

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.  
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to appoint Councilman Wayne Ardoin as temporary Chairman. Chairman Jerry Red Jr. was absent for this meeting.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr., and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

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

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry:** Gerard K. Cassimere, JoAnn Pickney, Arthur Lee Thierry, Ora Dee Sam Semien, Helen O. Hebert, Norma Gail Soileau Phillips, Si Gabriel Sonnier, Theresa Gaylia Tevis, Jessie James Aaron Jr., Travis Charles Espree, Mary Lydia Stevens, Arthur Lee Sam, Mary Ann Lazard Washington, Geraldine Oakley, Rose Lee Senegal.

**Councilman Harold Taylor:** Juanita Faye Ellis Wiltz

**Councilman Gil Savoy:** Arlan Burghdoff, Malcolm Keith LeJeune, John Wilson Bertrand, Sr. Dalton Troy Stelly.

**Councilman Wayne Ardoin:** Jeremiah Lormand, Juanita Faye Ellis Wiltz, Gerald Bob Marks, Si Gabriel Sonnier, Billy Meche, Anna Joyce Jones, Ernestine Marie ‘Tina’ Mengarelli, Norma Gail Soileau Phillips, Malcolm Joseph Guidry, Desiree Prudhomme Richard.

**Councilman Dexter Brown:** Nazie Dean Marie Henderson Miller.

**Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune:** Karl Jeter, Braxton ‘B.I.’ Moody, Pamela ‘Pam’ Prather, Jimmy Buffet, Betty Jean Leger, Philip Belton, Todd Anthony Fruge.

*\*Chairman Wayne Ardoin called for a moment of silence for the families that lost their loved ones.*

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

**Ms. Sherry Guidry** addressed the council. She wanted to let the council know that she is running for District Court Judge Division C. She has 20 years of experience of practicing law, civil and criminal litigations. She is the House of Delegates Representative for the 27<sup>th</sup> JDC for the Louisiana State Bar Association. She is one of four people when it comes to voting for attorney’s for the State. She is born and raised in St. Landry Parish. She is a Defense Attorney for the Public Defender’s Office in Lafayette. She is currently the Interim Board Member for the Louisiana Drug and Specialty Court, Division C, Family Preservation. She is the 2023 winner of the Louisiana State Bar Association, Committee of Diversity on the legal Profession.

**Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune** addressed the council to introduce Mr. Don Reber. She stated that Mr. Reber is a long time resident of Eunice and a strong family of Veterans in the community. He was the state commander of the Louisiana VFW. He did all of the programs

and projects for the VFW Hall. He served on the SLED Board, the Economic Development Board, the Board of Advisers at LSU and on the Board of the Eunice Chamber of Commerce. He has a strong talent in woodworking as a hobby and I yield to let Mr. Reber address the council.

*Mr. Don Reber stated*, “I have live in Eunice for 18 years. I am the Immediate Past State Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I have been asked to come here to represent the concerns and the needs of the World War 1 Veterans who are no longer with us.

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated*, “Have you turned in an application to be appointed as the VFW Representative in reference to the statue?”

*Mr. Don Reber stated*, “Yes I did. I gave it to Lynn.”

## **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to approve **the Special Meeting Minutes from August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023** as transcribed.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

A motion was made by Councilman Easton Shelvin, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to approve the **Regular Meeting Minutes from August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023** as transcribed.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

## **VII. PARISH PRESIDENT REPORT:**

*Parish President Jessie Bellard thanked* Ms. Debra Sostand, Clerk of Court and Ms. Sherell Jordan, Council Clerk for all of their effort in getting the Polling Location and Leases completed. He stated they were able to get everything up and ready to go. He stated Mr. Moose is here to present the audit.

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “Since we just received the audit today I have not had time to review it. Can we invite you to come back to our next committee meeting to discuss it? It will give us more time to review it. You had a pre-meeting with the Parish President, was any of the members of the Finance Committee invited?”

*Mr. Steve Moosa stated*, “They were invited. I had a meeting with the Parish President and his staff. I was under the impression that they were going to be there.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “I serve on that committee and I served as temporary chairman and I did not get an invitation. I am a numbers guy and I wished you would have been more discreet about getting us the message.”

*Mr. Steve Moosa stated*, “Would you prefer that I meet with you?”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “You will have to give me time to review these documents.”

*Mr. Steve Moosa stated*, “So I will attend the Finance Committee Meeting in October or the Full Council Meeting?”

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated*, “I think that he asked for the Committee meeting or will you have a pre-meeting before the committee meeting? That is what you usually do am I correct?”

*Mr. Steve Moosa stated*, “Yes, we had a meeting with the Parish President and the Administrative Staff to go over the report and get the approval for the Rep Letter signed so that we can conclude the audit. Now we are here to present it to the council so they can be aware of the results are for the last year.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Traditionally you meet with us with the President is that correct? What happened to that?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “That have been the protocol in the prior years, yes. I just think with the timing we had got an extension this year for the audit. Normally it is done by June 30 but with the software upgrade they had this year they needed more time to get the records in order for us to get in there and do the audit procedures. We had a ninety day extension which is September 30 and we just completed the audit about one week ago. We are trying to present it to you at this meeting. We did get the approval of the Parish President and the administrative staff on the adjusting entries that had to be made and they concur with the results of the audit as far as the numbers in the journal entry because we have to stay independent. We cannot make those journal entries, now we are here to present it to you so you can be aware of what the financial situation of the parish is and where we are headed at for next year but I am fine with waiting to present it to you.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Tonight he is just presenting the audit to the council like he is supposed to. It is not an approval process for the council. It is just presenting.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “We have no questions prepared for him at this time. We just got the audit report a few minutes ago.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “He can come back at a later date but tonight I asked him to come to present the audit like I am supposed to. He is here tonight so I will ask the council to listen to what he has to say. If you all have any questions you all are more than welcome to have a meeting with him to ask all of the questions that you all want.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Mr. Bellard out of due respect I think that is the way that we have always did it. The Administrative Finance Committee would have a meeting with him. Mr. Moosa, you had just advised that. We are asking that the Administrative Finance Committee meet with you and you bring it back to the committee.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “This is the Parish President’s Report. He is here to present the audit on my behalf like the law says that it has to be done. You all are welcome to meet with him. There is no law that says that I have to invite anyone to my meetings with the auditors. This is how I choose to do it this year, it has nothing to do with Mr. Moosa that is what I choose to do. I am saying that he is here to present the audit. If the rest of the council want to move it until next month I want to be on record as saying he is here tonight to present the audit at the soonest possible time that we had.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “I still think that we need to wait. Obviously we have not had an opportunity to even look at the audit. I offer it as a motion that we ask him to return on the next committee meeting and hopefully we can meet with you prior to that possibly next week and get some detail on the particulars.”

**Councilman Easton Shelvin stated,** “Mr. Moosa should give his presentation tonight.”

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** “Mr. Gil second Mr. Taylor’s motion.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “The motion is that Mr. Moosa meets with the Administrative Finance Committee before we bring it to the Committee Meeting.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “If we have him come back at our next Committee Meeting after each of us have had an opportunity to turn the pages and make comments and ask question. I doubt that anyone in this room have looked at it. I know I haven’t and I have not gotten the information that I need yet.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Without all due respect to the council and to you Mr. Moosa, the booklet was here when we got here this afternoon. When did you sent it here?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “It was presented this morning?”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “No one have looked at it or had time to digest it. How would you feel?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “I understand your concerns but we went over this with the Parish President and his staff. They agreed with the report and they signed what we call the Representation Letter. They take responsibility for the Audit Report. We are now here to present it to you. I can go as detail as you would like and I can go through all of the pages with you. If you feel like you can’t digest it I don’t mind meeting with you at any time to go over the numbers.”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “Is there a big problem since he is here with letting him present the audit report. We are not taking any type action and we can still schedule to meet with him in the future. I don’t see where there is a problem to let him present. We are not doing anything. We can go through it and schedule for him to come back and meet with the committee or the council.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “I will withdraw my motion.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Motion dies. Mr. Moosa can continue with his report.”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “You all have a copy of the Parish Financial Report for the year 2022. We are engaged by you to come and do an audit. We were approved by the Legislative of Auditors and they require all public bodies to have an audit of their financials.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “You are retained by the council but you did not report to us that you completed the audit and you did not review it with us, am I correct? Thank you very much.”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “You were approved for us to conduct the audit.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Mr. Chairman, before we go too far we will not have this kind of debate here. He is here to present the audit to the council.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Point of Order Mr. Bellard. This is your President’s Report. The man stated that the council employed this firm. Let’s not get into any arguments.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I am making a statement just like Mr. Taylor made a statement. As of right now I think I have the floor. On the presentation, the law says that we have to present to the council the audit. This is exactly what we are doing, period. There is nothing else to the story, there is no hidden agenda and there is nothing to it other than the presentation of the audit being done to the full council like the law says. That is it.”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “On page 1 of the report through page 3, this is the auditor’s opinion. It is to let you know that we are coming in and we are not responsible for the financial statement and we do not do the book keeping or the accounting throughout the year. That is the president and his staff. They maintain the records throughout the year. We give an opinion based on the government accounting standards and that is what we have done here. We gave an unmodified opinion which is a clean opinion for the year. I just want you all to know that. On Page 7, that is the Statement of Net Position. This is your balance sheet. It is the assets and obligations of the parish as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The top of the page shows your total assets which is about \$98,000,000.00 for the Governmental Activities. We do include a couple of other Component Units in the parish, several of them, which their assets are about \$5,300,000.00 so you have a total of \$100,000,000.00 of assets. Our focus is on the Governmental Activities which is what you all are overseeing directly with the parish president. \$97,900,000.00 of total assets. \$74,000,000.00 of that is Capital Assets. That is your roads, buildings, equipment and so forth which represent roughly 75% of total assets. The next largest asset will be your cash and restricted cash in the bank, the top two items. You have about \$11,900,000.00 of cash and restricted cash. If you compare that to the year before you had \$11,700,000.00. Going back to 2020, I don’t have that in the report but you had \$6,700,000.00 two years ago. In the last two years with all of the COVID activity and Federal Dollars that came into the parish you were able to bring in quite a bit of revenue. Those have been retained and you are using those as we go forward. That is why your cash position is so strong because you have money that came in over the last two years that you are spending and using in the parish as seen fit. It puts you in a good financial position. The liabilities is the middle part of the page. For the parish you have \$36,000,000.00 of obligations. As of December 31 and that includes \$27,000,000.00 of bond payments over the next few years that

you will be paying out. Another \$4,000,000.00 of bonds that are due within next year. Overall you have \$32,000,000.00 of bonds outstanding.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,** “What are the \$4,700,000.00 in bonds for?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “That is due within the next 12 months. One is the Road Home Program that you all finance in 2014. Then you had a bond issuance this past year for equipment and that payment will start up this year, 2023.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,** “What is the \$27,000,000.00 for?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “That is bonds that are due beyond one year. There will be 2024 and beyond until they mature. Again they are for the Road Home Program, the road. Those bonds are 15 year bonds and we are about one half way into paying those bonds off. We do have not disclosure on that so you can see the payout over the next five years and thereafter.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned,** “Are we paying back Washington State Bank right now? Is that included in this right here?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “What do you mean by Washington State Bank?”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “We have a line of credit. Didn’t we borrow some money from them for a line of credit?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “You had a line of credit that was approved. It was a four year line that was renewed each year. I think it was a 5 year total. Every year it was renewed. You had an option to convert that line into a permanent debt and that was done this past year in 2022. You purchased some equipment for the road crew, excavators and so forth. That is included in this now.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned,** “Have we finished paying for that?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “No it was converted to a term note. I believe it is about a 5 or 7 year term note. As I mentioned earlier you had almost \$98,000,000.00 of total asset, Liability is at \$36,000,000.00. Overall that leaves you about \$60,000,000.00 of Net Position or assets available to carry forward to future years. Of that \$59,000,000.00, \$40,000,000.00 is invested in your capital assets, your roads and bridges and your equipment.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,** “Mr. Moosa, the unrestricted \$12,000,000.00, what is that for?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “That is money that you have set aside that you can carry forward to service programs or operations of the parish in the future.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,** “Is this tax generated or is this grants?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “The majority of that was probably COVID Related Federal Dollars you received over that last two years that have come in. You have several years to spend that money. Like I mentioned your cash position is about \$12,000,000.00 at year’s end that directly relates to your unrestricted net position. Those are one time monies but the good news is every year the parish president is applying for a future grant and there are future dollars that are potentially coming into the parish. These are all one time funding that you will have to ask for and request for year after year. The COVID money was specific to the COVID pandemic and it was over a two year program that was paid out to you. That funding is complete. You have received all the funding that you are expected.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned,** “How much can you tell us about the balance on the ARA money?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “I can’t tell you all the exact amount but it relates to the cash in the bank and to the unrestricted fund balance. It is all printed in your local General Fund. I will get to that page and I can show you how much you have in your General Fund. That gives you an oversight of the financial position of the parish. As Mr. Harold mentioned you have

\$12,000,000.00 unrestricted fund balance to carry forward into the next year. Comparing that to the year before you had \$10,000,000.00. Two years before that you had about \$4,000,000.00. You have really seen a jump up in your unrestricted fund balance over the last two years.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,** “Are any of those unrestricted fund balances are for specific projects?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “No, it is unrestricted so when you adopt your budget it dictates how you will spend those funds and that goes into that process.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,** “Does the \$12,000,000.00 include grants?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “It includes grants and the COVID Money is unrestricted.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “And other Grants.”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “Other grants are: Roads, there is money set aside for roads, you have other restrictions. The \$4,800,000.00 above the \$12,000,000.00 so there are some monies that are restricted for Health Unit and for Road and Bridges, those are restricted. For debt services, you have \$33.00 set aside because you are funding your debt services as you need. You have \$1,500,000.00 restricted for roads because you have a special sales tax, Ad Valorem Tax for those. In the other categories there are some grant monies that are restricted for certain purposes.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Do you have any idea what that is about?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “I can look into detail. When you look at individual funds you can see which ones where the restrictions are coming from. On page 11 and page 12 you will see Government Wide Financials. Government accounting, you look at those first, that is where you debt shows up and all of your capital assets. It is like looking at a business financial report. It shows your assets and your liability. Anything that is long term like Capital Asset and long term debt as I mentioned. On page 11 and 12 is your Governmental Activities. That is current obligations and activities. That is what is going to be used and available in the next 12 months. It does not have long term debt in this schedule and it does not have your capital assets but it shows you your cash in the bank by fund and it shows you your payables, liabilities that will be due within the current year as of December 31, 2022. It shows your fund balances and all of the different restrictions that we have there. Mr. Harold, most of it is restricted on Public Works as you can see. About \$1,600,000.00 is Public Works Restrictions. The Judicial System has \$144,000.00 and you have another \$580,000.00 on Public Safety Restrictions. Health and Welfare you have \$1,600,000.00 restricted. Parish Road Constriction, Road District Sale Tax you have money in there that are still available for spending for road repairs, about \$2,200,000.00. Each column represents one of your funding sources or your activities that you have. The General Fund is the left column where the COVID Offer money was put in and it has \$8,500,000.00. If you spend that money last that is what you will have left over about \$8,500,000.00. I just wanted to point out that we already went over the balances of your asset liabilities. If you want more detail it is on page 11 and 12. I would like for you to look at your revenue and expenses for the year and that is on page 14 and page 15. This shows the revenue of what money is coming into the parish over the 12 month period of the calendar year 2022. The top half of the page is all of your revenue and major revenue sources and your Ad Valorem Taxes, your Sales Tax, Slot Tax, Royalties and so forth. I will hit the larger ones here. Ad Valorem Tax for the parish as a whole was \$5,500,000.00. The Sales Tax Revenue which is restricted for the road program, Capital Project is \$9,500,000.00 of revenue for the year. Your Slot Tax, parish wide is \$1,400,000.00. I will move down to Federal Grants. In the General Fund, the first column you will see Federal Grants in the amount of \$8,600,000.00, the majority of that was your COVID money coming in. Other Federal Grants are the WIOA Program, Workforce Investment Opportunity Act and that is \$6,200,000.00. Other Grant revenue is about \$1,300,000.00 of Federal Dollars. That is located in the second to the last column to the right of the Governmental Funds. Those are funds that represent less than 10% of your operations overall but we have the detail in the back of the report as well.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown questioned,** “On the Federal Grant, I believe you had said \$1,600,000.00. Is that suppose to be \$16,000,000.00?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “Yes, total overall is \$16,000,000.00. I apologize. Some other revenues are your State Revenue. They include: Parish Transportation Funds, State Revenue Sharing, Severance Tax, Insurance Premium Tax and Video Poker. The Video Poker was about \$900,000.00 and that was a strong number. It was an increase of about \$200,000.00 from the year before. Overall revenue in the General Fund was \$16,000,000.00 which was an increase of \$2,000,000.00 from the year before. Road and Bridge Fund brought in \$3,760,000.00, slightly down from the previous years which was \$3,900,000.00. The Health Unit took in \$1,900,000.00 and that was like \$200,000.00 more than the year before.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “How is it that we took in more money on the Health Unit? The taxes did not change.”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “You have some other revenue sources, some grants. You have \$285,000.00 of revenue coming in other than your Ad Valorem Tax. It receives some of the state revenue sharing as well, \$59,000.00. I gave it \$1,900,000.00. I would say the increase is attributed to other revenues of \$284,000.00 that was the increase. I have already mentioned The Road District Sales Tax Fund. We took in \$9,400,000.00 and you have spent \$2,500,000.00 in Public Works Projects but they you also transferred out \$7,000,000.00 which was used partially for the road construction fund but also for Deck Service. The Deck Service on the Road Home Program that was issued in 2014 was \$5,700,000.00, principal and interest that we are paying on that obligation. Like I said, WIOA is all Federal Dollars, \$6,200,000.00 came in for them. Overall \$42,000,000.00 of total revenue for the parish which was consistent with the year before. We took in \$42,000,000.00 in 2021, your Federal Dollars in the WIOA Program decreased by \$3,000,000.00 but your General Fund Revenue increased \$2,000,000.00. Basically you had \$2,000,000.00 more dollar in your General Fund to run operations and not for Federal Programs in the WIOA Program. I think that is a plus because it gives you more freedom to use the money for your projects that you have in the parish. Expenditures for the year overall was \$42,700,000.00. You basically spent what you took in for the current year which was \$670,000.00 more expenditures than revenue coming in. A lot is related to Capital Outlet. Capital Outlay for the year was \$4,500,000.00. We had Bond Proceeds as we mentioned earlier with Washington State Bank and that was the line of credit converted to term debt and that was \$1,100,000.00 that was term debt created in the current year, the proceeds to buy equipment. With those bond proceeds you had a \$1,400,000.00 of other financial sources. So at the end of the year you have a positive change in your Fund Balance of about \$800,000.00. So at the beginning of the year your fund balance is about \$16,500,000.00 and at the end of the year you will have about \$17,000,000.00 Fund Balance of money that is available to use in future years at the Governmental Activity Level, the Fund Levels. The majority of that \$17,000,000.00 Fund Balance \$10,000,000.00 is in the General Fund. \$2,200,000.00 is your road and sales tax fund and \$2,200,000.00 from the sales tax are road projects that you have sitting in fund balance, those are the major items. So that gives you an overview of your financial position and the assets and the revenue and expenses for the parish as a whole. As of December 2022 the parish is in a very strong financial position, stronger than is ever has been probably in decades because of the funding from the Federal Government plus the additional revenue. The Sales Tax Revenues are up and your Ad Valorem Taxes are looking strong. That is where we stand there. On page 19 are Note Disclosures. It talks about the Accounting Policies but it gives more details on what I just went over.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned,** “On permitting, how much did we collect last year verses what we collected this year? I am talking about building permits? What is the figure that you can give us?”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “License and permits for the current year in the General Fund was \$520,000.00. I don’t think that it was a significant change, I don’t have it because I was looking at larger variances in the year. I can get that information for you. Returning to page 34, I mentioned Capital Assets earlier as a major asset of the parish and that is on page 34 giving the detail of what goes into the Capital Asset. You had construction in progress, projects going on at the beginning of the year of \$1,700,000.00. You added \$1,800,000.00 additional projects ongoing. You finished the project that is ongoing from the year before so that gives you an idea of whether construction is going on for the year but it is about \$1,800,000.00 in the last two years you had projects on going at year end each year. Then we have the buildings and improvements and your vehicles, you added \$1,200,000.00 of equipment. Infrastructure improvements of \$1,200,000.00, improvement other than buildings is \$750,000.00, so overall you had about \$4,400,000.00 of Capital Improvements. Part of that is the new accounting software you acquired this year. It is a right of use, lease asset, you have

that software for the next five years for a \$570,000.00 value. You have the obligations to pay that over the 5 year period as well. I will show you where your capital assets are, on page 37, note 8, this is your long term debt. At the bottom of the page it shows you the issuance is outstanding. You have two debt issuance, the tax revenue bond of 2020. That is when the line of credit was established. It was converted this year in 2022 and it is a \$1,100,000.00 outstanding balance of December and it matures in 2030 so it is a seven year term note that was a line of credit that was going forward then you converted to a term note and now it will be paid out over the next seven years. You have the sales tax revenue bond of 2014 and that was part of your road program and that outstanding balance as of December was \$30,900,000.00 and that matures in 2029, roughly 6 years out. That is the only two bond issuance of the parish. St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission has a small bond issuance of \$228,000.00 and the Fire District has a Capital Lease of \$570,000.00 listed in here since their financials are part of a component unit of the parish. On the next page, the bottom of page 38 it gives you the principal and interest payment over the next five years and every 5 year increment after that. It just shows you your bond payment in 2014, the principal and interest roughly will be \$5,257,000.00 each year. It is pretty steady, you are paying more principal each year as your interest payment are decreasing. The revenue bond of 2020 for the equipment, you are paying \$141,000.00 of principal each year with a decrease amount of interest base on the outstanding balance. We will move to page 50 real quick. Pages 51 through 56, these are the budget to actual comparison each year the parish council is presented a budget by the parish president and the administration. They use that as a road map to connect activity during the year. It is presented in here and the reports and we look over them to make sure that all the revenue extensions are in line with the budget activity. We did have some variances. The Legislative Auditors allow you to have up to a fraction variance of revenue and expenses in each program. We have a few programs that end up having a variance greater than 5% so we do have a budget variance finding in the report. A lot of time your budget is still in August and worked on through the year. This past year we had so many Federal Grants coming in, it depends on how you spend the money and you recognize the revenue so it causes some changes. We also had with the accounting software conversion some miscoding and changes that we addressed and that altered the way the revenue and expenses reported in each of the activity. That resulted in some variances in the budget as well. The software has been fully implemented. It is functioning as expected so it should be a better tool for management to you and the budget process so go smoother this year and coming years. Management anticipate the budget variance issues should be resolved as they go forward.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned,** “On page 49 in reference to the compensation that is paid to councilmembers can you explain Note 18, Risk Management.

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “Risk Management, most entities have insurance and so forth to cover their properties and so forth, you are not fully insured on all of your properties. You are self-insured in a sense with Parish Government because retaining the insurance to cover your liabilities is considered prohibited from a financial standpoint. As a Parish Government we are elected to cover some of that coverage on your own in case we incur some obligations. Instead of having it fully insured, that is all it is saying. If something would happen, liability with basis you may be obligated to pay it, we would not have any insurance company covering you for it.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “So we would not have any insurance.”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “You do have some insurance. You are not fully covered in all aspects. You are covered at a cost. Many business have self-insured. That is what you call self-insured. You are taking on the risk yourself. On page 65 and 66 as I mentioned earlier, other governmental activities that are significant to your operations, these are the funds, your Jail Maintenance, Road District Maintenance, Veterans Memorial and Hospital District. These are funds or activities that you are accounting for in the parish but are not significant to the oval operations, they are not presented in the front of the financials but we do have them in the back. On page 67 through 70 these are your Road Districts individually. You have 5 Road Districts on page 69 and 70. It reports the revenue and expenditures for each one of those Roads Districts. I just wanted to let you all see those as well. I know each one of your districts have one of these Road Districts that you are overseeing as an Elected Official.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “We have two at this time. Mr. Brown’s District and District 9, the district that I represent. They are up for renewal. Are they are going to collect this year?”



**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “You may go a year without revenue.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Unless it gets shot down.”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “It maybe another year. That would be on page 70.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “If I am not mistaken we would not collect anything for this year. Even if it passes November it is too late.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “If it passes in November can the bonding attorney sell the bonds and we would have the money?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We can ask one of the attorney’s to see. Once it passes and it is back on the books for 2024 anticipated revenue I am assuming that we can.”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “I will point out to you. Your fund balance in those two Road Districts, one is District 11A has \$600,000.00 in Fund Balance. It is cash in the bank as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. That is why you were able to continue operating this year.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Now the fund balance is about \$200,000.00.”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “Yes. Hopefully next year it won’t be affecting until you get the revenue coming in. The revenue anticipation bond is possible if it passes. On page 89 and 90 as part of the audit we go through the financials. We look at internal controls and compliance and we verify whether there is anything that we need to present in the report for improvement to the parish operations. On the bottom of page 89 is where we start. The first finding is the budget variance, I mentioned that already due to the coding. Issue the conversion for the accounting software, timing of the budget. The budget variance is exceeded the state requirement of 5%. You are aware of some of the actual activities throughout the year exceeded the budget by 5%. That finding is here and that is where management with the new software, hoping the new investment will give you better information and allow them better insight as they go through the year to be able to adopt a budget and maintain it through the year and not have the variance going forward. On page 90, in the middle of the page we had the second finding of a miscoding. We had to do a lot of moving of expenditures and due to inter-fund activity and revenue coming in and out. With the conversion of the old system to the new system. We had that finding in prior years and the new software is a robust program. They are hoping that we have something in place that we won’t have many miss findings and we would have a more efficient audit and more efficient reporting from the Parish President to the council of the operations. On page 91, Reconciliation of Inter-fund Activities, to make our audit more efficient and get the report to you quicker on a monthly/quarterly basis they should be reconciling all inter-fund activity, trans money moving from fund to fund whether it is short term borrowing, loans or revenue that is back and forth not to be repaid. The final finding for the year is maintaining account records and supporting schedules. There is a lot of work that goes into getting reports like this together, there is a lot activity. The \$42,000,000.00 of revenue in the parish is a pretty strong number. To account for all of that with the Federal Dollars that are coming in and you are handling the WIOA Program and you are covering over 8 parishes. The supporting schedule is in place and it can be officially communicated out and get things done in a timely manner. So that is what we have for the current year. I think the high light is the amount of Federal Dollars that came into the parish this past year which is on the last page of the report, page 95. As I mentioned your federal revenue was at \$16,000,000.00 this year and you spent about \$15,400,000.00 of it in this fiscal year. That is 1/3 of your over operating revenue for this year. The \$42,000,000.00 and you have \$15,000,000.00 and that is coming from out of parish, out of state into the community. With that your fund balance, your net position, your unrestricted fund balance going forward is about \$12,000,000.00 and that is a very strong fund balance to carry forward into the coming years.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned,** “Mr. Moosa if anyone have any questions will set up a meeting to discuss it further.”

**Mr. Steve Moosa stated,** “Yes, I will be happy to come to the court house or at my office. I will meet with anyone who would like to go through it in more detail.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Let’s continue with the Parish President’s Report. Go ahead Mr. Bellard.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “This next item is important. It will affect everyone’s district. The National Flood Insurance Program. It has been in effect since 1978 in our parish. The came in and they did an audit so to speak. They made their rounds throughout the parish and they found 70 findings in our parish. I said that is a lot of findings but no it is not for the size of our parish. They have some with 300-400. The issues that I have is that these findings are from 2012 to 2019. It goes into elevation. When people built their house they did not follow the elevation that was given to them by the surveyors and no one checked to make sure that they were above the flood elevation. If you built a house and you have to have it up 10 feet but your air conditioner is on the ground they call that a violation. Some did not have permits. There are a lot of different things in there that we did not have an ordinance far which is why we are trying to pass an ordinance or we will have to pull the one that we are putting tonight to modify it. I don’t agree with what they want us to do but in order for St. Landry Parish to stay in the program we will have send letters to everyone that built a house or had a violation over that time period. If they don’t correct the problem then we will have to go and give them a citation. If they don’t correct the problem they will have to come to court. If that don’t happen they can opt out for that address or that parcel number and sign a waiver saying that they don’t want to participate in any kind of flood insurance program that is dealing with the federal government. They can still have their own insurance. They can call any insurance company and get flood insurance but they won’t be able to get the national flood insurance. The program may not be part of it. I asked the gentleman if they could skip all of the other parts and let them just opt out to that one if they wanted to do that and he said they can’t do that. But the number 2 question is something that I will have to get with Garret and Chad on, how will we enforce a requirement that we don’t have an ordinance for. We did not have it. There was no ordinance on the books. They are telling us that it is a part of the Federal Requirements since we signed up for it in 1978 we should have known to make sure that we had somebody to go out there to check flood elevations. I said that we had inspectors, it is not the inspector’s job. The inspector’s job is to do the building code and not the flood elevation. Now we have an inspector that is on the payroll for us and that is that person job. That is how it has been going since he has been here. Not just the building code but also for the flood elevation so we don’t have this issue anymore. If somebody don’t follow what the ordinance calls for we have reinforcement officers and that will be taken care of. I still go back to how we send out letters to people who were never told to raise your air conditioner to this level. They got their permit and they got their electricity, they got everything that they needed and now we are saying since FEMA came in and did an audit now we have to write them a letter. If we don’t do that it is a possibility that we will be thrown out of the program. This information is just getting to us now. I just want you all to be on board and know what I am hearing today. My next meeting will be with Chad and trying to figure out how they can make us do this. I will give you an example. In Mr. Alvin’s District that Concrete Culvert Place on Hwy 93, they wanted us to go and tell those people that they have to strap down every last concrete culvert that weight thousands of pounds. It is in writing. I could not believe. I thought maybe they had saw it on Google but they came to the parish and they did their rounds. The actually physically saw these concrete culverts. The reason for this is that they may flow away in case of a flood. I came unglued, when I finally argued the point they said okay you don’t have to do that. That raises the question about everything that you all tell me that we have to do or not be in compliance. We will be forwarding that information to Chad and hopefully we can challenge a lot of these things. I can’t see us going to write a letter and I can’t see us writing a citation on something that we can’t enforce because we did not have it on the books to enforce and the people were never told to do it a certain way. Since then we have made some changes. We have some changes on the books now as far as our own investigators and our own inspectors. We will be able to look at each one of these properties in the future from that point own. I just can’t see it. I am just giving you all a heads up. If you all hear some stuff that is what it is about. I will get a better clarification before we send out the first letter and tell someone that they have to comply with something that was not even on the books to comply with in order for the parish as a whole to stay with the National Flood Insurance Program. It is an Affordable Program for people who can’t afford to buy flood insurance on the commercial side.”

**Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune stated,** “How can they come to us for us to go backwards with these permits. We did not know about it so there is no way that we can make demands on these people.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I asked them when was the last time they did an audit? FEMA never did an audit on our parish but the state did three Community Visits. There were no findings that was given to the government. Even asking them for paper work to show that the state came out and did their Community Visits. They can’t produce any documentations. They said three visits were done since 1978 and they can’t produce the first document to prove that or to prove that our government at the time was warned about doing certain things and changing the ordinance to fit the criteria for the national flood insurance program, none of that was done. I think that we will have an argument. I am no lawyer but I know in law enforcement I can’t go and give a ticket to someone if they did not break the law. My next call will be with Chad to set up something so we can fight this.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned,** “Mr. Bellard, you mentioned about the air conditioners about three times. These people that have these air conditioners that are on the ground and they are elevated like at Three Mile, can they sign a waiver and still get insurance?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “You would think that would be the most common approach to take if you are not what they call in compliance. So they will sign a 60-13 form which is a waiver. It is saying I am not trying to get any insurance from National Flood Insurance. I will waive myself out of it. I told them if that is the case let them have that opportunity under an initial letter. They said that you will have to go through the whole process of going to court and everything else and the last thing is the 60-13. I think there is another route to take.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Mr. Bellard, if you build a house and you borrow the money they will require you to have flood insurance. What if you building and you don’t insure through FEMA. You choose not to insure that portion of it. Are they just talking about FEMA?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “It is for the whole parish. That was my thing. They have people who don’t insure their house for flooding because they don’t need to. It is not required by the lending institution. They said every violation affects the total parish. Even if those people don’t need insurance but they did not meet their requirements it will affect the entire parish on how they score. I just wanted you all to know that this is something that is brewing and I think that the options will be like Mr. Ardoin said. This is not what they are saying to be in compliance so Option 2 should be the waiver and bypass the stuff that we can’t enforce anyway. I don’t have an answer because I have not moved anything forward from where we are right now.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned,** “When people come and get their permit do you all have a clause in that permit that states that the constituent is responsible?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “When they come and get their permit and they need an elevation certificate they bring that in to the permit office. I learned something today. I thought that the inspector that was hired to do the inspection that was one of his inspections to make sure that their flood elevation was met. That is not their job, it is the Flood Planner Administrator which is the permit officer, back then it was Ms. Terio and nobody ever told her that this had to be done. There was no training and nobody gave her any information. Now we are being told that the Flood Administrators have to have this certification and everything else to do it. We own that tract now to get the certifications they need. We started that process in March. They are telling us that the last visit lasted 9 years but they cannot produce the documents. They gave us until October 2. I asked for an extension and they will give us an extension but they did not say how long the extension will be. There are people like most people that build a house and they build a pond in the back field and I use of that dirt to raise my pad. If you go to a certain height where it might jeopardize the flow of water from the neighbors they have to produce an engineer’s report to FEMA so that they can have it on the future mapping for the next 10 years. We have a couple of people who dug a pond and increased their land to build a house but it was a large amount of ground. They came and looked at all kinds of stuff but we will still go back to our ordinance that we had in place that have been there and it did not say that we had to do any of that.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Were there any Auditors prior to 2012 to 2019?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “They did not note anything. They did not look at any years. They just went in the parish and they went to those houses with the addresses and they came back and they pulled those files. It was not a time frame.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Could they have gone back to 2010?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Correct, I think they have one in 2009 or 2010. It was not a time frame audit as it was looking at that house and saying it is not in compliance so they came back and they pulled those files to see what was done.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Getting back to the displacement of digging a pond and using the stuff to raise an elevation and disturbing a flood plan, how many of those violations did they have?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I think there were two ponds.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “That could be serious.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “According to them if they hire an engineer to do a study on their property and show how the water is going to flow and submit that report to FEMA and FEMA approves it they will be in line. However the cost of that from what they are telling me is \$10,000.00, minimum cost that is going to be on the homeowner for that to take place. Again, we did not have it in the ordinance and I still cannot see how we can force someone to do something that they were never told. When they came and got their permit to build a house they were never told that. I am just telling you all what I was told today and I am just going to make sure that we get with the authorities to make sure before we send out any letters out or do anything with this because I think this is not right.”

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** “For example, they have a big job on Meche Road. Those two woman dug a big pond and they raised up three acres of land two feet higher. I told them that they will change the water flow and that is against the law. You cannot change the water flow. The property owner said they don’t care as long as their land does not flood. The neighbors are upset because it will push more water on them because it will change the water flow.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “If they came to get a permit and they had to get their flood elevation certificate that is whenever the Inspector goes out and inspect.

The next item to discuss is the **Resolution 028-2023**. It is a temporary Housing and Shelter Assistance Program. Mr. Van Reed can speak on that.”

**Mr. Van Reed stated,** “The Temporary Housing Program by FEMA allows FEMA to bring in temporary housing after a storm if there is significant damage. What this waiver does after Hurricane Ida struck Terrebonne Parish and Lafourche Parish, GOHSEP found out that a lot of ordinance were in place to prevent those temporary housing from being set up. A state law was passed, Louisiana Act 526 which allows parishes and municipalities to opt-in and opt-out of the temporary housing program which temporarily waives the ordinance for a one year period allowing for that temporary housing to come in. This does not happen at every storm. FEMA has to activate the program, the Governor’s Office have to activate the program and the parish have to active the program. Just because a storm comes through does not mean that the temporary housing program will be enacted. What the Resolution is for you to opt-in and opt-out of the program and it has to be renew every September. Last September you passed this resolution to opt-in to the program which allows us to waive any type of land use ordinance to prevent temporary housing to go into place if a storm has significant damage. That would be up for renewal again in September. If there were temporary housing in place and at the end of September you decided to opt-out of a program that temporary housing would have to leave the parish. It is not like in the old days where a FEMA Trailer would come and stay on the property for years and year. It is an every year renewal. I will be back here again in September to ask you to opt-in or opt-out of the program. We are asking that you opt-in to the program and that is what this Resolution is all about. The deadline to go to GOHSEP is October 1. I have to have this in place. Every municipality have already decided to opt-in or opt-out. So I am here to ask you to opt-in to the program.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to adopt **Resolution No. 028-2023**.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

#### **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.

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "The next item is **Resolution 029-2023**. It is a Variance to be granted to Light Source PB. The Solar Farm Project as it sits on a platter survey, the need to move something around to make it fit on the property. We sent it to William Jarrell. He review it and it does not affect anyone or anything other than it moves some of the Solar Panels closer to the road. Instead of 85 or 90 feet it does not change the fencing and it does not change the tree lines that they have to plant. It does not affect any homes, it is a non-issue. It just that our ordinance says that is has to be 150 feet and some areas are not. They are not able to do it because of the layout of the Solar Farm."

*Councilman Harold Taylor questioned*, "So they are going to take 85 or 90 feet out of 150 feet?"

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "Correct, and it does not move the fence or the tree lines."

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, "This is in an area that is not populated."

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "It does not affect any homes. It is just roads with no one in the area."

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to Adopt **Resolution No. 029-2023**.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 20th, day of September, 2023.

#### **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.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the Parish President's Report.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr., and Nancy Carrier. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for four appointment to the St. Landry Parish Planning Commission Board.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

**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.**

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to 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.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

**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.**

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry 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:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

**4. Approve a pay increase for both Council Clerks in the amount of \$2.00 per hour.**

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* "I am voting on this item. I will also ask to add to this motion to make the pay increase retroactive from June 1, 2023. We started speaking on this matter in April. It went back and forth because there was an ordinance that was supposed to be put in place then it was a matter with the funds. I am asking that it goes retroactive to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* "I amend my motion to add the retroactive increase from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize a pay increase for both Council Clerks in the amount of \$2.00 per hour and retroactive the increase from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

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

**ABSTAINED:** None.

**WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

**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).**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to 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).

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

**WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 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).**

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to 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).

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

**WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 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).**

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to re-appoint Mary Kathleen Lafleur to the St. Landry Parish Housing Authority for a five year term. (10-17-2023 – 10-17-2028).

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

**WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

**8. Authorize the approval of a newly proposed 285' Telecommunication Cell Tower located near US Hwy 167, Opelousas, LA. Parcel #0500868500.**

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to approve the newly proposed 285' Telecommunication Cell Tower located near US Hwy 167, Opelousas, LA. Parcel #0500868500.

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

**WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

**9. Vote to approve a seven member panel to discuss the fate of the Statue.**

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* "I plan on voting on this item also. We have decide the other night at the committee meeting if I am correct Ms. Sherell, I think it is in the minutes where there were 3 representatives with Mr. Dejean plus they wanted someone from the VFW Organization. That is why Mr. Reber is here. So at this time I will ask: Mr. Alvin you made the motion that the seven member board include Mr. Reber to be on that panel also Mr. Dejean, Mr. David Richard and Mr. Linc Savoie. Will you add that on to your motion?"

*Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,* "Yes, I will add that to my motion."

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Now Ms. Nancy is not here tonight. I think that she was supposed to bring us three names. With that I will ask that this motion go forward. Do I have a second?”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune to approve a seven member panel do discuss the fate of the Statue.”

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

**ABSTAINED:** None.

**WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “At this time I will read a letter. It was addressed to the President and to this Parish Council. Yesterday during the dedication this gentleman came forward to me and he asked what are we going to do with the statue. I said that it will be decided with a panel. That is where we are at with it and tomorrow night, which is tonight we will start with the process. I will read this letter. He gave me the okay to name him. He sent it here anonymously. The letter reads:

*Mr. President and members of St. Landry Parish Council:*

*I noticed in the paper you have a very hard decision to make concerning the Confederate Monument standing on the courthouse grounds for a century. Let me share a couple of ideas that will save you thousands of dollars and maybe make hundreds of people happy. It is to rededicate this monument to the wonderful people that paid the ultimate price. We have been in wars it seems forever. The French Indian War, the Revolutionary War led by George Washington, the Civil War or un-Civil War where brothers fought, families fought and I hope this will never happen again. World Wars, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and many more losing millions for of our boys and girls. What a wonderful gesture to honor these people. Another idea, how about our first responders who are always there for us in the time of need. Instead of destroying this monument rededicate it to a great cause. Jesus says, “Love your bother as yourself.” Let us begin a good example: Love your brother, help your brother and support him in this critical year of need. Always remember, you don’t have to agree, just do not be disagreeable. Ladies and gentlemen as you go about your delicate business do not count the days make the day count. Your friend, Martin Roy Jr.*

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “On the ordinance to be introduced. The next two ordinance which are 2023-022 and 2023-023 needs to be pulled so Mr. Duplechain can look at them again with some more changes from FEMA regarding the same issue with the Flood Insurance Program.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Do you need this timely where you will need us to have a special meeting?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I don’t think that we will need it timely it is just that they sent some more stuff this afternoon. They looked at it again and they said to add a couple of more things.”

## **IX. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:**

### **Ordinance Pulled by Parish President Jessie Bellard**

#### **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 Pulled by Parish President Jessie Bellard**

**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;

**Ordinance Pulled, Clerks received pay increase earlier in the meeting**

**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)**

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The opening of the bids will be on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2028. There are two keys to the drop box. When a person comes and place a bid in the employee does not touch the bid, they go directly into the mailbox in the front lobby at our office. On the night of September 27<sup>th</sup>, someone from the council or whomever you all want to appoint, Sherell has the key, just to make sure that everything is correct. No one will look at the envelope until it is time to open up the bid. Whoever you all want to appoint to come and meet us.”

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* “Ms. Sherell is our representative. She will be there.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “They can submit their bids until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We don’t open up the bids until 6:00 p.m. that night. We will open the bids in the Old City Market and we will be live on Facebook.”

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to **Adopt Ordinance No, 2023-018**

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

**ORDINANCE 2023-018**

**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:

<b>PARCEL #</b>	<b>PHYSICAL ADDRESS</b>	<b>PROPERTY OWNER</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>8104372510J</b> 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*	<b>LAURIE STREET</b> <b>HOSEA SHAW</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>8601997500</b> 1 lot 12 (50 x 142) blk 3 N& B add 834627 (Don 63-845) 893232 (h-39-542) 1035606	<b>120 WILLIAMS STREET</b> <b>BELINDA STRAUSS</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>8602699505</b> 1 Lot (1 Ac) (140x311.4) N Cullivan S. Fuselier E Road & Ardoin W. Guillory In Sec 17 T-6s R-1e 1116106 1125431	<b>CARL LOEWER RD</b> <b>MABLE CULLIVAN</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>8101769000</b> 1 Lot 37 (50 X 100) Ballard Sub Div. 489438	<b>1413 JANICE STREET</b> <b>CURLEY &amp; GERTRUDE THOMAS</b> <b>JOSEPH</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>8600612000</b> 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)	<b>521 Fred Street</b> <b>Dupre Entp Of Eunice Inc.</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>0105164000</b> 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	<b>1323 HWY 749</b> <b>ELLA MARIE BIBBINS KADOR, ETALS</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>0101095550</b> 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)	<b>1518 N. MARKET STREET</b> <b>LAWRENCE ESPREE</b> <b>ETALS</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>8603246700</b> 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)	<b>JIM GUILLORY RD</b> <b>EDWARD HENRY</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>8501155500</b> 1 lot N. Fontenot S. Stagg E By Beouff W. Road 1007742 1142392	<b>984 COTTON PATCH RD</b> <b>TIMOTHY STAGG</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>8101363800</b> 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)	<b>826 N. MARKET ST.</b> <b>BESSIE GOUDEAU</b> <b>ETALS</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>8500207200</b> 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)	<b>POPLAR STREET/KAVANAUGH</b> <b>PEARLEY SIVERAND, ETALS</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>8103442500</b> 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	<b>NORWAY STREET</b> <b>JAMES LEONARD JONES, III</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>8101358512</b> 1 Lot 6 (50 x 100) Blk G Pamella Melancon Add 536901 1001335	<b>TRUMAN STREET</b> <b>PETER &amp; GERALDINE KENNISON</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>8621576821</b> 1 Lot (42 ½ x 180) N. Prudhomme S. Moosa E. Duson W. Foote 882595 (Z-38-146) 1013332	<b>441 SOUTH MLK DRIVE</b> <b>JUNIUS MONDAY</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>8100649839</b>	<b>FRANKLIN STREET</b> <b>DANIEL SMITH</b>

	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
<b>16</b>	<b>8104274000      144 AVE OF ACADIANS      JANIS FAYE LAVERGNE DAIGLE</b> 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)
<b>17</b>	<b>8614621102      SOUTH MLK DRIVE      ALFRED PRUDHOMME</b> 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)
<b>18</b>	<b>8100925500      NARROW STREET      MRS. FRANK DONATO, ETALS</b> 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)
<b>19</b>	<b>8101446000      816 BURR ST.      ALLEN &amp; SHIRLEY BATISTE GUILLORY</b> 1 Lot 17 (80 x 70) Blk 4 Mary Burr Add 552201 (T-17-113)
<b>20</b>	<b>8101813000      1632 EVANS STREET      EDDIE KENNERSON EST</b> 2 Lots 16 17 (48 x 100 ea) BLK a Artigue Sub Div. N. Babineaux S. Thomas E. Artigue St. W. Babineaux 217251 (0-7-65)*
<b>21</b>	<b>8100649971      CHURCH STREET      WALTER &amp; WIFE WRIGHT</b> 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.
<b>22</b>	<b>8500117500      619 W. MULBERRY ST      JACOB JOUBERT JR.</b> 1 Lot N. Bienvell St. (Mulberry St.) S. Quirk E. Murphy W. Quirk Et Als 792664 (Don 57-826) 1071806
<b>23</b>	<b>0101946500      E. JEFFERSON STREET      JOSEPHINE A. LASTRAPES EST ETALS</b> 1 Lot 19 (40 x 125) BLK C St Cry Add 649236 (D-23-354)

**A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-020.**

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune.  
**NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None.  
**WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated:** Councilwoman Nancy Carriere is the sponsor of Ordinance 2023-020. She is absent from this meeting. The council can vote on it.

**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.

**A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-021.**

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

**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:**

- A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to adopt Resolution No. 026-2023.**  
**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune.  
**NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None.  
**WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

**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.

- **A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Easton Shelvin to adopt Resolution No. 027-2023.**  
**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, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.  
**WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

*Councilman Harold Taylor questioned*, “Mr. Bellard, is this for things that we have already done?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “This is for the \$1,000,000.00 that we asked for this year for Chris Road and Domengeux Road in District 8.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “Next year can we talk about The Capital Outlay Projects across The parish so we can distribute them a little bit more evenly. Can we talk about it?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “I agree. After the meeting I will share more information as to why this is what it is.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “I have a request, the old Crenshaw Bridge.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “That bridge is on the off system bridge replacement. There is not enough money to do it in one year. I sent a letter today to bank the money to do it in one project. So for next year that is going to be the bridge. In the meantime we will work with District 6 to get it where it will be use able and safe. That is the next bridge to be done which is not enough money in this year's allocation.”

**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:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to accept the **Administrative Finance Committee Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023** as transcribed.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None.  
**WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

A motion was made by Councilman, Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to accept the **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes** from **Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023** as transcribed.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune.

**NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None.

**WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

**XIII. ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Easton Shelvin, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune.

**NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jerry Red Jr. and Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** None.

**WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 20<sup>th</sup>, day of September, 2023.

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