

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, 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. Councilman Timmy Lejeune led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.
3. **Roll Call:** Easton Shelvin, Harold Taylor, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, and Lynn Lejeune. **Ex-Officio** Jerry Red Jr. **ABSENT:** None.
4. Person to address the Committee.
 - Paul Fuselier Acadian Ambulance Service Representative stated, “Goodevening to all first of all I want to say it is a pleasure to be here again. Many of you that I haven’t seen since the last time I was here. Hello to a very good friend from many years ago Ms. Lynn, welcome. I am here to tell you a little bit about what is going on with ambulance service, particular acadian ambulance service. St. Landry EMS is now apart of Acadian Ambulance Service. We have hired 90% of there employees who wanted to come to work for us. They are ready to roll and actually started on yesterday. We have kept the resources that they had and we are working on a piece of property on the north end of the parish what we spoke of before getting paperwork lined up and then we will be ordering a building. We are looking at adding resource to the north side of the parish as well. We still have everything surrounding St. Landry Parish as we did before. Nothing was cut back it was added through the partnership. I like to call it a partnership, they had some great people that came aboard with us that we were able to keep from them, I think only enhances what we can do and what we should do for the people in St. Landry Parish. I just wanted to make you aware of those things do you have any questions for me.”

Council Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “I have a couple of questions. The first question I was concern about was the buyout of St. Landry EMS can you talk about that. My reason for that is when we started the Ordinance we asked those questions and we didn’t have no definite or define answers from that.”

Paul Fuselier Acadian Ambulance Service Representative stated, “I can say this, whenever a company or two companies start talking about merging, buyout whatever you want to call it, that is something done obviously above me and it has to be done in that fashion so that you don’t compromise what the two parties are trying to accomplish. It was not public knowledge but that’s part of the business world and that’s how that is handled.”

Council Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “My reason for asking that question, the constituents, and that’s the main concern that I am concerned about, I understand that you stated the higher up made those decisions but yet still in all the people in St. Landry Parish are the people we should be thinking about because the northern part of the parish have always been excluded and they need to be included.”

Paul Fuselier Acadian Ambulance Service Representative stated, “Well I mentioned that a while ago Mr. Jerry that’s part of the plan. The paperwork for the land and the things we need to do to do it correctly and I tell you something else, we just started this endeavor with St. Landry EMS one day is not enough for us to be able to see how this whole thing is going to go. It will take 30 or 60 days for us to be able to wrap our arms around the whole thing so we can make sure that we are doing the proper thing for the people in St. Landry Parish. The owner of St. Landry EMS is actually coming to work for us. He will be one of the people working for us and helping us to maintain some of the things he had done and helping us to maintain some of those things as well. Two companies are one now but you haven’t lost any resources. The same number of resources you had is there.

Council Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “The picture of what I’m looking at is becoming a monopoly and we are going down, we not having three or four ambulance services, we going down to two services. If we go down to two and we don’t allow anyone else in then we come into an monopoly.”

Paul Fuselier Acadian Ambulance Service Representative stated, “But you all do not have an Ordinance in place that stops from making an decision on that.”

Council Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “They were working on an Ordinance and I think this Council should set six months before passing an Ordinance if they do decide to pass an Ordinance because just having two ambulance service can be bad thing for St. Landry Parish. That’s only me speaking.”

Paul Fuselier Acadian Ambulance Service Representative stated, “I can respect that Mr. Jerry. I can tell you that the term monopoly can be thrown around quite a bit but in EMS services in the few minutes we have to talk here we can’t really wrap our head around how EMS services work here or around the country. There is some data and research I can share with you to help you understand more companies is not always better. Resources is different.”

Council Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “More money is always better right.”

Paul Fuselier Acadian Ambulance Service Representative stated, “I take offense to that because I been doing this for 42 years and I’m about taking care of people. I have always been that way. As a company do we have to make money, absolutely, it takes that for us to be able to provide the high level of service that we provide to people. Any company that is in business has to do that for them to be able to continue what they are doing.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I have two questions. I heard you say that you hired 90% of the employees that wanted to come to work for Acadian. Do you have any additional trucks or do you have the same amount of trucks?”

Paul Fuselier Acadian Ambulance Service Representative stated, “You have the same amount of trucks on the road today as you did when St. Landry EMS was still in business.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “So you added some extra trucks because EMS St. Landry running at all.”

Paul Fuselier Acadian Ambulance Service Representative stated, “No but the units they were running we kept the resources running, we hired there people and kept them running.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “My next question is after conversating with a other people is the vans. I understand they run in the day time. Would you all consider running the vans at night. I understand that is a big concern when these people go to hospital in an ambulance they can not ride back in an ambulance if they are discharged and they can walk out. They have to be immobile, correct. So then, they do not have a ride home the same people that went to the hospital that went to the hospital in the ambulance, is that correct?”

Paul Fuselier Acadian Ambulance Service Representative stated, “Yes mam.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Also I understand it is a big issue because those people that service is not being provided for those people. My question was you all do run the vans in the day time, would you all be willing to because they do run the vans in the day time because they pick up people from the nursing home daytime and bring them to the facilities they need to go to. But at night if a person at the nursing home needs a ride

home and they can sit up you all will not bring them. So I am just asking will you all consider running some of these vehicles at night.”

Paul Fuselier Acadian Ambulance Service Representative stated, “We are working with the facilities that want to do business with us. We will transport anybody back home if the facility want to take responsibility for using the ambulance to do that. The problem with that is you will take a resource that could be used on the next emergency and you have somebody that can actually walk and you giving them a ride home. Is that the best use of that resource. I do not think it is because if it is needed on that emergency it is tied up. The van part of that most of the facilities we are dealing with they do have van services. We supplement them during the day when they might have more trips then their vans can handle. The problem is they do not run them at night either. At this particular time we will not run any vans at night unless the need through the facility is such that it makes it to where I have to. It is not fair to a van driver for me to say come in for one hour and go back home. If I will bring them in at night I want to bring them in for ten hours. They need to make a living. The amount of transports for that van needs to be there so we can make sure that individual that will man that for us will make a living and get a pay check. I’m not saying we not going to do it but we not doing it right now. We are working with those facilities when they have that type of issues we are working with them to help get that resident back where they need to go. One on one basis until we see how it shakes out.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I understand that because of the insurance if they can walk they can not go home in a van. I know the facilities all have vans but they do not have employees that are there to run those vans at night reason I asked that because it is a big problem.”

Paul Fuselier Acadian Ambulance Service Representative stated, “I will say this, we will support anybody who wanted to start a van service to help these facilities out. We will help them out and send the calls to them if they want to do that at night. That is allowing another business to open up and serve the people. Wheelchair van service if we know of one at night we will welcome send calls their way and help those facilities out. Absolutely.

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I just wanted to bring it to light that November 18, 2023 tax renewal is up for Road District 1 of 11A. Ms. Nancy you share part of that district. I just want to bring it to light so that people will understand that without that tax some of these roads will not be fixed. You will not see any improvements. This tax will bring in \$304,000.00 a year and we need all the help we can to get this tax renewed. It is a renewal not a new tax it has been in place for 30 years. Ms. Nancy you have part of LaCompagne Street and you share some of this tax money so I would appreciate it if you would try to assist with some of these people to go out and renew it. Early voting starts tomorrow. The reason why it starts on a Friday is because Veterans Day is in middle of week next week. Fort Hamilton is in there, OHS, and IFBS Lodge voting locations. I am asking that everyone look at the situation because we need to renew these road taxes because we can not live on the Smooth Ride Home. Those monies put together with the Smooth Ride Home we can get some roads done. That’s what I am bringing to light. Thank you.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Sub Road District 2 of 11A as well within District 10 has the renewal tax coming up and I would like to ask the public to renew it and help parish government generate about \$280,000.00 of revenue going to Sub Road 2 of 11A. Myself, along with all the other constituents would like to ask for a vote of YES on November 18, 2023, please support. Thank you.”

5. Parish President & Finance Reports:
 - a. 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.

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, “Goodevening, in regards to this subdivision on Sunflower Road, if you all have any questions we are bringing back to full council for approval. I have discussed with my client and I can send a plan next week but a proposed setback line farther off the road and a wider driveway to assist with some of the traffic concerns on Sunflower. I can put some notes on the plat to tie it to permitting, I need to sit with him and come up with a plan. I can send to parish government to forward to all of you to review before the full council meeting in a few weeks. Anything else that you have for me.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “I just have one question. Mr. Bellard, under this subdivision and I know this council has passed many subdivisions before and this the first time I ever saw five abstains before for the passing of a subdivision. Everything was dotted and the t’s was crossed and there was nothing that stopped the council from voting yes or no. Can you elaborate on that.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “In our Ordinance everything was followed.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “And what we were waiting on from the water department that came in correct?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes sir.”

Administrative Chairman Easton Shelvin stated, “Some of the constituents are concerned about the drainage. The front of their yards and the ditches in that area. Are you guys prepared?”

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, “What I do is before I do the final staking for the lot before I submit the final plat I shoot the roadside ditches, sometimes get with Barry if we need some cleaning and I do a culvert plan to put the correct size for the builder on the plat. The lot grading and drainage, I have a note on the plat that states the owner and developer are responsible for lot grading and drainage.

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “I have one more question. Sunflower is across Hwy 104 from Westgate Subdivision. In Westgate Subdivision, I live on St. Paul and they probably put close to 20 new double wide trailers on the front side and added about 75 or 100 new homes. What is the difference between 100 new homes and 20 new homes being put on Sunflower compared to Westgate Subdivision. I did not see any difference in water pressure. I’m serious I just want to know what is the difference because I did not hear anything about this until they started to do the 20 homes. So I just want to know the difference?”

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, “As far as what the issue is with Prarie Rhonde Water, I mean you all have the package with the testing. They had some issues with the owner that sold to my client about him removing dirt but I think that was more about that issue. It was never an issue with them in preliminary meetings with them ever about service. They wanted the previous owner to either put the dirt back or lower the line. Which I think they have other issues in other places with line depth. When they dedicated that easement for Prairie Rhonde Water there was no description of what the easement was or the depth had to be.

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “What size water line they have in that subdivision because they complaining about the water pressure that drops?”

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, "You have a report from their engineer. They ran a test and that is what it confirms that they do have the adequacy to supply the 20 new homes. That is what the letter states from Prairie Rhonde Water and their engineer."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "If they have problems now, I would like to know why because if they put 20 more homes in this subdivision they will have more problems is the only thing I can see. I do not know what the engineer came up with but they complain about the water pressure now when you going to put 20 more homes they will have more problems with water pressure."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I do understand that these people are concern a lot about parking with the driveways and distance from the house from the road, one car could pull in. Can you maybe address that with the client."

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, "I will be addressing that, I want to sit with them and come up with a plan. Right now these houses do have a carport but what I am proposing cause traffic and safety is a real issue is maybe backup the houses some and give a longer driveway or widen the driveway so more cars can park and get off of the road. Now how many people go somewhere on a given day to say a party or something like, I can not speak to that. I would say you would have to call the sheriff to get people off the road. As far as single family residential for who ever that will be living there for this plan that is what I will sit with them and propose to put on the plat and get you all something to possibly review before the council meeting if it moves forward."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "I do not know if it is the same developer that I have in district 10 area off of Austin road but we had to put some no parking signs each way. One car was on side of the road on the North side and another car was on side the road on South side of Austin road basically gave very little passage way for one vehicle let alone two vehicles crossing each other, coming at each other."

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, "I will sit with them and let them know, if you want to move forward this is what he has to do."

Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated, "Hello, I live at 206 Sunflower road and have been to several meetings voicing my concerns. To answer your question starting from Hwy 104 to little pass my house is a 2 inch line and it converts to a 3 inch line. Myself and my brother personally went to Prairie Rhonde Water and went to their meetings and the engineer told us themselves that it starts off with a 2 inch line and converted to a 3 inch line because we also have problems with smell of sewage in our water. He said that is water being trapped right there so they will have to put a clean out valve right pass Ms. Lisa house. She isn't here today, which is right pass my house to try and catch some of that trapped water out from being there. That is one of the issues which is the water. We talked about some of the concerns which was the safety of the road and drainage. Mr. Perry from the government DOTD came meet me at my house personally which he said they was going to poison the ditches which they did. They poison the grass in the ditch and it turned from green to brown they still tall. He said that he would blow out every culvert down Sunflower and come with the backhoe because the farmer put an illegal drain stop in the ditch and that never happen. I stopped this morning and checked the culverts and the underground culverts and water is still full in these culverts that are down underground from Hwy 104 to a little pass my house. Not every manhole have water in it but starting from Ms. Freddie house back to 104 everyone has water in it. We have not had rain in how long? That should not have any water in these drainage. Then he said we will overlay a little where the bad parts are at, Mr. Bellard said that was 2 inches thick but that might have been in the back but when they got to front I know that is a quart inch thick. I know where the old road was and I can tell you where the road is busted on how much black top they have on top and that is a quarter inch thick. Another one of my questions is, Heidi B Road was done around the same and Heidi B still have a beautiful road. They have farmers and a lot more traffic. Our road is busted up, our drainage is busted up, we discussed fire hazards if one of these houses catch on fire it's no way to put these out. If crime start coming with 20 new places what we gonna do about that. It takes forever for St. Landry Parish to get out there. I understand a shooting can happen anywhere at a spire of a moment but if that many houses that close together.

If the neighbors start fighting and fussing and before you know it gunfire starts whatever the case may be we have a lot of elderly people down there, single women down there just our own little community and we want to keep it that way. Putting these 20 houses isn't that considered a business because he will be renting these houses out and making money off of them. That is considered a business in a residential area. We work hard for what we want, it takes me and my wife both to pay our house note and our bills. I can't do it by myself and she can't do it by herself. I do not know if this will be government assistance houses and I hope it is not because that is kind of like a slap in the face to us because we work hard

for what we want and our stuff. They had a party at the houses off Hwy 104 couple of weeks ago and they were parked on Hwy 104. Hwy 104 has no shoulder, none. It is the road then the ditch, they were parked on the road. They partied, no ordinance granted it can be done until 9 or 10 o'clock on a Sunday night. People have to get up for work, they travel, which is whatever. Again but we concern if one of these houses catch fire or if crime rate comes with the drainage that has not been fixed yet and we already have a flooding problem. We have several people yard where you can not tell there is grass when it rains because the water all the way up it looks like a pond. Now you all can clean out Sunflower 100% but if you can not come in contact with Hwy 104 which is the state and have them do it and clean their ditches out and take care of their problem we still fighting the same problem. We concern if this comes into a flood zone or if someone can not pay rent and have to get out then we have new people coming in again. We like our little community and we want to keep it that way. If they put 20 houses here, yes I understand some will be sold and some will be rented. Again you can not pay your rent then you have to get out. Then new faces everyday and I understand everybody wants to make money.

Administrative Chairman Easton Shelvin stated, "Ok, thank you. Your time is up."

Mrs. Freddie Fontenot stated, "I have a question and I do not need an answer but my husband and I have been living on Sunflower Road 53 years. We raised our children there. In 53 years I have saw one person come to my house and ask if we needed which was Mr. Pat Miller and he has been deceased quite a few years. The road that he is talking about he came and asked me where should he start with the new road. I said start from the back from the gravel where Dr. Rodesa live and come to the front to us because the back was worst and he did. Well then the parish ran out of money and whenever who was next came on they put us a road. They could have left gravel because within a year they have put potholes on top of potholes. Also, I was at a meeting that we were told that someone was going to come out and they were going to address what we needed. Did I see anyone, no I did not. My husband and I are home most of the time and I listen for any strange vehicles on my road. There was a truck that came and sprayed. Well I had cancer and I would appreciate if they would not come back and spray again, I do not need to inhale those fumes. Last Friday we came back from the graveyard and I heard another strange vehicle, it was a parish truck, he was cleaning out the culverts. He came out of his truck, no hear say I went check when I came back, took a shovel and scrapped the dirt and grass from the culverts on the other side. My yard is covered and that is the kind of service we are going to have and they want to put 20 more houses up here and we can not get what we need now. The ditches, they have been dug, they hired somebody with a laser to come dig the ditches. I always thought water flowed from the east to the west. Now the water flows from the west to the east and floods some of the yards. Why should we have to have 20 more houses in a neighborhood where we been nothing but family. Watching each other bring up their children and now you want to bring in houses God knows who they will put in there. We do not have a crime rate there right now but we might. I am asking if it would be your family, your family member that live 53 years on their property and they work every day of the week and I had cancer and I got up every morning and went get my radiation treatments and went to work because I had a responsibility. If you can tell me why we need some houses there, when I had to work for what I have and someone else will just come. Please give me that answer because it is not fair. Thank you all very much and I hope I was not disrespectful."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I have a question for you Ms. Fontenot. If they put 10 houses there then what would happen."

Mrs. Freddie Fontenot stated, "The same thing."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "So I just want to understand, what I am hearing out of your mouth. Is that you do not want any new residence on that road."

Mrs. Freddie Fontenot stated, "No sir, I am not telling you that we do not want any new residence on our road."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Ok so how many houses would be approved."

Mrs. Freddie Fontenot stated, "If they were residential houses that families lived in then ok but you are having renters. Are they families? We are families down there. We have been families I am called the neighborhood watch. I can tell you in the morning I get up look out my kitchen window. I can look at the four houses on Hwy 104 that were built. Those cars do not move much during the day. I do not know how they pay their rent not my business. Then I look out on my patio when I go out to say my prayers, I have a neighbor that leaves at 5:30am or 6:00am in the morning goes to work. I have another neighbor leaves at 6:30am to go to work. I have neighbors that leave most of them at 7:00a.m. I have a young lady that gets up and leave at 7:00a.m. to go to Lafayette to go to college. Family people, we are families down there and that is how we want it. That is their business what they do with their places but why should we have something put on us. As for water Prairie Rhonde is going to tell you they have plenty of water but they fail to tell you when the water line breaks and they have to flush it out I am at the end of the line. They have ruined many of my white clothes because the water is filthy. My husband and I have taken a bath in dirt. Tell me if that is fair. Then you will come bring 20 more houses and what we will have then. If the line break I have to suffer because if the line break they have to flush it and my clothes are ruined."

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, "I would have contacted you if I had your name and number but I did not. I went to this young man home and spoke to him and went to another your lady house she was not there but called me back later. I was told the grass was long so we poison it and I apologize if it bothers you but that is the only way we have to spray herbicide."

Mrs. Freddie Fontenot stated, "The grass is still in the ditch. It is still green."

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, "Well a second ago the man said it was brown so I do not know. The road will be fixed. We have a work order and we are going to do the ditches. We can not just jump on everything right a way. The culvert cleaners the supervisor assured me he had done them and I will be there on Sunflower tomorrow morning to review and if he did not do them then I will handle that. I apologize, I can only go by what my supervisor tells me. I am not taking you all situation lightly, I am very serious about it. I went to this gentleman house if I would not be interested I would not have gone to his house. As far as the road is concern and the ditches I will handle it."

Mrs. Freddie Fontenot stated, "Did you look at the trailer that has grass growing from it and two trash cans?"

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, "Mam that has nothing to do with public works. That is someone personal property."

Mrs. Freddie Fontenot stated, "I thought they had an ordinance that you had to keep up your yard?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will send someone look at that tomorrow but it has to meet a certain criteria to be considered abandoned or some type of neglect. I just want people to know the ordinance that is in place, as it sits right now everything was followed in the ordinance. This Council and the Parish President has to follow what the law says. There is no option in there that says if you do not want to do it then you do not have to do it. That is not how that works. The 20 homes that they want to build they bought the property and it is their property. They can basically do what they want to do as long as they follow the ordinance. When it comes to the water situation, that is a private system. We do not regulate a private system. Prairie Rhonde have their own way of doing

business. All we can go by is what they are telling us in writing that meets our requirements. I do not know what more to do but this council has to take action and if they do not take action they can get sued. Then I can get sued. There is no basis to deny a permit. I am sorry but we had a meeting this week regarding that same issue and we talked about it in the past but it had never been brought up again. So we going to bring it up when it comes to drainage and certain things but we do not having zoning. You brought up the deal about residential, there is no such thing in our parish in that area. It is property that somebody owns and we can not tell them what to do with their property. Nobody wants to have zoning, everybody wants to have it until we bring it up and it affects you directly and people tell you what you can do with your land. Nobody wants the government to come and start overreaching. We have zoning on I-49 that was put in place this year and that is very limited. That is only to make sure we have the right type of businesses coming up there. In the rural areas which is why people move from the city it is not to be regulated. It does have its pros but it also has its cons. Right now you all do not feel that you should have that subdivision there but it is no law saying that they can not have it. I apologize for that but it is their property just like it is your property.”

Mr. John Fontenot stated, “I live at the end of Sunflower Road. Normally when a subdivision is going to be approved you have to have good approval roads as well as building a house would you not. What would you require with this road would it be adequate for the facilities. You would have to have that would you not? We now have a situation on Sunflower road where the road was redone maybe 10 years ago and I do not think I can keep from putting together how very little blacktop road is on there and it bust all to pieces. You add 10 more houses additional traffic and you will have a bad situation. I think that honestly people that want to invest that much money should build a road as well.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I am no engineer but if it is true that you have a 2 inch water line then that will not handle 20 more homes. I have a grand daughter that built 3000 feet away from the main line. We have a 12 inch waterline that pass on 93 and we put her a 3 inch line and she do not have pressure to give out to someone else.”

Administrative Chairman Easton Shelvin stated, “You finish Mr. Alvin.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I want to ask Mr. Bellard a question. You have permits for everything.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That is what they are submitting now, is to start the process once approval.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “What happens once they put 20 more homes. I am not worried about the roads because I know Mr. Soileau will see about the roads. I am worried about the water pressure and maybe I should not worry about that but I do. What happens after they put 20 homes and there is no water pressure who will be responsible the parish or what because we approved it?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We approving it based on what Prairie Rhonde Water system is telling us to be true. That is all we have, we do not do our own testing. We verify with the water system that is in place. So if Prairie Water System is telling us this is what it is going to be and after it is built and it is not like that then Prairie Rhonde Water will be responsible.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “It is on them the parish will not have anything to do with it. That is good.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I need a motion to move it to full council or whatever you want to do with it.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Mr. Bellard did you actually go out there and look at that road.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The road itself, I pass down there but I did not actually get down and look at the road."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Well I am not in favor of not having those houses there. I want to make that perfectly clear but my concerns are the same concerns these people have people can not stop from developing property because someone do not want a neighbor. I get we do not have zoning in this parish. They developing a subdivision on a parish road that is not good enough to develop on based on what I am hearing tonight. I am not going to forward this to the full council until I understand clearly that the road can handle more residents and that it is in adequate shape. If they were developing a new subdivision they had to have a good road just like this gentlemen stated tonight. So I would like to understand the condition of the road. I would really like to know that."

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, "I mean Barry I really do not know what you want me to say to that we have developed off of gravel roads, we have developed off of every single type of road in this parish."

Parish Parish Jessie Bellard stated, "It is coming off of the road and going into a subdivision. Correct."

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, "This one, no it is off Sunflower. All fronting on Sunflower but we have done off of gravel roads."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I do not have a problem with it. Let me tell you what it will do for the parish if the numbers are correct we will get about \$70,000.00 of sales tax. In order for me to redo a road I have to have tax money. So that tax money can be put on that road to redo it and make it happen. I do not have a problem committing to that to make it happen. That is all I can do when it comes to that road. Whenever someone develops a subdivision it brings tax money into the parish and parish government runs off of tax money. We can not fix roads and can not dig ditches unless we pay taxes. Whenever we have a developer coming in that is money coming in, I do not have a problem taking that and putting it back where it come from, I am good with that if that will help."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "The only concern I have is the water issue. The young man said that he spoke to someone from Prairie Rhonde Water and then we received a report from Prairie Rhonde Water. Is it anyway that Prairie Rhonde Water can come here and clear this up as far as the water part. I am asking if that committee would be interested since that is a big concern we could get answers from them since they guaranteeing it."

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, "You have a letter from there president signed and a letter from there engineer signed. I do not know what else you all want me to do."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "He said he spoke to them himself and they said something different."

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, "No he said they have a 2 inch starting from 104 then it goes to a 3 inch."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "He said that he spoke to them on Friday."

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, "In front of this property they have a 3 inch line. I am developing a subdivision right now with 20 lots and it is a 3 inch line approved by Water District 2 and DHH. We did the same thing. I mean if you all need to hear from Prairie Rhonde that is not my idea of what we were required to do from them. I got what we were required to do."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Well I was only saying because it seems to be a confusion on what they telling them and what they telling you."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "What he saying is no one is disputing the size of the line everyone knows it is a 2 inch going to a 3 inch but when a company sends us a letter verifying what they believe to be true, I do not know what they can come and tell us any different then what they put in writing so it backs us up."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I was just saying that they felt this is not an issue at all and that the pressure will be good no matter what that these people is going to be service."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "According to there lettter they do not have a problem and we can only by what the companies do. Now after the fact all Prairie Rhonde Water will be on the hook to make sure their water supply is sufficient. I think we had said 45 psi or something I am not sure what they had on the letter but if they say that is what they will have then they need to be held accountable for not producing what they say they can do."

Mr. Brian Boudreaux stated, "According to Prairie Rhonde Water on Sunday and Monday water pressure drops from 65psi to 45-42psi and that is without 20 new houses. That is Sunday and Monday because they said that is when people is washing clothes and washing their cars. When I take my shower at night most of the time not all the time I have bad water pressure. The engineer told me, my brother, and my wife from 104 to right in front of my house it is a 2 inch line and it is converted into a 3 inch line. That what they told me personally in front of the whole board."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Chairman would our clerk have that letter presented the other night at the meeting. Do we have a record of it so it can be read here so everyone can be on the same page. I can understand where this gentlemen is coming from but do you have the facts, do you have the letter here. I am asking you, Ms. Sherell? Do you have a copy of the letter?"

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "Which meeting are you referencing Mr. Wayne?"

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "The last full council meeeting."

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "I do not have it in front of me but I can definitely get it."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I would appreciate it so we could stop this going back and forth. I am asking that you get the letter if possible right away."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I would like to make a motion that we request a representative from Prairie Rhonde Water to come and speak to us concerning the pressure because maybe it is not enough pressure without 20 homes and make us understand. Mr. Bellard also I would like to make a statement into that motion that Parish Government make sure that road is in good operational condition because they have a blacktop road and it will end up being a pothole road. Can we look at that too before we move this thing."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Well we not going to overlay it this year, so the road is what it is right now. All I am saying is if this subdivision is built then it will be extra tax money. I do not have a problem putting that extra tax money right back where it came from and do their road. Right now most of our roads have the same problems. Again, we do them on gravel roads. You have to realize we only follow what you all pass. If you want to change the ordinance then let's change the ordinance but we can not change the ordinance midstream and affect people different ways. I agree we need to change the ordinance and do a lot of things with drainage and we talked about that this week but what we have in front of us now it fits the ordinance that is in place. I can not change that."

A motion was made by Timmy Lejeune seconded by Vivian Olivier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023** with the exception of Prairie Rhonde Water coming to next meeting to speak about the line sizing and the pressure.

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

b. Final Construction Approval Country Ridge Estates (Jackie Dr.)

A motion was made by Harold Taylor, seconded by Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023** to forward Construction Approval Country Ridge Estates (Jackie Dr.)

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

c. Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Opelousas, St. Landry Parish and Opelousas Downtown Development District.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "In your package you also have a CEA between the City of Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, and Opelousas Downtown Development District this is related to the \$500,000.00 ARA funding that is going to the City of Opelousas. They are going to partner with Downtown Development on this project.

A motion was made by Dexter Brown, seconded by Harold Taylor to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023** to authorize the Parish President to sign the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Opelousas, St. Landry Parish and Opelousas Downtown Development District.

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

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Also in your package you should have a Resolution to abandon the bridge on W.P.A. Road to meet the specs for the State. We abandoned part of that road August 16, 2023 and we need to send a resolution to the state abandoning that road. The recall number is 800292. At that time the bridge will be turned over to the land owners and at that time it will be off the Off System Bridge Replacement Program.

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "Mr. Bellard, normally we do an Ordinance."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It was done by Ordinance."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "So we going to do a resolution now."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes, only for the state. For the Off System Bridge Replacement Program they request that we do a resolution and put this in the resolution the item number of the bridge."

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "So it can be a resolution."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes."

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023** RESOLUTION NO. 031-2023.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 031- 2023

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government has abandoned a portion of W.P.A. Road in St. Landry Parish Ordinance 2023-015;
WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government has resolved to abandon the bridge on W.P.A. Road, and said bridge bears recall number 800292;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council, that the St. Landry Parish Government intends and resolves to abandon the bridge on W.P.A. Road which bears recall number 800292.

- d. Update on Kratom from the Coroner’s Office.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “An update on the kratom the drug that was brought up that the previous meeting, I did speak with the coroner’s office and he advised us that it would be best if we do not do anything with this as for as making it illegal to sell it in our parish. There is several more just like it on the shelves, nobody breaking the law and there is nothing that they can point to that this drug by itself will do anything to you. This drug associated with other drugs is where the problem comes in at but not just it by itself. There is no regulation on it. That is a state level problem and as for as he is concerned he has not witness any problems or any death related strictly to the kratom drug. I just given you all the information that he gave us today.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune 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.

6. Forward to Regular Meeting all applications received for four appointments to the St. Landry Parish Planning Commission Board.

A motion was made by Harold Taylor, seconded by Timmy Lejeune to table all applications received 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.

7. Discuss a salary increase for the St. Landry Parish Councilmembers.
(Councilwoman Vivian Olivier).

Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “I would like to make a motion to increase the council pay by \$400.00 to become active in the calendar year of January 2025.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “Mrs. Vivian you pull this in July and you put it back now is there a reason why now. Any reason why you put it back now?”

Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “We have to do it now or we do not do it. It has to be done before sworn in for the next term.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “Well that was just like that subdivision, we tabled that but now we want to move this forward.”

Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “I do not know what you getting at but that is my motion.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “What is the wishes of the council.”

Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune stated, “Mr. chair can I second that motion.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier, seconded by Councilwoman Lynn Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023** to create an Ordinance Increasing Council Members Monthly Pay by \$400.00 beginning January 2025.

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

Motion forwarded.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Mr. Chairman, it has to be done by Ordinance and that Ordinance will be ready in two weeks for introduction.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “So Mrs. Vivian you will sponsor it.”

Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “Yes.”

8. Forward to Regular Meeting all applications received for one appointment to Fire District No. 7 for a one-year term. (11-18-2022 – 11-18-2023).

A motion was made by Harold Taylor seconded by Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023** all applications received for one appointment to Fire District No. 7 for a one-year term. (11-18-2022 – 11-18-2023).

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

Motion forwarded.

9. Forward to Regular Meeting all applications received for three appointments to Hospital District No. 1. (Acadiana Medical Center) for a six-year term. (12-08-2023 – 12-08-2029).

A motion was made by Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Harold Taylor to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023** all applications received for two appointments to Hospital District No. 1 (Acadian Medical Center) for a six-year term. (12-08-2023 – 12-08-2029) and re-advertise for one appointment.

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

Motion forwarded.

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Excuse me Mr. Chairman I made a note we not receiving any applications on the planning commission. We have already advertised two times.

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

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Can we discuss that number 6 again. It is a voluntary board. I do not know where we would get the finances to support those five committee members. Maybe that will encourage some of these retired engineers to help maybe for their fuel cost or whatever. Is there anyway we can generate a revenue that would support that planning committee panel Mr. Bellard?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If we amend the ordinance to read whatever you all want it to read then we can charge that fee upon the application.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Can we recognize Ms. Lena Charles.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “That will not subtract them from the financial disclosure they still would have to fill out every year. Is that correct.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That is correct.”

Ms. Lena Charles stated, “Lena Charles, representing St. Landry Economic Development, we discussed this at our meeting that it was difficult to have applicants because of the description of lack

of. Just to give an example, for myself according to the credentials I did not qualify. It did look like it would just come from a person with land experience, engineer and all that. Then once we discussed it at our SLED meeting, I think what the intent was to get some qualified people but they have a lot of qualified people that do not have an engineering degree. We thought maybe that was the problem and a couple weeks when we had our meeting was the description and I think Sherell since then has worked on the description. I know you had already advertised but it was not really clear to us. I just wanted to make that comment.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. Chairman, since I authored that ordinance why don’t we take another look at it and see what we can do to maybe change it if we need to. I move we table it for now.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If you all want to change the ordinance how about we just have something ready for next meeting if they can call Garrett with the recommendations.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Mr. Chairman, I have a copy of the ordinance right here and pretty much most of it and a lot of it is what the statute requires the members of this commission serve without compensation, that comes from the state statute. Maybe there is some things we can change on the ordinance but a lot of it mirrors the state statute. The Acadiana Planning Commission would like us to have a St. Landry Parish planning commission. I can contact the Acadiana Planning Commission and let them know of the little obstacle we have right now. This ordinance is pretty much what is required. The by-laws we have drawn that up for St. Landry Parish Planning Commission and Acadiana Planning Commission are in the process right now of approving the by-laws which I worked on last week. We do have the ordinance right here, I am not sure what you all want to change on it but a lot of it mirrors the state statute.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Are you saying none of it can be changed.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The qualifications of the committee members maybe that could be changed but it does demand that they serve without pay.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Suppose I get with you within the next day or so and we take a look at it and see.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “This is all at the urging of Acadiana Planning Commission. I can let them know that we are having a little problem.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I made a motion that we table at this time.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Second.”

10. Discuss giving a raise to the Public Works Road Workers. (*Councilman Alvin Stelly*).

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “It has been resolved.”

11. Update from the Ethics Board regarding employees purchasing Adjudicated Property. (*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain*).

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Ethics board Attorney Gregory Thibodeaux Subpoena Duces Tecum from council minutes from the council meeting October 18, 2023 and needed them by the end of last week which is kind of unusual. I called ethics board Mr. Thibodeaux and asked him why he needed our minutes. He and I came to the conclusion it was probably concerning parish government employees bidding on adjudicated property so we talked about it over the phone. Mr. Thibodeaux informed me that the parish financial director and employees in the financial office can not bid on adjudicated property because the tax revenue from the property goes to parish government. There is not any problem with all other parish government employees bidding on adjudicated property and adjudicated property sales. That is what Mr. Thibodeaux told me over the phone when I spoke with him. Our clerk sent him a copy of all our minutes from October 18, 2023 meeting and we believe that is why he wanted the minutes because the investigator came here twice. All due to whether parish government employees can bid on adjudicated property.”

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "So you are saying anyone can bid on it."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The ethics board attorney told me any parish government employee can bid on adjudicated property except the financial director and anyone working in the parish finance department can not bid on it because all revenue from adjudicated property if they are paying their property taxes some of it goes to parish government special taxing district."

12. Decide whether Mr. Bruce Gaudin's Client should pay \$500.00 or \$550.00 for the Adjudicated Property Sale. (Chairman Jerry Red Jr.)

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "The other guy bid for \$500.00 and Bruce Gaudin client bid for \$550.00."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "It also turns out that Mr. Gaudin client lives on side of the property. He is the adjoining land owner, he lives right next to it and if he has kept it up for one year or more and signed an affidavit then the statute allows him to purchase the property without having to be bid out. Of course we have the ordinance for each time we sale property to an adjoining landowner for them to buy the property. I was talking to Ms. Cynthia about it earlier today, we have some adjoining landowners who will be put into that special ordinance where we have property owners who adjoin the adjudicated property can buy that property without it being bid out if they took care of the property for over one year."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "On this particular case we do not have an ordinance stating one way or the other we will just put it back on the sale. It will start brand new again."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "So this guy do not want to purchase it."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The first one. We do not have an option to give to the second because our ordinance never passed. We never did have an ordinance that says if the person do not buy it, it goes to the second one. That is what we are doing now from what I am understanding for the next meeting."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Right, that ordinance was not passed but it is scheduled to be introduced two weeks from today."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "So we will have to rebid it."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "That will be the best thing."

13. Discuss any other business properly brought before the committee.

None.

14. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Vivian Olivier 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**