did his research he would have seen that. Everything that we are doing for Code Enforcement and for the building permit is being handled correctly, no issues what so ever. They dealt with Ms. Carriere, everything that was told to her was exactly what had to be done. Everyone that is working here is doing their job and it is being done by the certified building official.”

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

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

1. **Public Works Report**

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “**In your packet you have **Resolution 024-2023**.

It is a Resolution for DOTD for Aviation. We do this every year.”

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

to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, August 16th, 2023** to Adopt

**Resolution 024-2023**.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

**RESOLUTION 024-2023**

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

SECTION I

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

SECTION II

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

SECTION III

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

SECTION IV

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

SECTION V

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

**Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, “**Our departmentBoom Axe 10 roads, culvert insulation to 7 roads, debris removal to 46 sites, ditching on 9 roads, flushed culverts to 11 roads and graded 62 roads. Spread material on 10 roads, patched 9 roads, one road widened, sign insulation to 8 roads, seven tree removals and seven washouts.

***Councilman Jimmie Edwards*** questioned a tree removal on Max Road.

***Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated***, “It was cut down and removed completely.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere*** questioned the Leonville Water Leak.

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

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere*** questioned Graham Street.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Motion carried.**

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

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

(09-19-2023 – 09-19-2024).

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

**Motion forwarded.**

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

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

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

**Motion forwarded.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Discuss Private Roads and Private Subdivisions. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).**

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

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,*** “So Annointing Drive is adjudicated property. The whole road was never owned by anybody. The people owned up until the ditches. Both subdivision they owned until the middle of the road. That one right there was owned by nobody, it was never taxed and it never had anything to do with anything. Whoever developed that knew what they were doing and it is adjudicated to the parish now. So it is not a private road, it is actually a parish road.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “Some months ago, several of us, including Mr. Bellard talked about these roads that we are talking about like Fleur Des Coteau that these folks live down and they can’t get an ambulance, fire truck or a police car down there, it is a third world country. If we look at the United States Constitution, the Constitution of Louisiana and the Charter of St. Landry Parish clearly say that our purpose is to provide for the health, safety and general welfare of its citizens. When you say that you can’t get an ambulance down a road that is a safety matter. The whole ordinance is revolved around when you have things like these impassable roads at least we can grade it and get them where you can get an emergency vehicle down it. There are 677 miles of private roads in the parish. We certainly can’t do all of them but those that are in total disrepair we have to have some kind of way that we can get into it. Because there were opposition about doing this from the council we have 5 roads districts with public funding for roads within those districts. Two Public Service Districts that have their own funds. As a pilot I was going to suggest that we allow these district to allocate dollars to grade these roads, not necessarily put rock or gravel or whatever but that is up for discussion also. I am just saying at least grade the road where these emergency vehicles can get in and out. That is the just of the ordinance. It is sitting on my desk. It has been there for several months. I did want to get with the engineers and let them peruse it before I bring it to the council. If you all are ready to do that we will get on it pronto.”

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

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

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

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

**Motion forwarded.**

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

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

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

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “***I truly understand. I called Mr. Phillips who represents the Electrical Company. Public Service Commissioner stated that they can’t do that where he was going to put us a light on the corner and they were going to go ahead and absorb the cost, probably $12.00 per month to have that light there. It is a shame that the Public Service Commissioner for the State of Louisiana and the area that is represented there will hold up something like that to try and maybe save someone’s life. I will ask this committee to send this to the full council so we can set up a fund so we can pay for this.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “Is that legal? Where do you want the lighting?”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “Is there a particular kind of lighting you are requesting?”

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

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, August 16th, 2023** to authorize Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain to draft an Ordinance to install LED Lighting on Tom Scheznayder 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. **Discuss any other business property brought before this committee**

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

***Public Works Director, Barry Soileau stated***, “Many roads in the parish are gravel. If I don’t grade they ask why we are not grading, when we grade they complain about the dust. We are maintaining the roads to be safe. Grading will cost dust because we have not had rain in some areas in over six weeks. We have to grade the roads for safety reason because of mail carriers and school bus drivers. I have to make the judgement call for safety reason and then we do it. I get the same calls that you do.”

***Councilman Dexter Brown*** questioned updates on Broadband.

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

to actually go to the house. That is happening right now. You would be surprised on how many homes are being turned on because of that.”

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

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

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

**Motion forwarded.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “It has to be vacant before you take the action. Once it is official vacant you have 15 days to appoint an interim which has to be someone who is 21 years old or older, a registered voter and they have to have lived in St. Landry Parish for one or more years and live in their district for 6 months or more. That is the qualifications for the interim. The clock starts to tick once it is officially vacant. According to the Home Rule Charter you have 15 days to make the appointment.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. **Adjourn**

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

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

**Motion carried.**

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

**KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK**