**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023**

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

**OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

1. **Councilman Easton Shelvin called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.**
2. **Roll Call**: Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown,

Timmy Lejeune, and Lynn Lejeune. Ex-Officio Jerry Red Jr. **ABSENT**: None.

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

***Ms. Catherine Hayes Manager, Holy Trinity Villa addressed the council. She stated, “***Good evening Chairman and Councilmembers. My name is Catherine Hayes. I am the Assistant Manager at Holy Trinity Villa. I want to give glory to God that I am a Cancer Survivor. I just returned from MD Anderson this year. My manager, Ms. Angela Beverly stated that we were informed that we had a budget shut down at our facility. Love of People came forward for Thanksgiving and gave our residence a Thanksgiving Dinner. I am here to ask everyone on the Parish Council if they could help us out for Christmas for our elderly and disable residence. I gave a copy to Ms. Sherell to pass out to every one of you and give information and details about helping us out. I am just happy to be back and I love my residence back to work. We have not had a chance to give them any type of activities since I have been gone because I usually handle that kind of stuff. I really would like to do this for them. I would appreciate if you all could help us out. Thank you.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard questioned***, “How many residents do you have?”

***Ms. Catherine Hayes Manager, Holy Trinity Villa stated, “***We have 104 residents.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “Mr. Bellard, I see where we had given money before out of the ARA Fund. Is there any way that it is possible?”

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

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* “**Okay, I am just asking. Thank you.”

***Councilman Dexter Brown stated***, “You have 104 residence, my name is Dexter Brown and I will supply all of your yams and green beans. I will get with you.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***I will take care of the rest***.”***

***Ms. Catherine Hayes Manager, Holy Trinity Villa stated, “Thank you sir.*** You can contact us. The phone number is on our copies or e-mail us. Thank you, I appreciate it.

***Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated***, “I am from Sunset. We will have a lot of stuff going to you all probably next week. The Garden Club will be putting something together for you all.”

***Ms. Catherine Hayes Manager, Holy Trinity Villa stated,*** “Thank you all. We appreciate it.”

***Ms. Pat Mason Guillory addressed the council. She stated***, “Good evening Chairman, Councilmembers, Mr. Bellard and members of the audience. First I would like for all of us to just pause for a moment. On tomorrow December 7th, will mark 82 years of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Our only survivor from the Pearl Harbor attach died September 27, Mr. Joe Richard. Mr. Joe Richard is still being remembered as of tomorrow in New Orleans as a National Ceremony. Over 2,400 people and personnel were killed in a one hour and fifteen minute attack. I ask that you at 7:55 a.m. remember that this country was attached. We lost 19 Navy Ships including 8 battleships. Thank God for Mr. Joe Richard and his service to our country. Next I would like to share with you our upcoming event which is Wreath across America. I just want to let you all know a little bit about this. We got on board with this about 5 years ago. This is a National Endeavor that started in 1992 with a company that donated over 5,000 Wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery so that people can remember the fallen during this time of the year. The guy name was Moral Rochester and it expanded until now over two million graves across the United States will have Wreaths placed on our Veterans. Walmart Distribution Transportation Department partnered with us five years ago, if some of you can recall, some of you attended the Ceremony. What they do, Walmart is a big partner in transporting these Wreaths across the country. On December 14th, they will stop at the Distribution Center here where we will receive the Wreaths that they are going to donate to St. Landry Parish Government and St. Landry Parish Veterans Memorial Committee for a ceremony that we will have on December 17th. The Official Ceremony is the 16th, however it is a Saturday and I know it is a holiday, so I will ask councilmembers to please take a little time on Sunday December 17th, to come out to this ceremony. We present each Councilmember with a Wreath, we present Mr. Bellard with one for the Courthouse and all the families that are there we present them with a wreath as supplies last. They will give us as many as we want, this is a big thing, google it and find out. We don’t have to pay anything, everybody across this country have to pay for these wreaths. In honor, first of all the purpose is first to remember the fallen during the holiday season, second to honor those who served our country and those who are serving and third to teach our younger generation that is coming after us that freedom is not free. I wanted to share this with you, all of this information is in the handout. If you need to contact me or Ms. Martha J. Ford, please do so. Last year I had a chair for all of you at the memorial and only two or three of them were filled. To show our appreciation to Walmart Distribution Manager, Mr. Michael Bell Chambers and his staff but putting up the money that it cost to get these wreaths. We will be at the memorial at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday December 17th. Thank you for your time, I wish all of you a blessed and happy holiday season, may God continue to bless you and your family. Keep us in prayer and thank you. You all need to see the progress of the memorial, the welcome center. Thank you.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “Ms. Mason, I just wanted to say thank you for all that you do. We really do appreciate you and I have been there for the wreath. I actually took extra wreaths and brought them to different churches. So thank you again. I will try my hardest to be there.”

***Ms. Pat Mason Guillory stated, “***Councilmembers, if you can’t come, send a representative from your district that you represent. Let someone take them home so they will know what we are doing out there. I challenge all of you to come. Thank you.”

***Mr. Craig Kidder addressed the council***. He stated, “My issue sort of fall in line with Ms. Cynthia Fontenot about the adjudicated property. My name is Craig Kidder, 16557 Hwy 190, Port Barre, LA. My issue falls in line with what Ms. Cynthia Fontenot was talking about. It is old, it is a couple of years and they can’t find the highest bidder. She has had problems with that for a while. I am the second highest bidder on one of the properties. I would like to be considered to a relevant bid. Right now there is no avenue for the second highest bidder to get it so they are going to go back to re-bid. I would like to be able to be considered a valid bid and accept control of that property. It has been adjudicated since 2014, quite some time ago. You all have my information. I paid for the two lots in 2021 to start the bid process, the sale was in April 2022 and someone out bid me by $75.00 but they can’t find them.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “I think that is also in the ordinance right Garett? We had agreed on that so that should be a part of the ordinance, correct?”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “The new ordinance is coming before you in two weeks.”

***Mr. Craig Kidder stated***, “For the second highest bidder? It will be finished and it would not have to be out again.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “Mr. Duplechain, since we are kind of going off script with the other part to get it back on the bid list we don’t have an ordinance saying that we can’t do it. We have made every attempt to notify the person who was the highest bidder to no avail, can’t we just pass that on to the second highest bidder to get the process faster.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “***We don’t have an ordinance saying that we can’t do it but the ordinance says that it goes to the highest bidder so we would not want to create a situation where it is going to the second highest bidder until we have an ordinance in place to protect us on that.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***Technically the highest bidder has never been notified. I am just trying to figure out where it won’t start this process all over again looking like another 4 or 5 months and all this time this property is costing the parish government some money. What I am saying is the highest bidder if he was never notified and never got any of his mail and we made every effort to contact him, the highest bidder should be him. Parish Government does not want property. It cost us a ton of money to take care of that.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “Once we pass the new ordinance it will make it a lot easier.”

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated***, “Mr. Bellard, let me understand. Did we send a registered letter to the guy from the place it was bid?

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***Everything that he put on his application or his bid form was followed. We even went to the house in person to try and make contact direct and there was no one there. I don’t know what it is or what the issue is but is has been a long time. I forgot the date.”

***Mr. Craig Kidder stated***, “It started in 2021.”

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated***, “Mr. Duplechain, how long does this guy have? Can it be tied up for 20 more years?”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “It won’t be tied up for 20 more years. Once we pass the new ordinance it will protect us.”

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated***, “For the next sale but not for the previous.”

You can’t implement a law from what happened yesterday, you can only introduce a law for what will happen tomorrow.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “Once you pass it in two weeks.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “So what you are telling is this piece of property could be tied up for the next 20 years. If he never comes forward or anything, we have to have a breaking point.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “It is not going to be tied up for 20 years. You all can bid it out again.”

***Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated***, “Mr. Timmy, just to clarify on this individual, I went to his resident and it was empty. I went to the person that lives in front of that resident and he said that was his rent house and the guy moved out of the parish, unknown. He does not know where did he move to but he did leave. They suspect Calcasieu Parish. I made all effort to try on this property and all of the properties that I brought up today. In reference to Mr. Kidder, the one that he is interest in, I did all kind of research.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***Since no contact has been made, no letters were given, is that an invalid bid? He was never really awarded the highest bid?”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “Until the authentic act of cash sale is signed and executed and recorded it is not a sale. It is not a sale until you can go into the Clerk of Court Conveyance Records and find it then it is not a sale.”

***Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated***, “In reference to this property and Mr. Kidder, I have explained to him that he could purchase it as an adjourning landowner because they have adjourning property on three sides of his property. He could bid on it if I get it placed back on the bid list. With the new ordinance coming in that would not pertain to him being the second highest bidder, he would have to start over. They are adjoined to that property on three sides of that parcel. Mr. Kidder and Ms. Deuce have property all around that property. He has an option of purchasing it as an adjoining land owner because he said that they did care for the property. I am not exactly sure what happened under the previous adjudicated property person but I can say that I have explained that to him, adjoining land owner or if I get it back on the bid list you are welcome to bid on it.”

***Mr. Craig Kidder stated***, “We have since bought land all around that spot. That is assessed at a little over $9,000.00 per lot and I brought two lots for a fraction of that cost. I get what it is assessed but what it is selling for it is less than that. I brought a lot that is equivalent to two lots with a mobile home on it for $20,000.00 with a home that is ready to be lived in. This would be $20,000.00 for wooded property with nothing on it and it would have to be built up, it is not ready to move in, I maintain around it, some into it. I keep the drainage out or it would just be in shambles.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “Two things can happen like you said. He was the adjacent land owner, he can buy it. My question is, how many bids did we have?”

***Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated,*** “Two bids from what I found.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “Chances are you may get it. The second thing, I know he mentioned about the assessed value. Mr. Bellard, are you all selling it at the assessed value? How are we appraising it?”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “No it is not appraised at the assessed value.”

***Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “***It is always the assessed the value. Whatever the Tax Assessor’s assess it at. This property is $9,200.00.”

***Administrative Finance Chairman Easton Shelvin stated***, “What we are understating is this particular property already been bid on and the highest bidder, we don’t have a time lime on it, like Mr. Timmy said this could go on for 20 more years because we can’t hold them obligated to releasing that property because we don’t have nothing holding them to come forward.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “It won’t be for 20 more years. We are doing the ordinance in 2 weeks.

***Administrative Finance Chairman Easton Shelvin stated***, “That ordinance won’t bring that property in.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “***It will bring it in.”

***Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “***What is going to happen, if you all vote to put that back on the bid list he has until December 30th to come and do an application with a deposit and I can put it on the April Sale.”

***Administrative Finance Chairman Easton Shelvin stated, “***We are going to be able to bring the property that is already bid before the ordinance into a new ordinance?”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “If he is an adjoining landowner and he would sign the affidavit saying that he kept it up for a year.”

***Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “***I offered that to him. He said that he did not want to pay the assessed value. He would rather place a bid.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “When he bids he will fall under the new ordinance with some timing.”

***Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “***I don’t think the frame for him. His concerns was being the second highest bidder he wants to come and purchase it as the second highest bidder since we cannot locate the original awarded person. That is why I came to the council about putting the property back on the list so we can bid them out. If he does that he has until December 30 because we have a cut off for the next sale. The cut off for the January Sale has already passed so the cut off for the April sale is December 30th.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “I think this is fairly simple. By the time we sell it again we will have to go out there and clean that property. It will cost us more money that what we are going to get from the property through a bid process. So nobody has come forward and said that I am the highest bidder despite all of the extra claims. If we can do one thing we can do another. I don’t see where we will have a problem giving it to the next highest bidder because the first highest bidder was never notified and he never claimed it. So my thing is for the safety of our parish to stop spending money on property that we don’t have and never will recoup, just sell the property to the next person and be done with it. To me that is the easiest way possible just to be finished with it.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “Counsel, would you like to offer a suggestion on how we handle this?”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “If the original highest bidder does not come forward, which it does not sound like he will then we should not have a problem.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “So your considered opinion is we can go forward with what we are asking to do here?”

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

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “Legally, from a legal prospective.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “***Right, I don’t think that the highest bidder will appear and come forward and file a lawsuit for his property. There is no one else with a claim better than, other than the original highest bidder and we can’t find him.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “Thank you.”

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned***, “Counsel, what do we need to do to get this moving forward to sell it to Mr. Kidder, what do we need to do?”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “***We will 7 votes from the full council.”

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated***, “So we need to bring this to the full council meeting?”

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

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated*, “**I would suggest if I am in order that we move forward with this and stop going back and forth.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman

Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 20th, 2023** to place an Adjudicate Property Sale back on the bid list.”

**On roll call vote: YEAS**: Harold Taylor, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and

Lynn Lejeune. **NAYS:** Vivian Olivier. **ABSENT**: None. **ABSTAINED**: None.

***Motion forwarded.***

1. **Parish President & Finance Reports:**

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated****, “*In your packet you have a **Resolution** to approve the 2024 LIHEAP Agreement between us and the State for Community Action Agency. I need a motion to get that to the full council.”

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular meeting held on **Wednesday, December 20th, 2023** to approve a **Resolution** for the 2024 LIHEAP Agreement between the Parish Government and the State for the Community Action Agency.

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

***Motion forwarded.***

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “Another issue, Mr. Taylor and I talked about this the other night. There is a Fire District or the lack there of out there by Melville. In the near future we will probably come to the council to do something with that. There is an area that is not protected by any Fire District and it is taking the resources from Fire District 1 and from Melville and Palmetto. We will start looking at that to make sure that we can cover it some kind of way. This past election there was an issue with Fire District 1 Tax Renewal where some of the residence were not able to vote. That was taken care of by the Registrar and turned over to the state. The next election they will be on the list to vote and they will get a new card so they will be good to go. Are there any questions that I can answer?”

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

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

***Motion carried.***

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

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 20th, 2023** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for four appointments to the St. Landry Parish Planning Commission Board.

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

***Motion forwarded.***

1. **Authorize the Council Clerk to re-advertise for one appointment to the St. Landry Parish Agricultural Arena Authority for a five-year term. (01-18-2024 – 01-18-2029).**

**Mr. Buddy Helton has resigned.**

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated*, “**I would like to comment that I want to thank Mr. Buddy Helton. He served on the Arena Board for many, many years and he did outstanding work and I wish him well in the future.”

***Councilman Dexter Brown stated***, “I want to piggy-back on the comment that Mr. Taylor made. Mr. Buddy Helton did serve the Parish with the Ag Arena very, very well. I would like to thank him for his service.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 20th, 2023** to authorize the Council Clerk to re-advertise for one appointment to the St. Landry Parish Agricultural Arena Authority for a five-year term. (01-18-2024 – 01-18-2029).

Mr. Buddy Helton has resigned.

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

***Motion forwarded.***

1. **Discuss Kratom. (Councilman Timmy Lejeune).**

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, “**You all have a copy of the Death Certificate of that individual. His mother came here about 2 months ago. From what I understand we had received information that was possible that the cause of death might not had been an overdose on this, I guess we will call it a legal drug on the market. It is sold in many convenience stores. These people brought it back to my attention because it is a very dangerous item on the market. It is sold in every convenience store that we have throughout our parish. The concerns of parents are that they want the parents of St. Landry Parish to know that this drug is not a vitamin, it is not something that you take every day for a headache. In their opinion this young man actually overdosed. If it would be fair I would like to make a motion that we bring awareness to the Public that this is not a good thing to have in our retail outlets and we would request that a possible voluntary removal of that item if the store owner feels that way. It has to be hearth breaking to know if you ever pay attention and you walk into a lot of these convenience stores there are a lot of things in there that are not identified as items that they actually use for drugs. In my opinion I think because maybe we look the other way. I am going to ask for a motion that we bring some type of awareness, maybe in a Resolution asking for a voluntary removal of this product.”

***Councilman Dexter Brown stated***, “I agree with Mr. Lejeune whatever he is saying to bring awareness regarding this Kratom, some people look at it as Herb. Bringing awareness to the public that it is very, very dangerous if it is consumed. Trying to get it off the shelves in these convenience stores that is what ATF and State Police are far, that is not our range. I will agree with him 100% of letting the public be aware that this is a very dangerous substance. Thank you.”

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune sated***, “To my understanding it will become a voluntary thing by parish. *Councilman Timmy Lejeune’s entire conversation could not be heard over the microphone.*

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “***This is way above my paygrade to make decisions like this without any more information than what we have. Perhaps you can get a little more information before we have to take action on this. I have looked at this and it is a lot more than roads and bridges and so forth. I need more information before I can make a decision on this. Thank you.”

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune requested*** the council clerk to place to further discussion of Kratom on the February, 2024 Agenda.”

1. **Authorize the ratification of Lieutenant Ryan Young to be re-appointed to the E-911 Board nominated by Chief of Police, Kyle LeBouef of Eunice Police Department.**

A motion was made by Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 20th, 2023** to authorize the Ratification of Lieutenant Ryan Young to be re-appointed to the E-911 Board nominated by Chief of Police, Kyle LeBouef of Eunice Police Department.

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

***Motion forwarded.***

***Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “***I would like to add something to the St. Landry Parish Communication District E-911. Where it has Captain Mark Guidry, Opelousas Police

Department Representative, could someone contact them and let them know that he is now the Assistant Chief of Police for the Opelousas Police Department. He moved up in rank.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “The Chief of Police is suppose to send a letter to E-911 regarding that matter. They will make the recommendation and bring it back to you all to make the appointment.”

***Councilman Dexter Brown stated***, “I am talking about his title.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “He cannot serve as an Assist Chief because of the position that he is holding. The Chief is suppose to send a letter to the 911 Board.”

1. **Discuss Council Travel. (Chairman Jerry Red Jr.).**

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “I put this on here because of the travel, we had so much money allotted in the travel budget. I know that we have some new council members and if those new councilmembers want to ravel also we had to check and make sure that they wanted to go also. For the Legislative in Washington D.C. and we would go to the Annual Conference for NACO. That would normally generate about $12,000.00 or $13,000.00 for the four or five people that would travel. With the Legislative in Washington DC we are looking at another $12, 000.00 also. You also have the Police Jury Association along with Legislative Day and the Regional 3 Meetings. We may need to add a few more dollars in the budget for Council Travel. That is why I placed it on the agenda for us to look at that. It was always said that we were traveling with the president for the Mardi Gras Ball that was taken care of by the Lobbyist Group, is that correct?”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “Well, not really. It was underneath our budget.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “But that did not come out of the Council Travel?”

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

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “So that did not come out of the Council Travel, I travel once a year because I knew that we did not have the money in the budget so I only went for the annual NACO Conference. I was just letting you all know if you are planning on going to the one in Washington DC, you will have to make sure that there is enough money in the budget.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “To respond to Mr. Red’s comments, This council adopted a policy some years ago that whatever the council budget is it will divide it 13 ways. If I choose not to go you don’t get my money unless we vote on it again is the way that it suppose to work. Now is that the way that we are doing it today?”

***Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated***, “That is the way that it suppose to be done.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated,*** “No, I am asking you, is that the way that is has been handled?”

***Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated***, “That is up to the Finance Department. The handle that.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “What Finance Department?”

***Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated***, “Mr. Bellard Office.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “No, no, you have to understand that is a different branch of government. They have nothing to do with Council Travel. The policy of this council, and it is written, is that whatever the budget is, if it is $13,000.00, each councilmember has $1,000.00 to travel on. If I choose not travel you don’t get my money unless the council votes to give you my money, is that the way that we are handling it today? You suppose to be in charge of that Ms. Sherell. Okay, but you don’t know.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “We are not handling it that way. You are correct but I am saying if you all are going to travel to Washington DC along with the Annual Conference there will need to be more money in the budget to offset the cost. I am just saying that because the cost is going to be more than what it is. We will have to amend the budget to cover the cost.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “I understand, Mr. Chairman if I may. You know the Washington DC Mardi Gras is a party, I did it for 10 years with our company. I think the Parish President has to go, he is obligated to go because he represents the parish and the Chairman ought to go. All of us don’t need to be going, it is a party folks. What are you going to bring back to the people of St. Landry Parish sitting on this council when you go to a party for Mardi Gras in Washington. I really object to that, I am sorry. I yield.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “I did not want to make this a fight or anything I just wanted to make sure that it was clear that there is not going to be enough money in council travel for travel. We need to put more in it if you are going to travel. That is all that I am saying.”

***Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated***, “I think if you want to go, I am not going and I do not want to go but if everybody else wants to go I don’t care if they go. Go have a good time. That is up to whoever wants to go. It is not my place to say well no one in here can go.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “A couple of years ago Mr. Taylor and I did have this conversation and I agree that someone has to be there. I learned after the first year that I am not going back for the weekend because I am not into the Mardi Gras Party part of it but we do go on a Monday to start meeting with Legislators and we fly back on a Friday morning. I don’t participate in all of the other stuff but it is a place that we need to be at because that is how we meet with the right people and get the right meetings. He is right, if you stay for a weekend, it is just a big party and I am like him, I don’t agree with the party part of it but we do go and meet with the right people. The last two years we came back with $3,500,000.00 dollars on one area and hopefully this year another $1,800,000.00 dollars for another grant. It is productive but I agree the party part of it does not have to be in place.”

***Councilman Dexter Brown stated***, “Regarding travel, I know that we have our full time Council Clerk, she may want to go to our Police Jury Association. Where would that fit in our travel budget?”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “However the council wants to treat it. If it is in the budget it is in the budget and it is up to the council to decide that part.”

***Councilman Dexter Brown stated***, “Ms. Sherell, there is Professional Enhancement when we go to Lake Charles. Would you like to attend the Police Jury Association Meetings?”

***Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated***, “I always attend the Police Jury Association Conference.”

***Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated,*** “All of the Clerks attend the Police Jury Association Meetings and I think that our Clerk should go also.”

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

None.

1. **Adjourn.**

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to adjourn the Administrative/Finance Committee Meeting.

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

***Motion carried.***

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

**SHERELL JORDAN, COUNCIL CLERK**

**KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT CLERK**