**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023**

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

**OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

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

of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.

1. Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.
2. **Roll Call:** Nancy Carriere,Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin and Jimmie Edwards.

**Ex-Officio Jerry Red Jr**. **ABSENT**: Alvin Stelly.

1. **Person to address the Committee:**
* **St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14.**

**Ms. Virginia Jones, Secretary, *St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14*** addressed the council. She stated, “My name is Virginia Jones, 116 W. South Street, Opelousas, La. 70570. Number one, my business is really I don’t know why we were called to come to the meeting.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “Sherell, can you give us some input on this, it is on the agenda.”

**Ms. Virginia Jones, Secretary, *St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 stated, “***When I would call to come to the meeting she said that you guys were on the meeting for tonight for 6:00 p.m. Ms. Carriere had ask for some information so my understanding is that is what we were here for to bring the information that she requested. I brought in a copy yesterday, she told me to have it in before 6:00 p.m. so I brought it in to the office and I made a copy for each one of you guys and I kept a copy for myself. I really don’t know why I am here but If there are any questions.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “This is in my district, I share this drainage district with two other council people. Ms. Virginia, I think in the letter it does ask you to provide the information for this meeting. I don’t think that I had asked for anybody to come to the meeting, I only asked for the information to have it ready for this meeting, is that correct?”

***Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated***, “That is correct.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “It was never asked for anyone to show up for this meeting, I asked for the information and we would go over it and the council would have copy of all of the information that I requested, it was ask that you all come and be present if the information was not provided then I was going to ask you all to come and maybe answer the questions for the information that I wanted, it was never asked.”

**Ms. Virginia Jones, Secretary, *St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 stated,*** “So you don’t have any questions for me?”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “I have not gone over all of this yet. Tonight I am just going over it because I did not come yesterday to get it, I worked all today but today I got it and I will invite the council to go over the information. I requested this information because Mr. Author Thierry passed away and I needed to get an inventory on some of the equipment. I think you e-mailed everybody a copy of the letter that I requested. That was the information that I wanted, to get an update as we do with other boards, we sometimes want to know the finances, we want to know what is consistent with that board and that is why I requested this, so I have not gotten a chance to go over this yet.”

**Ms. Virginia Jones, Secretary, *St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 stated,*** “You have all the information right there what you have asked for.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “***Why thank you.

**Ms. Virginia Jones, Secretary, *St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 stated,*** “You are welcome.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “It was never requested for you to come here tonight. On the letter that she sent to you, the e-mail, it did not say you had to come to the meeting. It said that I needed the information.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr. questioned,*** “Is there an issue with that board?”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “I had some questions. I will look at it to see if there are any issues and she has provided the information. There are several of us that share that board and I thought that it would be more appropriate that all of us get the information and we can look over it. If we have any further questions we can proceed with that. It was not an understanding that you all had to come tonight but you all are welcome and it is good seeing you all. A lot of the councilmembers did not know who was on the board.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned***, “What three districts this consist of?”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “Mildred, Shelvin and myself. We share this drainage board. Some of the questions that I had I had informed them. I did inform them that I did ask for this information.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “That is where these pictures come from about this equipment?

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “I wanted a list of the equipment and she has provided it.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “Ms. Mildred, you represent the area, do you have any questions?”

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated***, “No, I do not.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned***, “Is there something wrong with any of the board members?”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “I don’t think that in the e-mail that was sent to the board members there was anything wrong with the board members.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “I was just asking.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “We have to go over the information that they sent.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned***, “Mr. Shelvin, you represent that area, you do have any questions?”

***Councilman Easton Shelvin stated***, “I have no questions.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “Ms. Jones, the e-mail stated that she wanted some information. I appreciate you coming and I appreciate your service. Have a good holiday.”

**Ms. Virginia Jones, Secretary, *St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14*** ***stated***,

“Actually it was not an e-mail, she called me.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “Either way, if there are any further questions we will request you to come back.”

**Ms. Virginia Jones, Secretary, *St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 stated,*** “Thank you very much.”

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated***, “I have a statement that I would like to make. I would hope that this audience and everyone else understand that just because it is in the district of three councilmembers this entire council appointed everybody on that board. So that does not give just us three the authority to make any decisions. It is a combination of the 13 councilmembers.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “I don’t think anybody misunderstood that.”

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated***, “I don’t know, I just wanted to clarify it.”

***Mr. Wilfred Kennerson Jr. addressed the council. He stated,*** “Good afternoon, my name if Wilfred Kennerson. I am on the board for Fire District 3. I am presently the Chairman of the Board. I put my application in to do another term, and I was informed since I don’t live in the same place that I lived when I got on the board originally that I did not pay taxes to the Fire District so I was not going to be able to be accepted as an applicant. Well I have properties in three or four different places including Evangeline Parish. I do pay taxes, you all can see on the paperwork to Fire District 3 in Plaisance and I also have a house on Bertheaud where I was when I originally got on the board. I am exempt from paying taxes because the house it is not worth over $75,000.00. I was paying taxes there before I claimed Homestead Exemption. I just wanted to let you all know, if I can’t be on the board, I appreciate the fact that you all gave me the chance to be on the board or all of these years. I became chairman and we have a good thing going with the board and I would appreciate it if you all would give me another chance. We have some projects that we are working on that I help institute and I would like to finish it up. If I can’t for some reason, I still want to let you all know that I appreciate the opportunity. Thank you all for everything that you all do for the parish.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “I spoke with Mr. Duplechain. Mr. Duplechain stated that he does live in the city of Opelousas. He said that it still won’t stop him from serving on Fire District 3 but it still have to be approved by this council.”

***Mr. Wilfred Kennerson Jr., stated***, “That is what I came to talk to you all about. I wanted to let you all know that I am still interested in the job. I like what I am doing. When I first got on the board, I did not really want to be on the board but everything turned out good. We are working well together as a board and everything is going efficiently. I don’t think you should try to fix what is not broken. It is not my say so but I am just asking for the chance to move ahead with what we are trying to do.”

***Councilman Jimmie Edwards questioned***, “Where do you reside at now?”

***Mr. Wilfred Kennerson Jr., stated***, “702 North Market Street.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “They have it right here on his taxes.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., state***d, “That is your place of business.”

***Mr. Wilfred Kennerson Jr., stated, “***The business is closed.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “But that is your place of business.”

***Mr. Wilfred Kennerson Jr., stated***, “The business have been closed since 2017. I live there.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “But you are living in Plaisance.”

***Mr. Wilfred Kennerson Jr., stated***, “I live in Plaisance sometimes. I move around, I am a single man. My place of residence is 702 N. Market Street where my license states.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “Mr. Kennerson, I am just trying to be straight to the point. Your place of business is on Market Street.”

***Mr. Wilfred Kennerson Jr., stated***, “Yes it is.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated, “***But you are living in Plaisance. That is where you are dwelling. That is what you told me on the phone.”

***Mr. Wilfred Kennerson Jr., stated***, “I am in Plaisance because my sister is ill. I reside at 702 N. Market. That is my address.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “That is in Fire District 3, that is what I am getting at.

***Mr. Wilfred Kennerson Jr., stated***, “Yes sir but I am just saying. Once I left W. Bertheaud Street and my wife and I got a divorce I had to get out. That is what started the whole project. I am not ashamed of nothing, my life has taken a toll and a turn. I am not trying to do nothing illegal. I believe in doing the right thing. Being on this board means something to me because we are working on some things that I really and truly don’t want to put to the side. It is not my job and I can’t put myself on the board I am asking for another term if you all think that I deserve it. That is all that I can ask.”

1. **Public Works Report:**
* **PRELIMINARY APPROVAL SHOWING A SUBDIVISION OF A 40.937**

**ACRE TRACT OF LAND BEING PARTITIONED AS LOTS 1-42; OFF HWY 182 LOCATED ON KENNERSON ROAD; SITUATED IN SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH, RANGE 3 EAST.**

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “**Mr. Chairman, in reference to this item we will have to pull it. We will start the process over. The letters that was sent out did not get to the people until after the meeting was over with. They were mailed on the 9th and they did not get to the people until after the 17th so they did not get the proper notice to come to the Public Hearing.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “So you want to push it back until the following Committee Meeting in the month of January?”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “How about we just start all over again and bring it back”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,*** “That is what I am saying. It will be after the first of the year before we could start it all over again.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to pull the Preliminary approval showing a subdivision of a 40.937 acre tract of land being partitioned as lots 1-42; off Hwy 182 located on Kennerson Road; situated in section 10, Township 6 South, Range 3 East and re-advertise it on the next committee meeting dated **Wednesday, January 03, 2024**.

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

***Motion forwarded.***

***Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director addressed the council. He stated, “***This is the monthly report from November. We boom axed 15 roads and cleaned culverts on 8 roads. We did culvert insulation on 11 roads. We moved debris on 65 roads and we did ditching on 5 roads. We did grading on 43 roads and placed material on 7 roads. We did patching on 11 roads and we did sign insulation on 37 roads. We did tree removal on 13 roads and did four washouts.”

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

**On roll call vote:** **YEAS:** Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy and Jimmie Edwards.

**NAYS:** None. **ABSENT**: Nancy Carriere and Alvin Stelly. **ABSTAINED**: None.

**Motion carried.**

1. **Forward all applications received for four appointments to Fire District No. 3 for a**

**four-year term. (01-01-2024 - 01-01-2028).**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 20th, 2023** all applications received for four appointments to Fire District No. 3 for a four-year term.

(01-01-2024 - 01-01-2028).

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

***Motion forwarded.***

1. **Forward all applications received for two appointments to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 2 (Rural) for a four-year term. (01-01-2024- 01-01-2028).**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 20th, 2023** all applications received for two appointments to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No.2 (Rural) for a four-year term. (01-01-2024- 01-01-2028)

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

***Motion forwarded.***

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

**(Councilwoman Mildred Thierry)**

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated***, “Mr. Bellard, if you don’t mind, please give us a little update. I have been getting some calls in regards to this.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated***, “You can tell them that it is the Core of Engineers that is holding us up.”

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “***Oh, they have not started yet?”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***No, we have not started because we cannot get the permit from the Core. It is really a shame that we have the funding to do something and the Core of Engineers is holding us up because they want to make sure of the wetlands and all kinds of other things. Trust me, it is a headache but we hired a consultant to come in to deal specifically with that. So hopefully, I can’t make any promises, it is out of our hands but we do have a call into one of the Congressman who can maybe help us with that.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “***Mr. Bellard, do you want to give us an explanation, what is the hold up?”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***The Core of Engineers is not issuing out permits. That is what they are telling us. So William recommended that we hire this Consultant to deal strictly with the Core of Engineers.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor questioned***, “What reasoning are they giving is my question?”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***I am not exactly sure of all of the questions that they have or their reasoning. One of them is for sure is because of some trees that could be housing a certain type of bird.”

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

1. **Update on Broadband. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated***, “Mr. Bellard.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***Allen Cable sent us a report. I have asked them to send us a report every month, so you all have that in your packet, everybody else is the same, hopefully January the can put power and do Fiber. Everybody is still fighting the same battle with products. They are putting down the pipes and everybody is moving in the right direction. It just will take some time to get it done. They told me that it should be good in January but I have to see it to believe it.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned***, “Ms. Thierry, do you see any activity in your area?”

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated***, “Not in my area.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “They are moving South on West Atchafalaya Levy Road if it is Allen’s Communications. They have the contract for the parish, right?”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,*** “They have the contract for that portion.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “They were working Saturday night at 8:00 o’clock at night, they were working right by Delic Petroleum Plant.”

1. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Fire District No. 6 for a two-year term. (02-17-2024 - 02-17-2026).**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 20th, 2023** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Fire District No. 6 for a

two-year term. (02-17-2024 – 02-17-2026).

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

***Motion forwarded.***

1. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District No. 15 for a four-year term. (02-17-2024 – 02-17-2028).**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 20th, 2023** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District No. 15 for a four-year term. (02-17-2024 – 02-17-2028).

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

***Motion forwarded.***

1. **Discuss Adjudicated Properties that were awarded and the sale has not been completed.**

***Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer addressed the council. She stated*,** “Good evening Mr. Chairman and Councilmembers. I brought over a packet that has a list of Adjudicated Properties that were awarded and you will see by the sale date. The oldest one is from January 5th, 2022. We have sent out numerous attempts to contact the individuals that they were awarded to and there were not responds. We did a PSA more than one time. What I am asking at this point because we don’t have a time frame or an ordinance in place if the council would approve so we can put these back on the bid list so I can put them back out there because they are just sitting there. In the meantime we have to spend money to do the up keep.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* “**Are you asking this committee to bring it before the full council?”

***Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “***What I am asking is to reinstate these back on the Parish Bid List so we can put it back out for Bid. I checked for a couple of people, I went to the residence, the addresses that we did have and it was vacant, no one lives there. I have sent out letters trying to reach out to them that were previously awarded so I need to try and place these back on the list for sale. Will the council consider reviewing this so we can put them back on the list so we can try and sell them, that is what I am coming for tonight.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,*** “You mentioned it Ms. Cynthia, we need to get that ordinance completed to have a time limit.”

***Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “***Right, I can’t automatically put them back because we don’t have an ordinance in place. We tried bringing that ordinance and getting it approved but it was not voted on to be approved. At this point we don’t have a time frame. Can we put these back so we can we put them back out there to try and sell them?”

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “Legal Counsel, would you like to chime in on the legalities on what they are asking us to do.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “At the full council meeting the full council can vote to bid them out again. With that being said there is an ordinance which puts a time limit on the successful bidder to finalize the sale. That ordinance is scheduled to be passed two weeks from now. Once it is passed it is going to make this a lot easier but for now we can pass this to the full council meeting to get a full council vote to bid them.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “In addition to passing the ordinance in two weeks.

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

***Councilman Harold Taylor questioned***, “Do we need another ordinance? That is what she is asking far in addition to what to what we are going to vote on in two weeks.”

***Legal counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “We have an ordinance that will put a time limit on a successful bidder to finalize the sale. That will be passed in two weeks. In addition to that she is asking the council to vote to put these up for bid again. Each time we bid out the properties we pass an ordinance to do that, so that would be an ordinance too. We sell them four times a year, so the next batch they will be put in it.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “Ms. Cynthia, because we have that issue are we going to take bids from that same person?”

***Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “***We are going to put them back on the bid list. Anyone can come back and bid on them.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “If we do set the ordinance we will have a certain amount of time so we won’t run into the same problem.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on ***Wednesday, December 20th, 2023*** to authorize Code Enforcement to reinstate the awarded and uncompleted Adjudicated Properties sales back on the Parish Bid List.

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

***Motion forwarded.***

1. **Authorize to re-advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 for the remaining of a four-year term. (06-21-2021 – 06-21-2025).**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 20th, 2023** to authorize the Council Clerk to re-advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 for the remainder of a four-year term. (06-21-2021 – 06-21-2025).

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

***Motion forwarded.***

1. **Update on a copy of the letter regarding Highway 178. (Councilman Wayne Ardoin).**

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated*, “**Mr. Bellard, I have this on the agenda. It has been three months, I need a copy of the letter regarding Hwy 178.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***I don’t have a letter, I don’t have a copy. I requested it from Sarah at APC and she will give me what they have. It has been approve. It is a state DOTD Project and that is where we are at.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “People that live alone 178.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***It is not going to be on 178 now, 182 by that old store.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,*** “Kappy Korner. The one that I asked who owns it.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***From Hwy 182 to the end of the Parish Line going through Sunset and everything.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “Correct that is why I am asking. Can you possibly get us a copy so that these people that live along 178 that are complaining about how bad this highway is. Three years ago this same council passed a Legislative Body for them to look at this situation to try and help us and overlay that road. When you leave Kappys Korner to go toward Domengeaux Lumber Company, the back way into Sunset it is bad.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***But they are doing Hwy 182, not Hwy 178.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “So they are not going to do 178?”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***No, it is 182 from there to the end of the parish line.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “I understood you to say that they were doing 178.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***It is from there to the end of the parish line.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “**If I am not out of order I would like to go back to item 13 and explain that if I can. We had appointed Mr. Grant Fontenot to be on that Drainage Board. Ms. Thierry made me aware last week that Mr. Fontenot does not live in that Taxing District so that it is going to be re-open. I also want to mention to the council that Mr. Fontenot stated that he would be willing to finish that term if it was okay with the council. So I just want to throw that out there but I know that it will be reopen.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated****, “*Mr. Duplechain, can you give us any info in reference to that? She said that she wants to throw it out there. Do we need a motion or what?”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “Could you state the question again?”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “The question is when Grant Fontenot was awarded that seat on that board, Gravity Drainage Board 14, he was the only applicant. It was properly advertised. I don’t think that anybody knew that Mr. Fontenot lives in the district but not the taxing district. So he could not serve on the board and that is why it is being reopen. He and I spoke and he said that he would not mind sitting on the board until we find a replacement if that would be okay with the council. That was just a question.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “The council cannot dis-qualify him or not disqualify him right now. What kind of board is it?”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “It is a drainage board.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated*, “**Okay, a drainage board, he has to own property worth $500.00 or more inside that Drainage District and he does not, right?”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “**Right.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated*, “**So the council can take action to remove him now or can just not do that and appoint someone else as soon as possible. It is really up to the council.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “That was my question. Is it okay that Mr. Fontenot serve on that drainage board until we appoint somebody else?”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “Yes he is appointed so he is not un-appointed automatically.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “So he can. That is all that I needed to know. I will let him know that he can serve on that board until further notice.”

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned***, “Ms. Nancy, is that your Drainage Board?”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “Yes, it is mine and I do share it. Actually Ms. Thierry made it clear that it is all of our Drainage Board, all 13 councilmembers.”

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated***, “Say that again, I did not hear you, I am sorry.”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “All 13 Councilmembers. We appointed him.”

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned***, “That drainage district is it in your election district?”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “Yes, mine and two others.”

***Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated***, “District 2, 3 and 4.”

***Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated***, “Shelvin, Ms. Thierry and Ms. Carriere represent those areas but we appoint. We do appoint them as a full council.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “The only question that I have, we had a gentleman that came here earlier, Mr. Kennerson and he did not, well I know that he did not live in the district is what he told, me but this guy here does not live in the district but he want to serve and you are saying that it is okay, that is not okay. Just tell me how is that okay? He does not live in that district?”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “In a Drainage District he has to own property worth $500.00 or more in order to serve whether he lives there or not. In a Fire District, according to Statue, that member of that board of the Fire District has to be a resident and a property tax payer of that Fire District. So a Fire District is governed by a Fire District Board, it is governed by a Statue. A drainage District is governed by a different statue. So to serve on the Fire District Board you have to be resident and a property tax payer of that district and a Tax Assessor Notice shows that Mr. Kennerson has a Home Stead Exemption there which you only get that Home Stead Exemption where you live and he has property there which is subject to property taxes. So he meets the definition of a resident property tax payer of the Fire District for Mr. Kennerson. A drainage board is different. You have to own property worth $500.00 or more to serve on the board whether you are living there or not. So a Fire District Board and a Drainage Board has different qualifications.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “I understand that. This is what I am taking about. Mr. Kennerson came here. He did not give you his dwelling place. He gave you his place of business. So that is not where he dwells at.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “Well, is it? I mean there are people who live at their businesses. I am not saying that he does.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “That business is closed.”

Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “If the Tax Assessors Notice gives him a homestead exemption in that fire district you only get your Homestead Exemption where you live.”

**Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated**, “All right, whatever you say.”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated**, “For a little clarity counselor, the gentlemen that they are speaking of has $500.00 worth of property or more.”

**Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated**, “Wait, which gentleman is that?”

**Councilman Harold Taylor stated**, “The one on the Drainage Board, Mr. Grant Fontenot.”

**Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated**, “In this case Ms. Nancy I believe said that he does not own property in that drainage district, is that right?”

***Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated***, “Yes, he does not.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “He does not, then therefore he cannot serve.”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “That is right.”

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated***, “You told us that we can let him serve until we appoint someone else. Is that what you are saying?”

***Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated***, “Once you appoint someone that person is removed by the council or they are removed by a judge or they are not removed until you appoint someone else.”

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

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

***Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*,** “Mr. Bellard, we have a lot of complaints about people not being able to see on Parish Roads. I am asking if there is any way that maybe our Grant Writer could look into possibly getting funding to put some kind of reflector striking at least on the outside barrier of the road. I know that they are narrow and I know that it may not be real safety for the center but if we could at least mark something like a safety strike. Can you see if they have some revenue on the Federal or State side to help us with that?”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***Yes, we can make a request and see. That is not a problem.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated***, “Mr. Bellard, I have those two roads that was supposed to be overlaid, Hilton Road and Jim Guillory. I just want to make sure that it is down there and it will be taken care of.”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***It is but it does not go all the way down. It goes up to that last house before it goes a long piece. On the other side when you come off of Acadian and it turns to the end of that road but it goes down a little ways, the same thing. We will try to get that done before it gets to a lone piece of no road with no houses.”

***Chairman Jerry Red Jr, questioned***, “Do you know when it will be done? Will it be the beginning of 2024?”

***Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “***We have another project that is the same thing. I am hoping soon. We are at the mercy of the contractor and we only have one that they deal with basically to do that because the others are so expensive. I will get back with them. I will call Mr. Fontenot tomorrow to see where they are at with it. They are in Lafayette Parish right now.”

1. **Adjourn.**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy to adjourn the Public Works Committee.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy and Jimmie Edwards.

**NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Alvin Stelly. **ABSTAINED:** None.

***Motion carried.***

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE

KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK