

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18<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 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. Chairman Jerry Red Jr., called the meeting of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
- II. Councilwoman Mildred Thierry led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,* “Good evening once again. I would like to say congratulations to everyone that ran and won. I also would like to say congratulations to Mr. Jody White, the new councilmember for District 1. Also I will ask that you all place your cell phones on silent.”

- III. **ROLL CALL:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. Ex Officio Jerry Red Jr. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin.

IV. **CONDOLENCES:**

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere:* Patrick ‘Shane’ Hebert, Carla Marie Thomas Clark.

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry:* Jacqueline Elliott, Hazel Rosette Thomas, James Milton, Larry E. Prudhomme, Loyce D. K. Zeringue, Enez B. Matt, Beryl O. Sebastien, Louis Marks Jr., Loretta V. Perron, Hudson Blake Saucier, Christopher D. Stagg, George Stepney Sr., Carla Marie Thomas Clark, JoAnn Guidry Campbell, Jeremy M. Dorn, Robert E. Rideau Sr.

*Councilman Harold Taylor:* Richard Gordon ‘Dicky’ Parker Sr.

*Councilman Alvin Stelly:* Creighton Dugas, Don Angelle, Wayne Brasseaux, Betty Marks, Ricky Thibodeaux, Harold Marks, Shane Hebert, Sandra Lanclos, Bryan Hebert.

*Councilman Wayne Ardoin:* James Troy Whipp, Marie Delores Hampton, Creighton Gabriel Dugas Jr., Raymond Beauxis, Larry Edward Prudhomme, Kathleen (Gonsoulin) May David, June Amy Lowrey, Wayne Brasseaux, Babette Elizabeth Stephen, Beryl O. Sebastien, Richard Gordon ‘Dicky’ Parker Sr.

*Councilwoman Vivian Olivier:* Wayne Brasseaux.

*Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune:* James Glenn Jordan, Paul Lejeune, George Richard, Russell Richard, Gino Gilbert Papillon, Johnette Lavergne, John ‘JB’ Lejeune.

*\*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., called for a moment of silence for the families that lost their loved ones.*

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

*Mr. Brian Boudreaux addressed the council. He stated,* “How are you all doing? Again this is about the thing that is getting built on Sunflower Road. When we were here for the last meeting that guy that was sitting on the side of you took my number and was suppose to call me and come over so we can voice our concerns. The whole community was waiting for this man to call. He never called and he never showed up. We are still concerned and our concerns are the same. The roads cannot handle it. They came and placed a 35 mph speed limit sign down there because they are using it as a race track right now. Saturday a Dodge Charger drove down there doing 90 mph before he hit my house.”

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated,* “Say that again.”

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated,** “Saturday a Dodge Charger passed down that road doing at least 90 mph before he got to my house. We were all outside. There are no cops that patrol down that road. We can’t handle the drainage and right now the water is designed to stay in the field to water the crops. If this man put 20 houses on that little lot all of the water will go on the road and the roads already are falling apart because of the farmers, everybody needs farmers, but they should be more responsible for the roads as well. The roads are falling apart and the drainage is not worth anything, we already have flooding problems down there right now. On Sundays and Mondays Prairie Ronde water drops down to 40 – 42 pounds of pressure and that is without the 22 houses. They are saying that is when everybody wash their cars and wash their clothes. What will happen when you build 20 more houses with that 40 pound of pressure? The rest of the week they say the pressure is at 60 pounds, what will happen if you add 20 more houses? It will drop down to the 40 pounds and the 40 pounds will drop down in the teens if not a single digit and that will cause a boil advisory. There are no fire hydrants and there is no way to put this out if this thing catches fire. We are already concerned about these 20 houses that are being built. They are asking for rent houses, if it would be his personal house we would be fine but he is asking for 20 rent houses that will be placed right there. This is our little slice of heaven that we like. We bought it because we love being out there because it is quite. You place 20 rent houses down there and it will not be quite anymore. We are a race track and the water pressure will drop, roads will fall apart. I don’t see the reason why he wants to place 20 houses there. That is the way that everyone down there feels. We already have flooding issues with the crawfish ponds and the farming and everything that is getting done down there with the lack of drainage. The banks that the houses will be on is this high and the roads are that high. Common sense. Thank you all.”

**Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned,** “Mr. Bellard, did we ever get any answers on that water?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I was not here for that last meeting so I am not sure what you all were asking.”

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** “They were suppose to check on the water pressure.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “That is Prairie Ronde water there. Mr. Jarrell will address that.”

**Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “Good evening council. I do have a letter from Prairie Ronde Water and from the Engineer for the Prairie Ronde Water System.”

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** “If the water pressure drops right now and it is at a pressure of 40 I am like that man with 20 more houses on that road what will happen?”

**Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “It is in your letter. The engineer analyzed it in that area. They are all at 45 or above during the morning usage time. A review of the line size in that area are sufficient to serve the additional 20 lots at the proposed location. That is from the engineer for the water system. It is in the letter, did they provide you all with the letter?”

**Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned,** “Will they put a bigger water line? If they don’t put a bigger water line the pressure will not hold up.”

**Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “No sir. He ran the calculations. That is why their engineer did it. He ran the calculations and said the 3 inch line is more than sufficient to hold the additional 20 lots.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Mr. Jarrell, the gentleman just before you talked about the road being a ditch is there proper drainage in that subdivision at this time?”

**Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “This is the common thing that we deal with on everyone that I do. If the ditches need to be cleaned then they need to get cleaned. I don’t sign the plat until I do a culvert analysis and analyze what size culverts then I put them on the plat with the proper anivert but if the ditches are over grown then we need to get someone out there to clean them up.”

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated,** “I have a question for you. In that meeting with me, you and that lady that signs the permit didn’t you say that you recommend the man having 10 houses instead of 20.”

**Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “I recommended it but it meets the ordinance.”

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated,** “It meets the ordinance but it is dropping down to 42 – 45 pounds of pressure.”

**Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “You can take that up with the engineer for the water system.”

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated,** “I also just found out that the man’s father-in-law is on the board for the water.”

**Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “No he is not, he resigned.”

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated,** “That is just a lot. First thing the water line is not deep enough. We went to the Prairie Ronde Water Meeting and that man told us the water pressure is at 42 pounds of pressure right now. How can that be handled with 20 more houses. I don’t see it happening.”

**Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “I can’t answer any of those questions.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated,** “Before you go Mr. Jarrell let me read what came from Prairie Ronde Water.

*Prairie Ronde Water System, Inc., has agreed to supply water to the M & N Estates for 20 new single-family homes being built on Sunflower Road in St. Landry Parish with the following stipulations.*

1. *Fill dirt or wooden mats will have to be placed over the existing water line at the point of egress and ingress to each house during construction.*
2. *No additional dirt is to be removed from over the existing water line.*

*All parties have agreed to these stipulations.*

*Attached is the engineering report from our engineer, Dominique Naomi, P.E., and a copy of the Prairie Ronde Water System, Inc., minutes.*

*If you have any questions feel free to contact Prairie Ronde Water System, Inc.*

**Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “Right, they have a depth issue from the waterline that they had with the farmer. I asked him to provide me with depths of the line all down Sunflower as built elevations, I needed some data. They did not provide it so the next thing that I got was the letter to serve it. The depth issue had nothing to do with my client it had to do with the farmer that they said removed two feet of dirt. They could not provide any information on that. I asked them and I talked to them about that.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “From our last meeting this is what we were waiting for from Prairie Ronde, am I correct Mr. Fontenot? This council goes by everything what the planning department with Parish Government when they come and give us everything that is done on that part and from the water system and everybody else that is where we make our decision. It is not based on favoritism or anything else. It is based on facts.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “I was reading this from the C. P. S. Engineering & Surveying Inc. in Lafayette. I know that you just mentioned that they did not bring you the depth. It says however there are issues that must be resolved regarding the depth of coverage and exposed lines. I know that it is not you but you were waiting for that to be able to approve it?”

**Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “No, so they would not provide, they were trying to work out that depth issue. They had that even further down the road. I asked them if there was a depth issue and you all are putting it on my client to pay for it. I said, do you have a built elevation of the existing line where the dirt was not disturbed? Is your line three foot minimum depth everywhere or do you all have elevations to prove that he took two feet of dirt? I just wanted some answers from it and I did not get those answers. I think that he put in an estimate to re-do that water line to drop it down and everything. I think that it was about \$35,000.00. I think that it is at the end of the letter in their minutes.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “Are you satisfied with the depth issue?”

**Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “The depth issue they resolved in a meeting to put dirt and mat over the ride-a-way and over the line when he is in construction. Not to just pass over the dirt that it sits under.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “Did you check it out? Are you okay with that?”

**Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “If they worked that out that is fine. What I was worried about was the letter from the engineer and the water system to be able to serve it. That is part of our ordinance, that we have to have that to be able to move forward.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Mr. Quirk is in the audience. A statement was made that these homes are going to be rentals is that correct?”

**Mr. Quirk stated,** “That is partially correct. Some of the homes will be sold and some will be lease purchase. The deal that I had with the bank now is 60/40. Forty percent of the homes will be rented and the rest will be sold whether it be lease purchase or just sold outright. As far as the waterline goes I would like to specify that I had a meeting with David Naomi the actual engineer. They did 3 water test on the waterline on Sunflower and Hwy 104, the adjacent property. The water test as stated was anywhere from 45 – 60 pounds during the 3 test. If you put in the 20 houses it will drop the water pressure max, 12 PSI according to the engineer that did the survey on the water line. The only issue they had was during construction as far as the water depth main was passing concrete trucks over this water main without a wooden mat or sufficient field dirt, so they contacted me, the board before they made their approval to give me the water, during construction on all the homes I either placed either or the wooden mats over the existing water line to egress and come in and out of the property with the trucks and or field dirt. As long as we have that covered they were able to approve the water line or the water service. The water pressure according to their engineer is no issues at all.”

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux questioned,** “Why when I flush my toilet and turn on my water in my sink the pressure drops? That is just my house by itself.”

**Mr. Quirk stated,** “The minimum water pressure they have to have on the line according to the engineer is 20 pounds. The water pressure will not fall below 40 pounds with the 20 houses and that comes from the engineer David Naomi. It is a 12 pound drop.”

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated,** “Like I said, we live down there. I don’t care what anybody says, we live down there.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Do you have anything that you would like to say on this matter Mr. Bellard.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “No sir.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “The next person to address the council is Ms. Melissa McGee.”

**Ms. Melissa McGee addressed the council.** She stated, “I live at 224 Sunflower Road. I was at the last meeting. My concern is not only just the water level, you know the pressure, we already are having flooding problems on our road. They have already built four houses on the highway but 20, they will adjoin my property. They will start with my property and go on down the road. There will be a lot more wear and tear on our road. It is a small parish road and I don’t think it can take that much. You are looking at least two vehicles for every house and 20 houses are a lot of houses. They will be parking on the road, there will not be any place for their visitors to park. It will be more wear and tear on that road, it will tear it up. We are going to have flooding problems and we do have issues with the water. At times the water smells like sewer, we don’t drink it and we don’t cook with it, we buy bottled water. Our water pressure at times is low and with an additional 20 more houses is a lot of houses. We have more concerns than just the water. It is the infrastructure and everything else. We will have a lot more people riding on that road. It is a small parish road and there will be a lot of traffic. They have already killed my neighbor’s dog. A pick-up truck drove down there so fast he ran over the dog and kept going. The guy ran out in the street and the dog died in his arms,

a big dog. People don't care out there in the country. They drive fast and they mistreat the road. We are just concerned as neighbors. I have been living down there almost 53 years. It has been quiet and it has been a good neighborhood. We like it in the country and that is why we moved out in the country. We are just voicing our concerns."

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** "Mr. Bellard, what kind of condition is that road?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "If I am not mistaken they did some overlay work on it about 10 years ago. It needs another dose of overlay on that road. I will get Public Works to go tomorrow and look at the drainage and see what can be done with that. At the end of the day, the council really does not have a choice in this matter because they meet the criteria of the ordinance. There is no zoning in parish other than I-49 and that is only a selective few and not much of that. In Ms. Mildred's subdivision we did put some zoning there. For the most part people who live in the country do not want zoning so we end up with stuff like this. As a parish we want to have more homes being built in our parish because that is more tax payers and more economic growth for our parish. I don't think that the council has no other option but to approve the subdivision because of the ordinance that is in place."

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux questioned** "What happens if this flooding turns us into a flood zone?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "What you need to understand Mr. Boudreaux, the council has to act on the ordinance that is in place. If everybody follows the ordinance there is not much that anybody can do unless we change the ordinance which won't effect this one at all."

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated,** "That is my concern. If FEMA turns us into a flood zone who do I go and meet that is not paying our insurance?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "This will not turn into a flood zone just because they built 20 houses."

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated,** "It turned Westgate into a flood zone when they started putting all of that stuff onto it."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "They do an assessment, I think that it is every 10 years. That is how they determine everything from there. Even if it is in a flood zone, most of the time it is not flooding. All I am saying is the council can only act on what the ordinance tells them to act on, they can't arbitrarily say I am not going to give a permit."

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated,** "Okay, I get that but what we are trying to tell you all right now is there is flooding down there right now."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "I will address that issue with Public Works. I will have them contact you tomorrow and you can show them what the issues are and we can address those issues. But for the council not to take action on a subdivision because we have a water issue and that is not an issue now, or if we have a flood issue and the engineer is giving us the green light there is not much that anybody can do."

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated,** "If our affairs turn into reality can we go back on the engineer or can we go back on you all? We are just screwed on the property that we brought and we have to deal with it. We have to fix our trucks from passing down these roads, apparently no one remembers how bad Sunflower really was before he put that ¼ inch layer of road on top."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "We put 2 inches of Asphalt about 10 years ago."

**Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated,** "About 10 years ago, now it is about ¼ of an inch."

**Ms. Melissa McGee stated,** "He is my next door neighbor. I have had one neighbor say that they will move if they build those 20 houses, they will sell and move."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** "This is a decision that they will have to make, each individual. But again, what we have to follow is the law. Again, when it comes to zoning nobody want to zone their area. I live in the country. I don't want to zone my area. I have a subdivision right behind my pasture. But it is okay, that is me and I live on a gravel road that

is my choice that I made. If we zone the parish I promise you will have more people in here crying about not zoning the parish verses zoning the parish. Zoning will take care of that problem but I promise you if we bring up zoning we will have an issue.”

**Mr. Ken Marks addressed the council.** He stated, “Looks familiar, my name is Ken Marks. My address is 171 Parks Street, Port Barre. Chairman, members of the council, Mr. President, members and guest I wanted to personally publically thank the constituents of District 6. This fine man right here served 4 years in my absence and now we are back in the seat again, if you will, after the first of the year. I had heartfelt reasons to come over here and I had a prepared statement if that is okay for me to read I would appreciate it. *To give real public service we must add something which can't be bought or measured with money and that is sincerity, integrity and gratitude. I think there is no higher calling in terms of being a public servant which is a chance to make a difference in people's lives and improve the quality of life for all citizens in our parish. Only a life lived for others is a live worthwhile. Public Service must be a complete dedication to the people that we serve with full recognition that every human being is entitled to courtesy and consideration, that constructive criticism is not only to be expected but sought, that smears are not only to be expected but thought and that honor is earned and not bought. When we look out for one another and we take care of each other, when we root for one's other success, when we strive to do better and to be better than the generation that came before us and try to build something better for generations to come. That is why we do what we do, this is the whole point of Public Service. If you make the choice to serve the public, public service then serve the public, not yourself. Do all the good you can and make as little fuss about it as possible.* I also have a little prayer and I don't know if it is appropriate to read it or do that at this time as well but: *Prayers to you and Prayers to our nations, prayer to our state and everybody else that have been recently elected. I appreciate your time and if there is anything that we can do to make it better we want to try.*”

**Ms. Melissa Vidrine Addressed the council.** She stated, “My name is Melissa Vidrine. My husband is Brian Vidrine and he works at Thibodeaux Electric Service, you might know him. My father-in-law is Ronald Vidrine. My husband and I were both in the army and we had a son, Daniel. My father-in-law, Ronald Vidrine served in Vietnam and he is a Silver Star and a Brown Star Recipient. We had a son, Daniel Vidrine. Daniel died on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. I am requesting that St. Landry Parish ban a drug that is being sold in gas stations, questionable gas stations, I will be safe, and smoke shops in St. Landry Parish. I would like for you to join Ascension Parish, I would like for you to join Rapides Parish, I would like for you to join Concordia and Grant Parishes along with the towns of Zachary and just recently last week Vidalia to ban Kratom in their community. Daniel was an Air Force Veteran. They banned Kratom from being sold in gas stations, well in their parishes or their municipalities.

**Parish President Jessie Bellard questioned,** “Can you spell that.”

**Ms. Melissa Vidrine stated,** “K R A T O M. I wrote a letter to most of you a couple of years ago after we had the autopsy results for my son. I did not hear back which is okay, I was a Lafayette resident at that time. My husband and I recently moved back to Sunset near the Cankton area. I have been going across the state and I have been involved in Legislation in the State of Louisiana. There were two Band Bills that were proposed in State Government but unfortunately the Lobbyist come in and the sellers get to whatever they do and we don't have people who speak out against it because not a lot of people, probably like you, aren't familiar with it. They sell it in extracts which the bottles are about the size of this and it is liquid but they don't tell you there are two or three servings in that little tiny bottle. You have people that are under the influence. My son, he was addicted to it for four years and we did not understand what it was going to do. I kept on telling him that I had concerns because he appeared to be under the influence. It causes so many issues. My son had car accidents because of it, he sneezed, went into a guard rail and totaled the car because he was using Kratom. This was before his death. He was using alcohol and Kratom which he had a DUI about a year before his death. He stopped alcohol and he started using Kratom solely, hiding it from his wife and us. On February 20<sup>th</sup> he came over for a family event, great, he was doing wonderful, playing and interacting with his kids and everything else. He leaves at 8:30 at night to go home with his wife and his kids and we get a call at 2:30 in the morning, Daniel is unresponsive. A week later we find the bottle in his vehicle that he was hiding from us, 500 capsules are being sold to people that cost fifty-something dollars. Since his death I have found out people are spending upwards of two, three, four, five six and seven hundred dollars a month on Kratom Products. It is a replacement for Opioid. That is the important thing because the lobbyist will say it is harm reduction, use Kratom and it helps, they are focusing and hiding that trend for PTSD. This

stuff is toxic, it kills people. I am a member of so many groups on Facebook and Social Media, quitting Kratom.org. There are so many people who are adversely affected health wise and their family members are dying, not just 20 year olds, 25 year olds, 26 year old children but grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles and young children. Thankfully Louisiana did pass a limit that you cannot purchase it under the age of 21 but that is not good enough, it needs to be banned. The good thing is Dustin Miller was also involved, he also helped with adding the wording, I don't know if it is to this bill but with another bill that was being proposed that all municipalities and parishes have the right to have stricter rules or laws against Kratom. So I beg you as a council to do the research. I can get you all the information, I don't have it with me today but I am requesting that you ban it in St. Landry Parish because it is a danger. If you are not familiar with it you don't know until it affects you and your family. My son had a wife and two young children that have no father anymore and I have no son. This is my son Daniel. He was a resident of St. Landry Parish, he was born in North Carolina but my husband and I after the military, moved to St. Landry Parish until we moved in 2016 and now we are back again and I would love for St. Landry Parish to take this serious, this drug."

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "I will get with the Coroner's Office tomorrow to do some research with him and come back to the Committee Meeting with some type information to give to you all."

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, "Can you come back and bring your information about Kratom please and give it to the President's Office."

*Ms. Melissa Vidrine stated*, "Yes."

*Ms. Catherine Hayes addressed the council*. She stated, "Good evening, this is all new to me. This is my second meeting so I am like learning a process. I want to speak on the Confederate Statue. The first meeting that I came to the gentleman was speaking about the black soldiers going to the Hudson and fighting and giving them the opportunity to fight. I think a lot of people fail not to see that a lot of them died and their families were pretty much left in bondage and they had a lot of problems. Opelousas, there are a lot of things that happen in the Opelousas area and I don't think that people want to keep recognizing a Confederate Monument here knowing what happened in 1868. So, my opinions is that I just ask that everyone whoever have a right to vote on, I think they dismissed the word remove, and they said about fate, so just be more mindful that anything that is pertaining to Confederacy, people don't want to think about that anymore. So that is all that I have to say. Just be mindful about the things that happened in Opelousas. That is all."

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, "Thank you Ms. Hayes."

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to approve the **Regular Meeting Minutes from September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023** as transcribed.

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

**NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None.

**WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

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

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "In you packet you have a Resolution. We had passed a Resolution sometimes back, I want to say the last couple of months for CAFA. They just had an amendment to it I believe. I think Garrett looked at it and I think everything was fine with it. I think that it was just a wording issue. It should be in your packet."

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, "So it is a go now."

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "Yes sir."

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, "We need a motion and a second. That will be to assist people with first time home buying?"

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "That is correct."

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown seconded by Councilman Jimmy Edwards to authorize the Parish President to sign the Certificate of St. Landry Parish Evidencing Public Approval of Bonds Pursuant to Selection 147 (f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “You have an Ordinance in your packet to introduce tonight for the sale of Adjudicated Property on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. There are 10 pieces of property and this is the first step on that sale. If someone can introduce it.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,* “We received this just before the meeting. Can you tell us what this is all about? It is a letter from Bruce Gaudin regarding Adjudicated Property.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “So we have one piece of property that nobody acted on. They bided \$500.00 and they never did come back. We tried contacting them and nothing happened. The next available bidder bid \$550.00 which is Mr. Gaudin’s client. He is asking that we award to the next highest bidder. He was also the adjacent land owner at the same time. Either way it goes he could probably get it as the adjacent land owner or he could do this. It would be better if we do it this way. It is whatever the council wish on that particular issue. Keep it in mind, we never did pass that ordinance that says we gave any time frame for people to do any adjudicated property sales. We just left it. I think that we have something coming up now if I am not mistaken to give them a time frame. I think it is a year or whatever it is. As of right now we do not have anything.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “My other question was the adjacent land owner, a piece of it, didn’t get priority on that priority?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “They should have.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “They should have, but didn’t.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “But it didn’t.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “So what are you suggesting we do?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “I think that would be a legal question only because we don’t have our ordinance in place that dictates the time frame. We did try to make contact with the original bid award.”

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,* “I was unaware that he was the adjacent landowner but if he was the adjacent landowner and he kept up the property for over a year then he would be able to buy it from the Parish.”

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,* “We have one similar to that. A young man that you talked to earlier Mr. Duplechain, Mr. Kidder. This is one that was purchased about two years ago.”

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,* “He was the adjacent landowner and he kept up the property for over a year.”

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,* “No, he was not adjacent, but his wife, his family of the property, so that make them more close to purchasing the property, is that correct? No.”

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,* “It can be redeemed by the family, the person who lost it. I am looking for it. Is it Stew, Murphy Stew?”

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,* “No.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “So you are saying someone was here that owns the property?”



**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “No, he wanted to buy it back for the family. He was going to buy it adjudicated.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “A family member cannot buy adjudicated property. They can go and pay the taxes and get it redeemed.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “This is the case on that. They were the second person to bid on it. They can’t find the first person. It has been two years they have been looking for him.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We have not found the person who had the \$500.00 bid. So Mr. Gaudin is asking that we give it to the next bidder. I am not sure who the next bidder is.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Can you come up with an ordinance with a reasonable amount of time so that we don’t wait two years. The whole point in doing this adjudicated property is to get it out of our hands.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Yes, an ordinance that comes before the council, a time limit that the council did not pass but that ordinance is still out there. It is still in my computer if you all want to pass it.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,** “Did we not get the ordinance presented to us?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “I think it was tabled. It was presented to you all but it was not passed yet.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “That is what I was saying at the last meeting that we cannot continue to sell these properties until we get this ordinance done where we won’t run into this kind of situation. That is two property, right? Because it is two lots. I know you said one but it is two. So they are both next to each other. It is two lots that they bided on. It was Lot 21.”

**Ms. Cynthia Fontenot reply** was not heard on the microphone.

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “They bided on two but it is only one.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “Garrett has done the ordinance, haven’t you Garrett.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “I have the ordinance. It hasn’t been passed yet, there is a time limit in it.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “You just need to present it to us so they can look over it so we can pass it.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “How about if it is brought to the next Committee Meeting.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “That is fine so we can pass it. On the question about a family member, the reason why the owner, I mean the reason why the neighbors have first choice, not necessarily the family like he said that they can redeem it because then you will have a situation if we start just giving it to the family. They are waiting for this to be adjudicated and not have to pay all of these taxes and they can pay less as they want and it will be resolved that way. So that is not a good practice. It is best to just continue doing it like the neighbor or the family is to make.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “If it is adjudicated a family member cannot buy it. The law does not allow it. It is just that simple.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carrier stated,** “Yes, when they can redeem it, they cannot buy it.

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “They can redeem it. That is correct.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned,** “Mr. Duplechain, what is the timeline you have in that ordinance?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “The timeline in that ordinance is, I think that it is 9 months.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “Yes, we agreed on nine months.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Is that an artificial number or you just pulled it out there or what?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “It is the actual ordinance. It is the number that is in the ordinance right now. So if the council wants to go with 9 months then that is the ordinance that you all will look at, at the committee meeting next month.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “I hear what you are saying but why 9 months?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “I don’t know.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I can answer that. Mr. Taylor, the reason for that is through adjudication you have a process where adjudication is only like a 60 day redemption period or 6 months depending on the time. So I think what we had talked about in the meeting was 6 months plus 3 months to give them enough ample time.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “Mr. Chairman, so we have that Ms. Sherell and we will put that on next month’s meeting, the committee meeting.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “The last thing I have to say about this is I know you were waiting on an Ethics review or opinion did you finally get it because that was a part of the ordinance about employees buying property. That was another reason why it was tabled because we were waiting on him to come up with.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I did not get anything in writing from either parties yet.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “Okay, why don’t we just go ahead on and that is just my opinion, he has written the ordinance and it should include that the employees, because when I called the employees were not allowed to buy.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “And the issue with that is when I talked to the Ethics Board they said that Cynthia, because she is the one that is running that department, Kiara can’t buy and I can’t buy but any other employee that is not associated with the program can. So that is why I asked for it in writing so we can have something to present to the council. I got a different story. It depends how you ask the question over there so I said let’s just make this easy, put it in writing so we can have something and have an answer.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Being that we are waiting until next month I say we call the Ethics Board and get an answer to make sure that if employees can or can’t bid on property, adjudicated property.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Something in writing.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Yes.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Okay.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “We seem not to be able to get an answer, can you write the ordinance without that and we can always add it, amend the ordinance later. So you can get them both ready.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “We can always put it in if we need to but for right now the ordinance with the timeline would be before the council committee meeting. If I had my computer right now we could probably, you know, since I don’t have it now, it is across the street.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “I understand, thank you.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The issue that we have is the 10 properties that are up for sale for January 4<sup>th</sup>. It is an ordinance that needs to be introduced.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “I will introduce that ordinance.”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “Second.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “You are the Sponsor.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “I will sponsor it, what I mean, as soon as Garrett get it to us.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “So we read the title.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “This is where we got into trouble last time. I am asking that we put the 10 pieces of property for sale by Ordinance, because we have to do it by ordinance. Not the ordinance that is dealing with the time frame, this is an separate ordinance, the one that we have tonight is dealing with the 10 pieces of property, adjudicated property to sell on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Right, that ordinance dealing with the 10 pieces of property for sale on January 24, Sherell and I were just, I mean our Clerk and I were just looking at it in her computer before the meeting today. So we have that ordinance.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “It is in the packet.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Right.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “So I need a sponsor for that ordinance. The next item is the budget. I have presented the budget not in a full meeting tonight. You all should have a copy of the budget and I need someone to sponsor that.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “I will sponsor that Mr. Chairman.”

**Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune stated,** “I will second.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Thank you.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “You don’t need a second, he is just sponsoring it.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The other item, Ms. Angie Bellard applied and was granted unopposed for a Constable Position by Eunice. She talked to me earlier this week and she has a conflict with that position. She sent her letter to Baton Rouge, we have not officially received anything from Baton Rouge yet but we going to have to probably fill that vacancy whenever we get the official notification.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned,** “Is that on the Tourist Board or what?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “No, no, on the Constable Board. She ran unopposed for the Constable Position in the Eunice area.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** Constable, sound like you said council.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We don’t have anything unless Ms. Jordan received something from the State.”

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,** “Not yet.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “That is all that I have.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “Mr. Chairman, Ms. Sherell sent an e-mail saying that our Finance Director is on leave, can you give us some background on that please.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “She is on leave.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "How long will she be?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Until December."*

*Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "Should we not appoint a new Finance Director?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No, we are good. She is still our Director of Finance."*

*Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "Who is our Finance Director now that she is not here?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Me."*

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "You are not even an accountant."*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I hold the position until we need one and we don't need one right now."*

*Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "And you have checked that through legal and all?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We are good."*

*Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, "You checked it through legal?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We are good."*

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Counselor."*

*Legal Counselor Garrett Duplechain stated, "Yeah, I don't see a problem."*

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Okay, thank you."*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "The only question that I have is, is she on paid leave?"*

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

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Until December and then she will be back?"*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "She is on vacation."*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "After that."*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "She is on vacation right now."*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "That is the leave."*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "That is the leave that she is on, correct. That is all that I have."*

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, "Are there any other questions?"*

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I make a motion that we accept the Parish President's Report."*

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Second."*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Mr. Chairman, sorry, I have one question, I don't know if I can ask this question, it is just about someone called me about a road. They were concerned because someone told them that the road could not get paved because they were taxed exempt as far as paying home owners tax. I have never heard of that."*

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Can you please speak in your mic?"*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “It was concerning a tax exempt home on a road if they were denied privileges of getting their road paved, I did not think so but I just wanted to hear it from you.”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Unless it is a private road.”*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “No, you understand, it is not a private road.”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If it did not come from me and it should have not come from none of my people so.”*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “But there is no such thing.”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Okay, I just wanted to clarify.”*

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “So what about Private Roads.”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “As she was saying I thought maybe it may have been a private road that somebody lived on and could not get it blacktopped.”*

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “But it would not be taxed exempt.”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That is what I am saying.*

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I am asking.”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It should not be.”*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I just need to give you the name of that road right? Then you can look at it. Okay.”*

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:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**\*Items passed through committee.**

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to authorize the Council Clerk to re-advertise for four appointment to the St. Landry Parish Planning Commission Board.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

### **2. Vote to re-appoint Lastie Cormier for one appointment for a one year term to Fire District No. 7 and authorize the Council Clerk to re-advertise for one appointment for a one year term to Fire District No. 7, Brenda Ducote resigned (11-18-2023 – 11-18-2024).**

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to re-appoint Lastie Cormier to Fire District No. 7 for a one year term (11-18-2023 – 11-18-2024) and authorize the Council Clerk to re-advertise for one appointment for a one year term to Fire District No. 7, Brenda Ducote resigned. (11-18-2023 – 11-18-2024).

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

**3. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for three appointments to Hospital District No. 1 (Acadian Medical Center) for a six-year term. (12-08-2023 – 12-08-2029)**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for three appointment to Hospital District No. 1 (Acadian Medical Center) for a six-year term. (12-08-2023 – 12-08-2029).

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

**4. Vote to re-appoint Trey Sanford and Chris Leblanc for two appointments for a four-year term to East St. Landry Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1.**

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to re-appoint Trey Sanford and Chris Leblanc to the East St. Landry Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four-year term. (11-18-2023 – 11-18-2027).

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

**5. Authorize appointing a committee to work with the present committee to put policies and procedures together and come back with an Ordinance creating a commission that is in charge of operating the Ag Arena. “Item pulled by Councilman Harold Taylor.”**

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “Mr. Chairman, I offered that motion. I would like to withdraw the motion until further study. We have information regarding the lawsuit that was filed in 2012 on a similar event.”

*Chairman Jerry Red stated,* “If you notice you do have that in front of you and he is pulling it.”

**6. Authorize the sale of the adjudicated property under the ruling that we have now and we put something in place for the next sale or the sale after that.**

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,* “I believe that we have already discussed that.”

**7. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Fire District No. 1 for a two-year term. (12-20-2023 – 12-20-2025).**

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Fire District No. 1 for a two-year term. (12-20-2023 – 12-20-2025).

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

**8. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 for the remainder of a four-year term.**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 for the remainder of a four-year term.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

9. **Vote to accept Ms. Bambi Polotzola, Ms. Lena Charles and Mr. Kenneth Dejean as Members selected by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to sit on the board to discuss the fate of the statue.**

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune to accept Ms. Bambi Polotzola, Ms. Lena Charles and Mr. Kenneth Dejean as members selected by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to sit on the board to discuss the fate of the statue.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

10. **Authorize the Preliminary and Final Approval of a Proposed Subdivision located on Sunflower Road, Opelousas, La. Showing a partition of a 10.350 acre tract Lots A-T (20 lots) situated in Section 10, Township 6 South and Range 3 East.**

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “We need a motion if you all want to. Are we going to take action on this or what? Nobody wants to make a motion.”

**Councilman Gil Savoy stated,** “I will make that motion.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Somebody wants to second it.”

**Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated,** “I will second it.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Okay, we have a motion and a second, I did not twist your arms. Roll call.”

A motion was made by Councilman Gil Savoy, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier to authorize the Preliminary and Final Approval of a Proposed Subdivision located on Sunflower Road, Opelousas, La. Showing a partition of a 10.350 acre tract Lots A-T (20 lots) situated in Section 10, Township 6 South and Range 3 East.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Gil Savoy, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** Alvin Stelly. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Dexter Brown and Lynn Lejeune. **WHEREUPON,** this motion **FAILED** on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

**Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated,** “We have 5 Abstains and 4 Yeas. It failed.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Because of the lack of 7 votes it has to come back.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard questioned,** “Mr. Duplechain, They don’t have to state why they abstain in their vote?”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “No.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated,** “An Abstention is a No vote. It is recorded as that.”

11. **Authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign a Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Washington Garden Club Inc., and Steamboat City Association Inc., in the amount of \$2,500.00 each for a total of \$5,000.00.**

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Mr. Chairman, it is \$5,000.00 each. It was sent in like this but it is \$5,000.00 each.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “So we will scratch out \$2,500.00 and it will be \$5,000.00 each for the Washington Garden Club and Steamboat City Association.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign a Disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Washington Garden Club Inc., and Steamboat City Association Inc., in the amount of ~~\$2,500.00~~ **\$5,000.00** each for a total of ~~\$5,000.00~~ **\$10,000.00**.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

**12. Authorize the Council Clerk to contact a Representative from the Acadian Ambulance Service to come and address the council.**

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “Do we have one here? I guess not. We have a motion and a second. So that is for them to come to the Committee Meeting.”*

*Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Yes.”*

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize the Council Clerk to contact a Representative from the Acadian Ambulance Service to come and address the council.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

**13. Authorize the Parish President to re-implement the burn band back in St. Landry Parish.**

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “I believe you already done, right?”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”*

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. Chairman, I have a question, I understand that the Commission of Agriculture or Secretary of Agriculture has given permission to allow them to burn the cane fields that have been cut, is that correct?”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes, that is correct.”*

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “They have to have one person, at least one person monitoring the fire?”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I think they have to have one and depending on the amount of acreage but yes sir. The have stipulations they have to meet in order to do that.”*

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Wow. Okay, thank you.”*

**IX. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-022**  
**Sponsored by Councilman Harold Taylor**

**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 less....”**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-023**  
**Sponsored by Councilman Harold Taylor**

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Chairman, this is the one that FEMA is recommending. I think that Mr. Duplechain has been working with them back and forth regarding the new flood insurance plan. I think that Mr. Duplechain can allude to that.*

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “FEMA requires these two ordinance be passed. They*



have approved both of the ordinances in the form that it is in right here so these two ordinance would be passed. After that I will contact or maybe before that I will contact FEMA and see what else they require in regards to citizens continuing to be able to get Flood Insurance from FEMA. So that is what this deals with here. So these two ordinances are the first that they require and the after that I will contact them and see where do they want to go. This regards the citizens being able to get Flood Insurance from FEMA.”

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,* “So that is the first one that Harold sponsored.”

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,* “The first one and the next one and they were both approved by FEMA so we need a sponsor for both.

*Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,* “Okay.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated,* “I will take that one also.”

## **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 NO. 2023-024 Sponsored by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere**

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “Mr. Chairman, regards to this one right here we are spending a ton of money on signs. We put them up and they take them down. We do have cameras in places where we have the most activity. It is just that the enforcement side of it gives us hardly no penalty so we are trying hopefully deter them from doing it again and again. Our signs are not aluminum anymore. That is the reason for this.”

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,* “I will sponsor it.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,* “Can you tell me what the fine will be.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “\$500.00”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,* “That is enough.

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “I think that we can start with that and hopefully it would work.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,* “First offense, \$500.00 then after that try to get jail time or something.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “We can only do so much as a Government. I don’t think that we can do any kind of seriousness like that because that goes into another level. We can stay on the civil side and \$500.00 or six months in jail or I forgot how they worded it but we can do that and I think that is the maximum that we can do other than going to a felony and I know that we can’t do felonies.”

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,* “I will sponsor that one.”

## **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE SECTION 28-6, DAMAGING OR REMOVAL OF BRIDGE SIGNS, ROAD SIGNS, GUIDE POSTS, ETC., TO INCLUDE A FINE FOR VIOLATING THAT ORDINANCE**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-025**  
*Sponsored by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Mr. Chairman, you should have the updated version of this ordinance. It is going to be specific to cable and fiber companies. Those are the ones that are doing stuff that we don’t know about and today we had a complaint as well. We don’t know who is on our roads right now and we don’t know who is doing it. We encourage them to come lay the lines down but our problem is we don’t know who they are so when constituents call we don’t know what to tell them. I did speak with CLECO and the other energy companies. We don’t have any issues with them because we know who is on our right of ways on that one but this is just specific to the Cable and Fiber.”

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated*, “I will sponsor this one.”

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “I just want to clarify. It says comment to St. Landry Parish Government before doing work, where it says all persons or entities and/or contractors so you are saying specifically to cable.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Correct, we sent an updated version.”

*Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated*, “It is in your packet.”

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “I did not want to be confused with electrical and you know contractors that are building houses because we already have a deal with that.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “The fee for that is basically for engineers to look at the plan before we issue the permit.

**AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE ALL PERSONS, ENTITIES, AND/OR CONTRACTORS TO GET A PERMIT FROM ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT BEFORE DOING WORK INVOLVING CABLE OR FIBER OPTIC CABLE WITHIN A ST. LANDRY PARISH RIGHT OF WAY**

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government shall require all persons, entities, and/or contractors to obtain a permit from St. Landry Parish Government, and pay a permit fee to St. Landry Parish Government, before doing any work involving cable or fiber optic cable within a St. Landry Parish right of way;

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government requiring a permit and permit fee prior to work being performed involving cable or fiber optic cable within a St. Landry Parish right of way protects the citizens of St. Landry Parish and their property;

**X. ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:  
NONE.**

**XI. RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:**

- **A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adopt Resolution No. 030-2023.**  
**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune.  
**NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None.  
**WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

*Councilman Harold Taylor questioned*, “Mr. Chairman, Is this for the Federal Off System Bridge and the three that we have in the hopper?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Yes sir that is the same plan that we do every year and we have an inspector that inspects the bridges and it fits the criteria for the plan.”

*Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “What three bridges that we have on the agenda for this year. Is it the Courtableau Bridge?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Yes sir Courtableau is number one because we are at a point where it is real bad.”

**RESOLUTION NO. 030-2023**

**ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE  
WITH THE STATE OF LOUISIANA  
OFF SYSTEM BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Code of Federal Regulations as enacted by the United States Congress mandates that all structures defined as bridges located on all public road shall be inspected, rated for safe load capacity and posted in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection standards and that an inventory of these bridges be maintained by each State; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility to inspect, rate and load-post Parish bridges is under the authority of St. Landry Parish Government in accordance with standards as delegated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (herein referred to as DOTD) for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

1. The Parish will perform all interim inspections on all Parish owned or maintained bridges in accordance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards.
2. All parish owned or maintained bridges, which require load posting or closing, will be posted or closed in accordance with the table in the DOTD Engineering Directives and Standards Manual Directive No. 1.1.1.8. DOTD supplies only load posting information concerning bridges that have been critically reviewed prior to load posting.

These stipulations are requisites to participation by the Parish in the Off System Bridge Replacement Program.

**XII. COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilman, Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes** from **Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023** as transcribed.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to accept the **Administrative Finance Committee Meeting Minutes** from **Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023** as transcribed.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

**XIII. ADJOURN:**

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

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Easton Shelvin and Wayne Ardoin. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 18<sup>th</sup>, day of October, 2023.

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