

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 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.
2. **Roll Call:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Wayne Ardoin and Jimmie Edwards. **Ex-Officio Jerry Red Jr. ABSENT:** None.
3. **Person to address the Committee:**
No one to address the Council.
4. **Public Works Report:**

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, “I will give you both since I was not here for last meeting. In month of September we Boom Axe 16 roads, culvert cleaned 5 roads, debris removal 12 roads, ditching on 4 roads, and graded 12 roads. Spread material on 4 roads, patched 5 roads, shredding 7 roads, sign installation 50 roads, tree removal 7 roads, and washouts 11 roads. In October we Boom Axe 25 roads, culvert cleaned 15 roads, culvert installation 12 roads, debris removal 37 roads, ditching on 12 roads, and graded 124 roads, grass cutting 34 roads, haul material 10 roads, patched 11 roads, sign installation 34 roads, tree removal 9 roads, and washouts 6 roads.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Mr. Soileau, I heard you mention sign installation both times. Are they still removing the signs?”

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, “To give you an example, we have an culvert installation that happen couple of weeks ago we put barricades and I am on number five.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Signs.”

Public Works Director Barry Soileau stated, “The barricade itself. We constantly changing and putting up signs. They stealing stop signs or whatever.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “What is the expense on that do you know?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Chairman, Ms. Cynthia has a couple of things to bring up.”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot (Code Enforcement) stated, “Goodevening Mr. Chairman, Councilmembers, Mr. Parish President I have two adjoining land owners would like to purchase some parcels next to their properties. The adjoining land owner Generation X Properties, LLC would like to purchase Parcel 0102755000 at 1032 N. Railroad, Lot 1 Opelousas, LA 70570 and adjoining land owner Eddie Lecompte and Evella Lecompte would like to purchase Parcel 8627821175 Prejean Hwy (Lawtell) Opelousas, La 70570. I am coming before the council to ask for a special ordinance so we can sell these properties to the adjoining land owners.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Am I correct by the conversation we had with Mr. Duplechain that ordinance is in the process of being brought up.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “What it is each one will be a special ordinance on its own. This will not be confusing with the other ordinance that we passing for the timeframe but we have to sell it by ordinance on each individual on its own.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “On each one of these. So we going to handle them one at a time.”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot (Code Enforcement) stated, "Yes sir, when its an adjoining landowner."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Number one do I have someone that will sponsor Generation X Properties, LLC."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "So that was a landowner."

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot (Code Enforcement) stated, "Yes they own property next to this property and they maintained it."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "Ms. Fontenot did you ever get the paperwork done on the one in Arnaudville."

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot (Code Enforcement) stated, "It is not ready to be sold yet sir."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Going back to what Ms. Cynthia has Generation X Properties, LLC. Do I have a sponsor for that one."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I will sponsor it."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Ok, it has been sponsored by Mrs. Mildred Thierry. Mr. Garrett, you will take care of that one."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Yes as Ms. Cynthia and I spoke earlier, you will have the ordinance ready to be introduced in two weeks."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "What is the next one."

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot (Code Enforcement) stated, "Eddie Lecompte and Evella Lecompte."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Do I have a sponsor for that one. It has been moved by Mr. Gil Savoy, he will be the sponsor on that one. Appreciate you Ms. Cynthia. Mr. Bellard you have anything else on public works."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No sir."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I have a question on public works. What about the solid waste bridge. What is the status on it."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It is on the list. What we do with that is place it on a priority list and it will get funded whenever the state funds it. I received some of that \$8.5 million dollars but a lot of that money is going to Bayou Courtableau Bridge that is fixing to fall apart."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Yes that is the one that have 5 ton limit on it right now."

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

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

Motion carried.

- 5. Discuss a Resolution from Council to St. Landry Parish Legislative Delegation for Hwy 178 at its intersection to Hwy 182 to overlay or any improvements. The road is in dire need. (Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin).**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Mr. Chairman in reference to that one, the NPO will be overlaying that road from Hwy 182 from 178 all the way to the parish line through Sunset. That intersection will be done with the overlay project."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Ok so you are talking about after it intersects with Hwy 182 to pass Domengeaux's Lumber company at the red light in Sunset."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Correct, all that will be done."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Then Hwy 178 going back towards Churhpoint and Lewisburg that section not going to be in there."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Not that part. Only Hwy 182 to the intersection right there."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "It was asked about three years ago and it was sort of like on deaf ears so now you have a promise that it will be done."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Well it was passed as far as the state concern the NPO said it and that is where our line is at."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Do you have the paperwork on that?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will forward it from the planning commission."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "The thing about it is I have people that are asking questions that are concern that travel that road everyday."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "From Hwy 182 to Hwy 178 to the parish line will be done."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Thank you appreciate it so that takes care of item number 5."

**6. Discuss lateral to be cleaned in the Fleur Des Coteau Subdivision.
(Public Works Councilman Wayne Ardoin).**

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Bellard you had said you probably get a contractor to clean it."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They went out and looked at it and said it would be enough relief because they not charging any one to do it. That will be the biggest problem."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "My biggest question to you and I am just asking because these people are letting their sewage run back there and it is not going anywhere. We need to look at the situation. It is full of weeds. We need to see about that situation."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I completely agree but we on the same problem it is private property."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "We have an easement from Mr. Ricky Lafleur signed in 2006. Mr. Duplechain gave it to me this evening. I am just asking if it has an easement there we look at trying to clean it."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Let me get back with the guy that will be doing the work. He will do it pro bono so we really can not demand a whole lot."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Listen you know what Fleur Des Coteau is all about, Mr. Lebouef, Mr. Guidroz and I rode there on yesterday it is just a bad situation. So we do not need any motion on there or anything."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will ask him and he can go out there and look at it and see if he will get some help on it. I know we are in the process and hopefully we will have something to bring to the council to take in some of these roads if those taxing districts want to agree to take care of them. That was brought up several times but now something has to happen. I had my attorney to look at it and he told us the same thing we been talking about the health and welfare of the people. They pay taxes down that road so we should be able to do what we need to do and they can reimburse us for the cost of whatever we do. Unless someone else have any other option this is the only thing we have that gives us some ability to start doing some work if they agree to pay us back."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "What's always thrown back at us is Anointing Drive. The thing about Anointing Drive it was adjudicated property but this property is not adjudicated. These people when they bought it, they bought to the center line and were not told this will remain a private road. Now they are suffering and I mean the people all around are suffering because garbage cans are being thrown all over the place it is just a ugly situation. They still have that lateral in the back that still not getting any relief there."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I know you said Mr. Ricky Lafleur sent you a letter."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Ricky Lafleur did not send me a letter."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Ok, I am sorry let me understand what you said then."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I said I have the easement that Mr. Duplechain provided to me this evening because he seen it on the agenda. I have it here and Ms. Sherell can make you a copy. I am just concern about it is overgrown and it needs some relief. Barry has gone look at it, Jessie has gone and these people need to get a little better treatment. "

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I understand that and I heard the name Ricky Lafleur wasn't he the one that develop that one and what was the agreement when he did that."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I was here and it was in the police jury system. He was asked to let us take the road into the system and he stated that was his road and he was going to maintain it. I have the minutes in a filing cabinet. He sold the subdivision to someone from Lafayette and it has stayed the way it is now. As of yesterday at 10:00 it was still bare dirt, am I correct?"

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I am not debating I just heard the name and I wanted to understand it."

7. Forward to Regular Meeting all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 1 for a two-year term. (12-20-2023 – 12-20-2025)

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023** all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 1 for a two-year term. (12-20-2023 – 12-20-2025)

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

8. Forward to Regular Meeting all applications received 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)

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I have a question for you madam clerk why do we have the dates from 2021."

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "I believe someone resigned it is marked on your package."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "He did not resign he passed away."

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, "Ok, I have it marked on side of name in package."

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023** all applications received 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)

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

Motion forwarded.

9. Discuss the Speed Bump Ordinance. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Mr. Chairman I think it is time that we come to a decision as to what Speed Bump Ordinance we will put in place. We been discussing and discussing and we have not done anything. It is time that we decide on what we going to do with the Speed Bump Ordinance. Initially I was under the assumption we were basically looking at changing it to mailing it to the constituents giving them the opportunity to whomever make that request, let them go and get the signatures. Here we are in November and we still have not decided on what we going to do and I would like us to get together and decide what we going to do and move forward."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Duplechain you can answer anything here."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The Council was going to pass an amendment to the speed bump ordinance but the council decided to table it. We still have that ordinance in our computers and in our records, I can not tell the council what policy to have on it all the council can do it discuss how many more speed bumps they need in the parish."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mrs. Thierry would you like to sponsor what we have on the books at this time for the speed bumps."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "If it is the old ordinance and not the one with just mailing it then yes. I am not in favor of us sending out all these letters and it was proven to not be effective. That says we need to reconsider the way we are going to handle it. Personally the old speed bump ordinance that was in place seem to have been working and Mr. Ardoin if I remember correctly you are a witness to that because you had someone who had gone through the old process. So if something is not broken then why try to fix it cause we are just going round and round and not accomplishing anything."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I feel like you feel the old one was working and we was spending a lot of money on mail. If someone will take the ball and go door to door and get signatures and come back. I think we still have it where the emergency people have to also sign off. Am I correct?"

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Yes, that is all in the old ordinance."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Do you want to bring that one back up and revitalize it and you be the sponsor of it?"

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Yes."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Now keep in mind, if you all bring back emergency personnel on there you would never pass another speed bump."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Well didn’t we take that portion out.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They will always tell you no because it does hinder there response time.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “With that being said do you still want to redo the old ordinance.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Yes with the emergency taken out.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Ok so that will take care of this item.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Mr. Chairman the current ordinance we have has an invitation for emergency personal to come to the council meeting and give their opinion but the council do not have to follow their opinion. That is how it currently exist today the change we were going to make in the ordinance was giving the option to go door to door and get signatures or mail out a survey. Is the option you want to bring back up giving the option to go door to door get signatures or to mail it.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “What you just said go door to door get signatures and have them come to the council if they would like to but not have final say so in saying whether it can be done or not. Isn’t that what you stated.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “As it current exist emergency personnel are invited to come before the council and give an opinion on whether or not a speed bump should be placed on a certain road but the council does not have to follow their recommendation that is how it exist currently right now. The change that you had wanted to make was to give an option to either mail a survey out to each registered voter on the road or to go door to door and collect signatures. Do you want to bring that ordinance up to give that option or you want to just mail out the survey.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “The mail in part needs to come off completely because if it did not work why leave it there. Somebody request a speed bump ordinance who will decide on if it should be mailed or door to door. Take it off all together and let it go door to door.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Ok that ordinance will be ready for you to sponsor in two weeks.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I would like to see it before it is published make sure all the verbiage is correct.”

10. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise 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 Councilman Gil Savoy to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023** to advertise 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, Alvin Stelly, and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

11. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise 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 Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023** to advertise 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, Alvin Stelly, and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

12. Discuss who owns Kappy Corner, located on the corner of Hwy 182 and Hwy 178. (Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin).

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I think you gave us a map Ms. Fontenot.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We got it and sent them a letter.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Ok, well I will ask for another letter that is an eye sore for St. Landry Parish which is the old Rocky Beach on I-49 on the right hand side. Some of these eye sores just need to go away. If we have something in place lets get them to clean it up.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We can send them a letter and start the process.”

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

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, November 15th, 2023** to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority for a five- year term. (01-18-2024 – 01-18-2029)

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

Motion forwarded.

14. Discuss any other business brought before this committee.

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “I got together with Mr. Richard LeBouef and I have a problem on Charles Burr Lane. They have a trailer park Vidrine Estates Trailer park on Charles Burr Lane in Opelousas and what is happening on garbage pickup day the residents bring their trash cans to the road. Whenever the garbage trucks pick it up and empty them out, they are placed back on side of the road but not all residents pick up their garbage cans. Some basically leave it there the entire week and depending on how the wind blowing sometime it be in the road, across the road, in the ditch, or in the ditch on the southside of the road. Basically Mr. LeBouef wanted me to discuss with the council where as placing a dumpstere for the residents and removing the trash cans that were supplied through solid waste. Place a dumpster right at the corner on the property and they would monitor how much garbage goes into that dumpster where they can determine if the garbage needs to be picked up once a week so forth and so on.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Brown, there is an ordinance in place that states that they have to remove their cans. Let me just get the investigators to go and enforce that ordinance at that location. A dumpster right there you would have everybody trash in it and have a bigger problem. Let me get those guys to go enforce that ordinance and make sure they pick up their can and see if that works. If it do not work then we would just have to give them a ticket. If you put a dumpster you would have another Fleur Des Coteau trouble. I will send them tomorrow.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Are you alright with that Mr. Brown.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Yes sir. Thank you Mr. Bellard.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I would like to ask about those speed bumps. I had requested that we get something a little bit more wider for a speed bump. They had some by the General Hospital in Lafayette. The traffic on these parish roads the rate of speed they driving, the speed they crossing, somebody will get killed. We have to slow them down some kind of way. I had requested to change out some speed bumps on some of these roads from request of some of the constituents. Can we do something about that. We ordered some and they were narrow. They was not going to work but I do know by the General Hospital in Lafayette they have some.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have them, we have some that came in."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Can we at least try some, I will get you an address Mr. Soileau."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "If you have something new we can go try them at those locations."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Ok, thank you."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "There are speed bumps installed over there already you will just change them out."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Yes sir they are and they are a little bigger than a pencil Mr. Ardoin and it sounds like a parade when they pass. I am being honest they serve zero purpose unless you want to abide by the speed bump sign. The speed bumps that we have do not do any good other than make some noise when pass in front."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "I am just wondering what this council will do with that ambulance ordinance. I know we been working on it now for about five or six months and it is still before us."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I think the main concern was in Mr. Taylor district about the response time on the northern end of the parish. I think Mr. Ledee sort of talked about it tonight and they are working on that."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "Well now we going down to two services. That is something that needs to be looked at also."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Acadian Ambulance and Med Express has been communicating with me and our main concern at the time was the northern part of the parish. Now they are in the process of getting their property which is going to give us the service in that area so it does not go to that long response time. Lets see what can happen with the new service that will be provided up there. I just do not think we should get involved in the ambulance service unless it is needed. Our main concern from what I understand will be resolved shortly. We do not have an ordinance but if we start requiring them to have a certain amount of ambulances in the parish then we will have a problem. We do not pay anything for it."

Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated, "My only take on that is lets not leave it up to just two ambulance service."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Right now the way it sits if another service comes in there is nothing prohibiting them from coming in."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I know we have an ordinance but Mr. Duplechain what is the time limit for the political signs being picked up. Mr. Red had proposed that ordinance years ago because a lot of the signs are in the ditch or still on the road months and months until the next year or next election. What is the time limit. Do we have anything in that ordinance?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "I will email it to our clerk."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Thank you very much."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I just want to give an update that I was notified today that Judge Caswell will be retiring at the end of this year. A special election will be called in March of next year. He is retiring December 31, 2023."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Ok, going back to your deal Ms. Nancy you will sponsor the ordinance with political signs.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Definitely.”

15. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry 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
SHERELL JORDAN, COUNCIL CLERK