

AGENDA
ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere)**
- III. ROLL CALL**
- IV. PRESENTATION TO GABRIEL FUSELIER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE PRAIRIE BASSE GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 15**
- V. CONDOLENCES**
- VI. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**
- VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - **Regular Meeting: January 17th, 2024**
- VIII. PARISH PRESIDENT’S REPORT**
 - a. Lease and Operating Agreement Between St. Landry Parish at the St. Landry Parish Airport and Lessor Shannon Elliott for LOT B12.
- IX. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - *Items passed through committee.
 - 1. Vote to appoint Stephen Daste to the St. Landry Parish Planning Commission Board.
 - 2. Vote to authorize the process to go forward with process to remove dilapidated building and clean up property located at 172 Harold Street, Opelousas, LA 70570.
 - 3. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for three appointments to the Greater Krotz Spring Port Commission for a four-year term. (01-15-2024 – 01-15-2028)
 - 4. Vote to approve the Final Subdivision Plat approval for Gardner Farms Estates Phase III Lots 26-42 located on Chris Road,
 - 5. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the Coulee Croche Fire Protection District No. 4 for a two-year term. (04-20-2024 – 04-20-2026).
 - 6. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four-year term. (04-02-2024 – 04-02-2028).
 - 7. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the South St. Landry Community Library District for a five-year term. (04-02-2024 – 04-02-2029).
 - 8. Authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard to present the council with updates on the repairs to the Daronne Bay Bridge and the Courtableau Bay Bridge.
- X. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:**

ORDINANCE NO. 2024- 008

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL THE MOBILE HOME ORDINANCES IN CHAPTER 40, ARTICLE XIII, MOBILE HOME PARKS, SECTIONS 40-351 THRU 40-376, IN THE ST. LANDRY PARISH

CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND TO REPLACE THEM IN CHAPTER 40 WITH ARTICLE XIII, MOBILE HOMES AND MANUFACTURED HOMES, WITH THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS 40-351 THRU 40-426, AND TO REPEAL ARTICLE XIV, PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT, SECTION 40-377 – PLANNED GROUP HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-009

AN ORDINANCE TO SELL ADJUDICATED PROPERTY TO AN ADJOINING LANDOWNER OF THE ADJUDICATED PROPERTY AS PER LA R.S. 47:2202 (B)

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 47:2202 B. states that the governing authority of each political subdivision may allow an adjoining landowner to purchase adjudicated property for any price set by the governing authority without public bidding at a public meeting of the governing authority; provided, that the governing authority determines that the adjoining landowner has maintained the adjudicated property for a period of one year prior to the sale. Such a sale shall be deemed a public sale.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government has determined that Chris Trahan and Audrey Marie Guilbeau Trahan is the adjoining landowner of adjudicated property and has maintained said adjudicated property for a period of one year or more, and thus, Chris Trahan and Audrey Marie Guilbeau Trahan may purchase the adjudicated property through a public sale without public bidding.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-010

AN ORDINANCE TO SELL ADJUDICATED PROPERTY TO AN ADJOINING LANDOWNER OF THE ADJUDICATED PROPERTY AS PER LA R.S. 47:2202 (B)

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 47:2202 B. states that the governing authority of each political subdivision may allow an adjoining landowner to purchase adjudicated property for any price set by the governing authority without public bidding at a public meeting of the governing authority; provided, that the governing authority determines that the adjoining landowner has maintained the adjudicated property for a period of one year prior to the sale. Such a sale shall be deemed a public sale.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government has determined that Marlon Clark Sr. is the adjoining landowner of adjudicated property and has maintained said adjudicated property for a period of one year or more, and thus, Marlon Clark Sr. may purchase the adjudicated property through a public sale without public bidding.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-011

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE CHAPTER 44, SECTION 44-14 so that Comfort Lane in Opelousas, LA can be included on the list of roads in St. Landry Parish that are designated as “No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic” routes. ORDINANCE NO. 2024-011

XI. ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-042 (Sponsored By: Councilman Harold Taylor)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 40-351, IN CHAPTER 40, ARTICLE XIII, MOBILE HOME PARKS, TO PROHIBIT PRIVATE STREETS, ROADS, OR DRAINAGE IN CONSTRUCTION OF MOBILE HOME PARKS IN ST. LANDRY PARISH

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter Sections 1-06 establishes that the Parish Government has the special power to pass all ordinances necessary to promote, protect, and preserve the general welfare, safety, health, peace, and orderly conduct of the Parish.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT Section 40–351 in the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and shall now read as follows:

Sec. 40-351. - Approval and submittal procedures.

- (a) The approval and submittal procedures for mobile home parks shall be the same procedures utilized for residential lot subdivisions.
- (b) There shall be no mobile home parks with private streets, roads, or drainage constructed in St. Landry Parish as of the date of final passage of this ordinance. All mobile home parks constructed in St. Landry Parish shall have public streets, roads, and drainage.
- (c) All mobile homes located, moved into, or placed in a mobile home park shall be no older than fifteen years old at the time said mobile home is located, moved into, or placed in the mobile home park, as of the date of final passage of this ordinance.
- (d) Building permits for mobile home spaces shall not be issued by St. Landry Parish Government until construction is complete and the parish council has approved the final plat.

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-043 (Sponsored By: Councilman Timmy Lejeune)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 10-6, PERMIT REQUIRED; AFFIDAVIT; EXEMPTION; FAILURE TO ACQUIRE PERMIT, IN CHAPTER 10, BUILDINGS AND HOUSING, TO REQUIRE ALL MOBILE HOMES OR MOVABLE DWELLINGS TO HAVE A SKIRT AROUND THEM

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT Section 10–6 in the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and shall now read as follows:

Sec. 10-6. - Permit required; affidavit; exemption; failure to acquire permit.

- (a) All persons building or locating a residence, commercial building, mobile home, movable dwelling, or structure of any kind upon a lot in the territory outside the municipalities of the parish shall apply at St. Landry Parish Government for a permit before beginning any construction or location activity whatsoever. Upon receipt of initial application for a permit, applicant, spouse or person with power of attorney for applicant will appear in person at parish health unit to complete application forms. Upon approval of the parish health unit of the sewerage and sanitation facilities proposed, and upon approval by the permit officer for the parish of the proposed construction, a temporary permit shall be issued for construction purposes only.
- (b) Failure to obtain permit by all persons building or locating a residence, commercial building, mobile home, movable dwelling, or structure of any kind started prior to issuance of permit in the territory outside the municipalities of the parish shall be charged double the normal permit fee required by subsection 10-6(d)(1) and (2). This section is in addition to any other remedies in law that the parish may take to ensure of proper permitting and to carry out the intent of this chapter.
- (c) Upon issuance of the temporary permit and an orange tag for the electrical box, utility companies may provide temporary utility service for construction purposes only to the proposed building site.
- (d) The following permit fee shall apply to all permits issued by the parish government permit office:

- (1) Residential structures, movable dwelling or structure of any kind:

EXPAND

Value of Structure	Schedule of Fees
\$0.00 to \$75,000.00	\$250.00
\$75,001.00 to \$150,000.00	350.00
\$150,001.00 to \$250,000.00	450.00
\$250,001.00 to \$400,000.00	650.00
\$400,001.00 to \$550,000.00	850.00

Value of Structure	Schedule of Fees
\$550,001.00 to \$700,000.00	1,050.00
\$700,001.00 to \$850,000.00	1,250.00
\$850,001.00 and above	1,550.00

(2) Commercial permit fee schedule for new/renovation/addition/demolition or structure of any kind:

EXPAND

Value of Structure	Schedule of Fees
\$0.00 to \$50,000.00	\$250.00
\$50,001.00 to \$100,000.00	500.00
\$100,001.00 to \$150,000.00	750.00
\$150,001.00 to \$200,000.00	1,000.00
\$200,001.00 to \$250,000.00	1,250.00
\$250,001.00 to \$300,000.00	1,500.00
\$300,001.00 to \$350,000.00	1,750.00
\$350,001.00 to \$400,000.00	2,000.00
\$400,001.00 to \$450,000.00	2,250.00
\$450,001.00 to \$500,000.00	2,500.00
\$500,001.00 to \$550,000.00	2,750.00
\$550,001.00 to \$600,000.00	3,000.00

Add \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 above \$600,000.00

***Greater than or equal to \$600,000.00 plus \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of project cost.

Example:

\$1,000,000.00 project cost permit cost would be \$3,000.00, plus $\$400,000.00/1000 = 400 \times \$1.00 = \$400.00$ plus \$3,000.00 permit cost

(3) Parish Government Administrative Fee, herein after referred to as "PGAF", of eight percent is hereby established, imposed and adopted against all plan review and inspections and any other permits or affidavits necessary to carry out the intent of said ordinance and chapter. PGAF shall be deducted from the parish governments approved plan review and inspection fee schedule herein after referred to as "PRIF". The PGAF shall be immediately deducted from PRIF paid by customer. The PGAF shall be non-refundable. The remaining PRIF shall be remitted to third party vendors upon completion of services. Payments to third party vendors for completion of service shall be paid in thirds with the final payment being paid upon the issuance of the certificate of occupancy. However, if services provided do not require certificate of occupancy

then PRIF shall be paid upon completion of all required inspections. PGAF shall be deducted from PRIF in subsection (d)(4) and PRAF shall be non-refundable.

(4) Plan review, inspection fees and PGAF, including, but not limited to:

a. New residential construction:

EXPAND

Square Footage Range	PRIF
0 to 2,000	\$1,150.00
2,001 to 4,000	1,350.00
4,001 and above	1,550.00

b. New commercial structures/renovations/additions:

EXPAND

Square Footage Range	PRIF
0 to 2,000	\$1,150.00
2,001 to 4,000	2,000.00
4,001 to 6,000	2,500.00
6,001 and above	2,500.00 plus \$0.20 per square foot over 6,000 square feet

c. Residential renovations or additions:

EXPAND

Building Square Footage	PRIF
0 to 500	\$500.00
501 to 1,000	550.00
1,001 to 2,000	1,150.00
2,001 to 4,000	1,350.00
4,001 and above	1,550.00

d. Residential out buildings, storage sheds, buildings and structures of an accessory character and miscellaneous structures:

EXPAND

Building Square Footage	PRIF
0 to 500	\$200.00, no plumbing or electrical
501 to 2,000	450.00, no plumbing or electrical
2,001 to 4,000	1,150.00, same as residential fees
4,001 and above	1,350.00, same as residential fees

e. Miscellaneous inspections construction fee:

EXPAND

	PRIF
Elevators/lifts	\$100.00
Modular home	750.00
Moving an existing home	500.00
Elevating home—Foundations plan review required	500.00
Mobile homes—Plumbing inspection and electrical	300.00
Electrical inspections only	100.00
Foundation inspections only	100.00
Plumbing inspections only	100.00
Swimming pool	200.00

(e) The permit will be issued by St. Landry Parish Government upon receipt of approved permits from the parish health unit, stating that the applicant has complied with all regulations and rules of the parish health unit, state health codes, and all ordinances of the parish with regard to sewerage, water, and sanitation systems. All mobile homes or movable dwellings must be anchored to tie downs and must have skirting around it for St. Landry Parish Government to approve final electrical power to the mobile home or movable dwelling.

(f) Whenever a permit is not required the applicant will complete an affidavit attesting to the reasons as electrical connection is needed and further granting permission to the utility company to disconnect utilities immediately if the affidavit is violated or falsified. Charge for an affidavit shall be \$50.00 and shall be considered non-refundable. The parish health unit shall place a yellow tag on the electrical box if the affidavit is approved. Violations of affidavits shall result in immediate disconnection of utilities and loss of the \$50.00 fee. Affidavits are issued for buildings existing prior to May 1980, which have not been remodeled, altered or relocated; buildings lost by natural disaster as defined in subsection (f) of this section; welding machines; security lights; water well; billboards, etc.

(g) Whoever undertakes construction of a building or moving of a building onto a site in the parish without first obtaining the permit provided for in this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in an amount as established by the parish council from time to time or imprisoned not less than 30 days or both, at the discretion of the court.

(h) Any person inhabiting or operating a building or structure in violation of this section shall be subject to an injunction prohibiting further operation or habitation of a building erected or moved onto a site until a final permit complying with all regulations and rules of the parish health unit, state health code, and/or ordinances of the parish in regard to sewerage, water and sanitation systems has been obtained.

(i) Occupants of residences and/or buildings destroyed by natural disaster (tornado, fire, windstorm, flood, etc.) shall be granted a one-time exemption from having to install a new sewer system if the occupant applies for a permit to replace an existing residence or building within one year from the date of the loss, provided date of loss is verified and approved by the parish council, and further that the occupant applying for a waiver is the same occupant that suffered the loss.

(j) That anyone applying for electrical service for a structure to be used for the sale of fireworks must provide with their initial application a copy of their current state fireworks license and a copy of their current parish occupational license.

(k) State law (R.S. 37:2150—37:2173) requires that all residential contractors constructing residences in excess of \$50,000.00 must possess a valid state contractor's license. The parish council requires that contractor's name and valid state contractor's license number must be included on initial application for construction of all residential structures in excess of \$50,000.00. In the event that an applicant elects to self-contract construction of his residence, it will be noted on the application that he assumes the responsibility for complying with all state and/or local laws.

(l) Exemptions for certain farm structures. Louisiana Title 55, Public Safety Part IV of the Uniform Construction Code Enforcement is adopted, which provides for exemptions for certain farm structures. Said farm structures are defined as: Farm structures which are constructed on a farm, other than a residence or structure attached to it, for use on the farm including, but not limited to, barns, shed, greenhouses, and poultry houses.

(m) The holder of an outbuildings/storage sheds, buildings and structures of an accessory character, miscellaneous structures, shall file one original copy of an affidavit with parish government and file one original copy with the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court, attesting that the permit issued for said out building structures shall not be used as a residence, or used, intended to be used, or occupied for permanent living purposes.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-002
(Sponsored By: Councilman Harold Taylor)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 32, ARTICLE III, SECTIONS 32-51, 32-52, 32-53, 32-54, 32-55, 32-56, 32-57, 32-58, 32-59, 32-60, AND 32-61, AND TO ADD SECTIONS 32-62, 32-63, 32-64, 32-65, 32-66, AND 32-67, IN THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS IN ST. LANDRY PARISH TO CREATE THE ST. LANDRY PARISH ENERGY DISTRICT, AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Council (the “Governing Authority”), acting as the Governing Authority of the Parish of St. Landry (the "Parish"), State of Louisiana, is a home rule charter government and a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana (the “State”) pursuant to Article VI, Section 5 of the Louisiana Constitution (1974); and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority adopted Ordinance No. 2022-017 (the “Solar Farm Ordinance”) on December 21, 2022, establishing regulations and permit requirements for solar farms located in the Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Solar Farm Ordinance presently governs the regulations and permit requirements for solar farms in the Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority seeks to develop a strategic and unified approach to

address the vendors and developers seeking to establish energy generation systems, including but not limited to solar energy, within the boundaries of the Parish; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive and coordinated effort through the establishment of a special energy district will ensure the best opportunity for the Parish to facilitate and oversee the development of new energy generation technologies that will be in the best interest of the Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority desires to establish a special energy district within all of the territory within the boundaries of the Parish to most effectively achieve these goals; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Sections 1-02 and 1-06 of the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter (the "Home Rule Charter"), the Governing Authority has the special power to pass all ordinances necessary to promote, protect, and preserve the general welfare, safety, health, peace, and orderly conduct of the Parish; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Home Rule Charter, the Governing Authority desires to create a special district with the authority to negotiate, procure, and oversee any type of renewable energy project or energy-producing system within the Parish to be designated the "St. Landry Parish Energy District" (the "District") for the purpose of promoting renewable energy projects within the boundaries of the Parish, carrying out the provisions of the previously adopted Solar Farm Ordinance, and as amended (the "Amended Ordinance"), providing and encouraging a cohesive development of, supporting, and regulating renewable energy projects in the Parish; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the St. Landry Parish Council, acting as the governing authority of the Parish; that CHAPTER 32, ARTICLE III, SECTIONS 32-51, 32-52, 32-53, 32-54, 32-55, 32-56, 32-57, 32-58, 32-59, 32-60, AND 32-61 IN THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES shall be amended and supplemented to delete any and all references to "Solar Farm(s)" and replace and insert "Energy Generation System" in place thereof, and shall now read as follows:

ARTICLE III. – ENERGY GENERATION SYSTEMS

Sec. 32-51. – Purpose; CREATION OF ENERGY DISTRICT

- a. The purpose of this article is to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of St. Landry Parish by regulating Energy Generation System Projects located within St. Landry Parish.
- b. Under the authority of the Home Rule Charter there is hereby created a special energy district within St. Landry Parish, to be named the "St. Landry Parish Energy District" (the "District"), having geographical boundaries conterminous with that of St. Landry Parish, less and except the incorporated areas therein. The District shall have the authority and jurisdiction to oversee all proposals, approvals, and establishment of any Energy Generation Systems within St. Landry Parish, including but not limited to solar farms, wind, and any other renewable energy source or project, and shall have the authority to promote, negotiate, enter into, or amend contracts or obligations for renewable energy projects for the benefit of St. Landry Parish, and to consider and oversee all other matters in connection therewith. The District shall have the authority to approve, negotiate, modify, and renew tax abatement and payment in lieu of tax (PILOT) obligations or agreements. The District's governing authority shall be the St. Landry Parish Council (the "Governing Authority").

Sec. 32-52. - Definitions.

For the purposes of this article the following terms shall mean:

- a. **Solar energy:** Radiant energy received from the sun that can be collected in the form of heat or light by a solar collector.
- b. **Solar energy systems:** A device or structural design feature intended to provide for collection, storage, and distribution of solar energy for heating or cooling, electricity generation, or water heating.
- c. **Solar farm:** The use of land where a series of solar collectors and related equipment and accessories are placed in an area on a parcel of land for the purpose of generating photovoltaic power. A Solar Farm shall not be interpreted to mean one or more solar collectors intended to provide electrical power generation for a single residential dwelling or commercial property.
- d. **Energy Generation System:** Any use of land, development device, structural design, collection system, or project for the purpose of energy generation within the Parish, including but

not limited to projects involving solar, wind, and any other renewable energy source, system, or project.

Sec. 32-53. - Permits and fees.

(a) Prior to placing, establishing, expanding, or substantively altering the operation of an Energy Generation System, a permit must be obtained by the developer from St. Landry Parish Government. Permits shall be issued only after the plan therefore has been approved as provided for in this section.

(b) The developer shall submit an Energy Generation System Permit Application along with the plans for the proposed project. Each Permit Application will include a site plan showing all property to be included in the project, all access roads, a drainage study, an environmental study, and a traffic plan.

(c) The Parish Engineer shall review the Permit Application and site plan.

(d) If the Parish Engineer disapproves of the plan and project, the developer shall be given sixty days to correct the problems cited by the Parish Engineer for rejection of the plan and project, and then the developer may resubmit the Permit Application to the Parish Engineer for approval. If the Parish Engineer approves of the plan and project, the developer shall conduct at least one community meeting to provide adjacent landowners and the public an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the project. The community meeting shall be conducted before obtaining Energy Generation System permit. Notice of the time and location of the public meeting shall be published at least twice in the official journal before the public meeting.

(e) After the community meeting, the Permit Application and site plan shall be presented to the St. Landry Parish Council at a council meeting to approve or deny the permit.

(f) If a permit is granted hereunder, the developer of the Energy Generation System shall pay a fee of \$1,000.00 to the St. Landry Parish government for any project consisting of 500 acres or less, and for a project consisting of more than 500 acres, the fee shall be \$1,000.00 plus an additional \$1.00 for each acre in excess of 500 acres. The applicable permit fee shall be determined by consideration of the entire project, including buffer zones and access roads.

(g) A permit issued under this Ordinance may be transferred or assigned, with the assignee being obligated to all requirements of the permit and this Chapter. However, written notice of such transfer or assignment shall be made to the St. Landry Parish Government, and the identity of the new permittee shall be noted in the parish records.

(h) The issuance of a permit under this article shall serve as the agreement and acknowledgment by the permittee, and its successors and assigns, as well as the property owners, that the St. Landry Parish government shall have standing to enforce any and all provisions and obligations of this article.

(i) A permit shall expire one year from the date of issuance if construction has not yet commenced on the Energy Generation System.

Sec. 32-54. - Single or multiple tracts.

(a) An Energy Generation System may be operated on a single contiguous tract or multiple contiguous tracts, either with ownership by the developer/applicant, under one or more leases in which the developer/applicant is a lessee, or any combination thereof.

(b) Any permit issued for an Energy Generation System which relies upon one lease agreement shall become null and void upon the termination of said lease agreement, unless the lease agreement is terminated because the developer/applicant has conveyed ownership of the property previously subject to the lease. In the case of a permit issued for an Energy Generation system that relies on more than one lease agreement, if one of the lease agreements is terminated the permit shall become null and void only to the part of the project that is affected by the lease termination by being on the land subject to the lease that was terminated.

Sec. 32-55. - Traffic plan.

(a) The plan for a proposed Energy Generation System shall include a traffic plan for the movement of vehicles that will use parish roads during the construction, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Energy Generation System.

(b) The plan shall provide for the remediation of any damages occasioned to parish roads during the construction or erection, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Energy Generation System.

Sec. 32-56. - Drainage plan.

(a) The proposed Energy Generation System shall include a drainage plan.

(b) The drainage plan shall include a hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) analysis to establish that

the Energy Generation System shall not have any adverse impact on the parish drainage system or adjacent property owners, or, alternatively, the drainage plan shall establish a plan for remediating any adverse impact on the parish drainage system or adjacent property owners that may result from the construction of and the operation of the Energy Generation System. The plan shall also include an ongoing schedule of water sampling and testing of water runoff from the project site.

Sec. 32-57. - Buffer zones.

- (a) The plan for a proposed Energy Generation System shall include the provision of a buffer zone around the perimeter of the project.
- (b) The buffer zone shall include a setback of not less than 150 feet from the center of any adjacent public roadway.
- (c) The buffer zone shall include a setback of at least 150 feet from any residence, unless otherwise waived by the homeowner, and 50 feet from any adjacent property line used for residential purposes at the time of the application.
- (d) Each buffer zone shall include a stand of trees or shrubbery between the operational area of the Energy Generation System and the adjacent roadway or property owner to screen the Energy Generation System from view, the sufficiency of which is subject to review and approval as part of the plan.
- (e) The buffer zone shall be maintained in such a manner so as to not present a nuisance as provided for otherwise in the Code of Ordinances.

Sec. 32-58. - Secured access and lighting.

- (a) The proposed Energy Generation System plan shall include a plan for secured limited access to the project by a security fence no less than six feet nor no greater than eight feet in height.
- (b) Lighting. To reduce light pollution, lighting shall be limited to the minimum lighting reasonably necessary for the Energy Generation System's safe operation, and the lighting shall be directed downward where reasonably feasible.

Sec. 32-59. - Decommissioning plan.

- (a) The plan for a proposed Energy Generation System shall include a decommissioning plan for the remediation of the area of project upon the cessation of operations of the Energy Generation System.
- (b) Decommissioning of the Energy Generation System shall begin no later than 12 months after the project has ceased to operate as an Energy Generation System. For purposes of this provision, temporary cessation of operations of the Energy Generation System due to circumstances beyond the control of the developer, such as force majeure or commercial decisions by the developer's customers, for a period of less than 12 months would not trigger any decommissioning requirements.
- (c) The decommissioning plan shall provide for the removal of the solar panels, wind mills, ancillary structures, and other infrastructure utilized in the operation of the Energy Generation System.
- (d) The decommissioning plan shall provide for the remediation of any environmental hazards remaining on the property of the Energy Generation System,, as determined by the EPA, DEQ, or the St. Landry Parish Government.
- (e) Any lease forming a portion of the application for the original permit shall include reference to the decommissioning plan and the funding thereof as a necessary term therein.
- (f) The decommissioning plan shall provide for a decommissioning fund with sufficient funding to remediate all the property encompassing the project and restoring said property to its original purpose. The developer shall present documentation to St. Landry Parish Government that the decommissioning fund is established.

Sec. 32-60. - Legal fund established.

One and one-half percent of the proceeds derived from the payment-in-lieu-of taxes for ad valorem taxes from all taxing bodies shall be deposited into a special fund to be used to pay all legal fees and cost associated with potential litigation arising from the Energy Generation System's construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning.

Sec. 32-61. - Economic development fund established.

One and one-half percent of the proceeds derived from the payment-in-lieu-of taxes for ad valorem taxes from all taxing bodies shall be deposited into a special fund to be used for economic development projects in St. Landry Parish in unincorporated areas and small

incorporated municipalities with populations of less than 4,000 residents.

Sec. 32-62. – Responsibilities and duties.

(a) The Parish President shall be charged with negotiating the terms and conditions of any and all agreements and contracts for establishing an Energy Generation System, including but not limited to the following:

1. Tax abatements, leases, and related payments in lieu of tax agreements.
2. Terms and conditions regarding removing energy-generating equipment at the end of operations or the equipment's end-of-life period.
3. Engage with community leaders and citizens to keep them informed about the establishment of an Energy Generation System to ensure community feedback and public comment.
4. Provide an updated legal and regulatory framework for consideration for adoption by the Parish Council.
5. Ensure compliance with all terms and conditions of agreements entered into by the energy-producing entity and the Parish of St. Landry.
6. Ensure compliance with all state and federal laws and local rules and regulations.

Sec. 32-63. – Authorization of officers.

The Parish President, the Chairman of the Parish Council, and the Clerk of the Parish Council are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to do any and all things necessary and incidental to carry out the provisions of this Article.

Sec. 32-64. – Severability.

If any provision of this Article shall be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Article, but this Ordinance shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provisions had not been contained herein. Any constitutional or statutory provision enacted after the date of this Ordinance which validates or makes legal any provision of this Ordinance which would not otherwise be valid or legal shall be deemed to apply to this Ordinance.

Sec. 32-65. – Repeal.

All ordinances or resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

Sec. 32-66. – Recordation.

A certified copy of this Ordinance shall be filed and recorded as soon as possible in the Clerk of Court's Mortgage Records of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana.

Sec. 32-67. – Publication; effective date.

Upon its adoption, this Ordinance shall be published one (1) time in the official journal of St. Landry Parish. The Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-003
(Sponsored By: Councilman Timmy Lejeune)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 40-186, WHICH IS IN ARTICLE VIII – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, IN CHAPTER 40 – SUBDIVISIONS, IN THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO REQUIRE DEVELOPERS TO PLACE A NOTIFICATION SIGN AT THE LOCATION OF THE NEW SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT TO NOTIFY THE PUBLIC THAT A NEW SUBDIVISION IS BEING PLANNED AND DEVELOPED

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government must review and approve all new subdivisions located outside of incorporated municipalities in St. Landry Parish, as per the subdivision ordinances in Chapter 40 of the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances.

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that the public have sufficient notice of the development and location of new subdivisions in St. Landry Parish.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT Section 40-186 in Article VIII of Chapter 40 of the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and shall now read as follows:

Sec. 40-186. – Notice to the public and suitability of the land.

- (a) When a new subdivision is being planned and developed in St. Landry Parish, outside of incorporated municipalities, a notification sign stating that a new subdivision is being planned and developed shall be placed by the developer at the location of the new development.
- (b) The parish council shall not approve the subdivision of land if the site is not suitable for platting and development purposes of the kind proposed if determined that it is not in the best interest of the public from results of investigations generated by the developer and public agencies concerned. Land subject to flooding and land deemed to be topographically unsuitable shall not be platted for residential occupancy, or for any other uses that may increase flood hazard, endanger health, life or property, or aggravate erosion. Such land within the plat shall be set aside for such uses as shall not be endangered by periodic or occasional inundation or shall not produce unsatisfactory living conditions. In applying the provisions, land below the flood elevations as established by FEMA flood maps shall be considered subject to flood.
- (c) Fill may be used to raise land in areas subject to flood if the fill proposed does not restrict the flow of water so as to unduly increase flood heights or floor levels may be elevated to safe heights.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-004
(Sponsored By: Councilman Timmy Lejeune)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 2023-005, AN ORDINANCE TO PLACE NOTIFICATION SIGNS AT THE LOCATION OF NEW SUBDIVISIONS THAT ARE BEING PLANNED AND DEVELOPED TO NOTIFY THE PUBLIC OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS , this Ordinance repeals Ordinance No. 2023-005.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT: St. Landry Parish Ordinance number 2023-005 is hereby repealed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-005
(Sponsored By: Councilwoman Mildred Thierry)

AN ORDINANCE TO SELL PROPERTIES THAT HAVE BEEN ADJUDICATED TO ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statutes 47:2201, 47:2202, 47:2203 and 47:2204 provide that a political subdivision may provide by ordinance for the sale of adjudicated property at a public sale.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government shall offer for sale the following adjudicated properties with a minimum bid of \$500.00, plus the amount due on any liens, judgments, mortgages, and/or encumbrances that may be on each adjudicated property.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that the following adjudicated properties shall be offered for sale at public sale and there shall be a minimum bid of \$500.00, plus the amount due on any liens, judgments, mortgages, and/or encumbrances that may be on each of the following adjudicated properties:

PARCEL #	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	PROPERTY OWNER
1	8400122200 441 VICTOR ST	DOROTHY MAE SHAW GREEN ETAL
	1 LOT 16 (50X143) BLK 3 SHELDON HAGEN SUB DIV FRONTING 50' ON VICTOR ST	
	1 LOT 16-A (50X143) BLK 3 SHELDON HAGEN SUB DIV FRONTING 50' ON VICTOR ST	
	775953 (I-34-256) 1142342	

10	8100650007	1632 DUSON STREET	DELORES JACKO ETALS
	1 LOT 18 (50X150) BLK 12 COLORADO SOUTHERN ADD N LOT 7 & 8 BLK 12 S DUSON AVE E LOT 16 BLK 12 W LOT 19 BLK 12 FRONTING 100' ON DUSON AVENUE		
	899817 (M-39-732) 945480 (G-41-809)		

11	0100119500	915 W. PARK AVE	GILBERT AUSTIN, JR
	1 LOT 11 (50X148) BERNICE LASTRAPES SUB DIV N PARK AVE S E W PRINCE FRONTING 50' ON PARK AVE		
	696475 (V-25-280) *		

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-006 (Sponsored By: Councilwoman Nancy Carriere)

AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE ALL BOARD AND COMMISSION MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL, AND THE CLERICAL AND OFFICE STAFF OF THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS TO ATTEND LEGAL AND FINANCE TRAINING ONCE A YEAR.

WHEREAS, for local government to render good and effective service to the citizens of St. Landry Parish, it is important that the members of boards and commissions, and their clerical and office staff, be properly trained in the legal and financial requirements that their responsibilities and employment demands.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT:

- 1. All board and commission members appointed by the St. Landry Parish Council shall receive one hour of legal training and one hour of financial training, annually. If a board or commission member appointed by the St. Landry Parish Council fails to complete the required one hour of legal training and one hour of financial training within a calendar year, that board or commission member shall be removed by the Council from the board or commission.**
- 2. All clerical and office staff of boards and commissions shall receive one hour of legal training and one hour of financial training, annually. If a clerical or office staff employee of a board or commission fails to complete the required one hour of legal training and one hour of financial training within a calendar year, that clerical or office staff employee shall not be eligible to continue being employed in their position, and their employment on the board or commission shall be terminated.**
- 3. St. Landry Parish Government shall contract the attorneys and certified public accountants to provide the legal and financial training. No legal or financial training courses, other than that contracted and provided by St. Landry Parish Government, shall be acceptable to fulfill the requirements of this ordinance. St. Landry Parish Government shall schedule the dates that the legal and financial training shall be available.**
- 4. The annual legal and financial training shall apply to all current and newly appointed board and commission members and shall become mandatory for the year 2024.**
- 5. This ordinance shall become effective on the date it is passed by the St. Landry Parish Council.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-007 (Sponsored By: Mildred Thierry)

AN ORDINANCE TO SELL ADJUDICATED PROPERTY TO AN ADJOINING LANDOWNER OF THE ADJUDICATED PROPERTY AS PER LA R.S. 47:2202 (B)

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 47:2202 B. states that the governing authority of each political subdivision may allow an adjoining landowner to purchase adjudicated property for any price set by the governing authority without public bidding at a public meeting of the governing authority; provided, that the governing authority determines that the adjoining landowner has maintained the adjudicated property for a period of one year prior to the sale. Such a sale shall be deemed a public sale.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government has determined that QUITIN DOYLE is the adjoining landowner of adjudicated property and has maintained said adjudicated property for a period of one year or more, and thus, QUITIN DOYLE may purchase the adjudicated property through a public sale without public bidding.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that the following adjudicated property shall be sold by public sale to QUITIN DOYLE, an adjoining land owner to the adjudicated property who maintained said adjudicated property for one year or more, without public bidding, for a price set by St. Landry Parish Government, as per LA R.S. 47:2202 B., and said adjudicated property is described as follows:

A certain lot or parcel of ground, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, situated in 1 LOT (50 x 150) N JEANSONNE S MRS JEANSONN E EDWARDS W NIMITZ ST FRONTING 50' ON NIMITZ ST 1021295, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana.

This adjudicated property bearing parcel number 8602199500 in the St. Landry Parish land records.

XII. RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

RESOLUTION NO. 003-2024

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish is a finalist for \$5,500,000 in funding through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative Program Round Two, and there are documents and requests that St. Landry Parish needs to sign regarding the funding and acceptance of the grant.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council, that Jessie Bellard, St. Landry Parish President, is authorized to sign any and all documents and requests for disbursements pertaining to the Watershed Initiative administered through the Louisiana Office of Community Development.

THEREUPON, the above resolution was declared adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2024

A RESOLUTION TO REASSIGN THE POLLING LOCATION FOR PRECINCT 21A

WHEREAS, The current polling location for Precinct 21A is the Opelousas Fire Substation #3, located at 109 S. Union St., Opelousas, and

WHEREAS, There have been several issues that have arisen in recent elections about the suitability of that polling location, and

WHEREAS The St. Landry Parish Council wishes to be responsive to the needs of the voters in Precinct 21A while also maintaining proper emergency response capabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the St. Landry Parish Council, in Regular Session assembled, does hereby reassign the following polling location for Precinct 21A as follows:

From: Opelousas Fire Substation #3 at 109 S. Union St., Opelousas,

To: Opelousas Civic Center, at 1638 Creswell Ln., Opelousas,

with said Opelousas Civic Center polling location currently being used as the polling location for Precinct 21 and thus qualifies as a consolidated polling location for Precinct 21A under applicable State statutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 005-2024

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the St. Landry Parish Council that a number of deaths in St. Landry Parish have been linked to the consumption of Kratom.

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the St. Landry Parish Council that Kratom is sold in some stores in St. Landry Parish, and the public must be made aware of this fact.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the public should be made aware by various forms of communication and media that a number of deaths in St. Landry Parish have been linked to the consumption of Kratom, and that Kratom is sold in some stores in St. Landry Parish.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON THE 21st DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.

XIII. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

PARISH PRESIDENT JESSIE BELLARD WAS ABSENT FOR THIS MEETING

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th, 2024
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Chairman Wayne Ardoin called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Councilman Ken Marks led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation
3. **Roll Call:** Faltery Jolivette, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. Ex-Officio Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere.
Councilwoman Nancy Carriere was absent for roll call but later joined the meeting.

4. Election of Chairman:

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “I would like to make a motion to elect Mr. Harold Taylor as Chairman.

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Second.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Are there any other nominations?”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “I move that the nominations be closed.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Roll call please.”

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to nominate Councilman Harold Taylor as Chairman of the Administrative Finance Committee for the year 2024.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere. **ABSTAINED:** Harold Taylor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Congratulation Mr. Taylor."

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "Thank you gentleman. The meeting will now come to order. Do we have anyone that turned in a slip to address the council?"

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Not for Finance and Administration. I have some for Public Works."

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "Is there anyone that would like to address the Finance Committee in the Public Comments? If none we will move on."

5. **Person to address the Committee.**

None.

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

Parish President Jessie Bellard was absent for this meeting.

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "I guess that will be you Van."

Mr. Van Reed stated, "Yes, I am the President for today, I guess, I won the award. My understanding is that you all have a copy of the Finance Report. Jessie said if you all want to look over it you all can and if you all have questions you all can reach out to him tomorrow and he will be happy to answer them."

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "Mr. Reed, I have not had an opportunity to look at it but Mr. Marks have. He said that we only got the copy of the General Fund. What about Road and Bridge, Health Unit all of these others."

Mr. Van Reed stated, "I have the whole pack in front of me. I don't know what you have in front of you."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "To clarify, the one that was sent to us via e-mail was only the General Fund."

Mr. Van Reed stated, "This is the Financials. We don't know why you all don't have the other information but we will find out why you all don't have additional information."

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "Is there anything else?"

Mr. Van Reed stated, "No, that is it."

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "Do we have a motion to accept the Parish President and Financial Report?"

A motion was made by Councilman Faltery Jolivette, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to accept the Parish President & Finance Report:

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

7. **Forward all applications received for one appointment to the St. Landry Parish Planning Commission Board.**

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 21st, 2024** all applications received for one appointment to the St. Landry Parish Planning Commission Board.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion forwarded.

8. **Further discuss Kratom. (Councilman Timmy Lejeune).**

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I brought this up a few months back. What I actually asked the council to do was just to bring awareness to the business places that this product is inside of their grocery stores. It was only to make sure that the families were aware that this product could take the life of your loved one if it is not used correctly. It is not a prescription drug. It was tabled because they needed more information. There is more information that is provided to everyone. We lost some people in our parish to this drug and the death certificate is attached. I would ask that we forward this to the full council and give everybody another couple of weeks to look at it and come to a voluntary thing, it is not an ordinance, it is only simply to just to try and make sure that people become aware of this. So, please if you all don’t mind forwarding that to the full council.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “So you are requesting a Resolution addressing the Kratom issue.”

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, February 21st, 2024 to approve a Resolution for the Awareness of Kratom.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion forwarded.

9. **Authorize Council Clerk to advertise for three appointments to the Greater Krotz Springs Port Commission for a four-year term. (01-15-2024 – 01-15-2028).**

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 21st, 2024** to authorize Council Clerk to advertise for three appointments to the Greater Krotz Springs Port Commission for a four-year term. (01-15-2024 – 01-15-2028).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion forwarded.

10. **Discuss the littering problem in our Parish and how can we help resolve this problem working with waste Management and the Sheriff’s Office. (Councilman Ken Marks).**

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Thank you Chairman, we have all heard the discussion here in the last couple of months of the embarrassment of our parish and the littering situation. We are very much aware of the different entities that have to work together in order to make this thing better than what it is. I just wanted to see if we needed to bring in together a committee or someone to take a look at all of the entities and how to we help to draw it together and how to we bring it to the forefront. If I may and I am not out of order I would like to call on the Director of Solid Waste to come and address this situation for us. Thank you.”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Director of Solid Waste addressed the council and stated, “Ladies and gentleman of the council I got with Mr. Marks and we had a meeting today with the Parish President and some of his staff. Everybody wants to put more deputies out and everybody wants to put more trustees out, I think that is grand but somebody has to pay for that. The issue is we need to stop what the root cause of the problem is and the people that is causing the litter. The people that are in this council and the people that are listening to this and watching this broadcast and the people that are here in the room, I do believe are people who are proud and want to return that to their parish and where they are at. I have seven things that we illustrated and that we have gone through and I think it will

be a punch list. The President and I and some of his staff talked about a couple of ideas. The St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District utilizes the services of an IT Company called Premier Data. The owner of Premier Data and I have been in dialogue in the last week. We will see about putting a 24 hour Litter Hotline. That hotline is not going to be a voice mail, you will have a series of prompts that says: I am thinking maybe 337-Cleanup, 337-Trash-stop or 337-Litter. I think that we need to get and give the awareness out. First of all the perpetrator, the people who do this have no regards. I was leaving the landfill about 5:30 a while ago and somebody came down our road and threw out two bags of trash because the gates were closed. I picked them up and put them behind my truck and I went back inside and put them in. I think about a 24 hour litter hotline. We want to make this anonymous, mirrored like Crime stoppers. I think that the Parish Proud format is what we need to do, something sort of like what Lafayette was doing. We need involvement from all walks of life, elected, appointed, leaders, residents' civic organizations, non-profits, everyone needs to be involved. When you watch that thing for Lafayette on their website, Parish Proud.org, you see that they are not just residents' they are people that are elected, appointed. You see people of the clergy all across the sector, people who actually care. They are getting out there and doing stuff in Girard Park and the bayou clean-up. Our area, St. Landry is more rural than Lafayette and we have a lot more area to cover. I think the Crime Stoppers format would work and we need to advertise the people who prosecute, convicted and prosecuted who actually pay those fines to actually put them in the media or some form whether it is going to be social media or television. I think that a task force between Solid Waste, Parish Government, the Sheriff's Office, Wild Life and Fisheries, Municipal Police Forces, both Marshall Offices, Civic and Non-Profit as well as Residency and Community Volunteers need to get together and steer this in the correct way. We all know that we want a better St. Landry and I do believe that once we start taking and bringing this to the forefront the people who actually care and actually saw the commercial will see some movement. We had five cases and I know that Jessie is not here this evening, we had five cases that went in front of court and one of the fines were \$1,000.00. I think the others were more than that, I am not really sure. We have five people and that was more traction than we have had and more progress than we have had in the las 6-8 months. I spoke to some of the members of Lieutenant Governor Nungesser's Office on Monday. I requested a meeting here in the parish with him. We would like to discuss personal endorsements from him and some funding to be able to take the direction of that. Taking it upon myself this afternoon I actually went on Go Daddy and secured the domain, St. Landry Proud.org. I think that is something that we can work on back and forth. This hotline will generate a series of E-mails. Whoever will have access to it, whether it will be the Parish Investigators or the Wild Life and Fisheries, I do believe the e-mails will come and we need to maintain the anonymity of the people that are reporting these people. We need to protect their anonymity. I think that having this phone line we can have giving that information, we will not have to deal with a bunch of phone calls. It will come straight to an e-mail and we can go ahead and see who, what, when and where. It will be a lot easier for whoever is investigating to take this to the next level. We have three Litter Abatement Teams that canvas the parish and the municipalities of St. Landry Parish every day except whenever it is implement. Putting out more Deputies is a problem because of the strain that the Sheriff has with manpower. The Trustees do a fine job, the guys that we have, we have those 12 gentlemen that are allocated to those crews but again, more crews, more money, stop the perpetrators, stop the problem."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "Mr. LeBouef, thank you for being pro-active in doing your due diligence. I have been hearing about the Lafayette Parish Proud Program for quite a while so this is kind of going to mirror that if you will."

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Director of Solid Waste stated, "We are in the initial stages today with discussions. I have been doing some research and I do really think if we go in that direction and follow what they are doing it cannot be anything but positive results."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "For a matter of record can we take a look at broadening the spectrum if you will to maybe the judges, justice of the peace people as well as constables and of course volunteers or individual people."

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Director of Solid Waste stated, “If Mr. Duplechain would clarify I don’t believe that the constables in St. Landry Parish have any arrest powers, am I correct? They can just issue a summons or a citation but cannot actually arrest anyone.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “That is right. In Civil Proceedings they will repossess furniture.”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Director of Solid Waste stated, “The research that I have done is that the forfeiting license and all the fines collected from what I have read in the ordinance come here.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “So they have a central point, great. That is all that I have.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Again thank you for coming Mr. Richard but the last time you were here we spoke about a possible sticker on the trash cans to avoid more trash being thrown all over the parish. Just to let them know they could call whatever the name of the company is, Morgan & Morgan or what have you. You were suppose to talk to the board or whatever, did you get a chance to do that in the meeting or have you had that meeting yet?”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Director of Solid Waste stated, “We have a meeting actually on Monday night which is going to be the 12 of February. Again, each trash can putting it out is going to be an issue opted to be a mail out maybe, Mr. Ardoin and I had that conversation. The people that are putting trash out in front of their homes are not the problem.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “No, no, it is the ones that is at the bridge and the ones that are down the road. Those are the problems because we have drainage issues and it comes from garbage.”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Director of Solid Waste stated, “Correct but it is the people who are not putting in the proper receptacle and dealing with it the correct way that are giving us the problems.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “That is why I am thinking if they had this sticker on the trash cans and you don’t have to bring it down the road, you can look at the number on the trash cans and call them and they will pick it up at your driveway, don’t load it, call them. If we could get some kind of push with that I think that would help a lot, I really do.”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Director of Solid Waste stated, “I will bring that up Monday evening and let you know how it turns out.”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “Mr. LeBouef, besides the litter and the crew that is picking up the bulky trash can they also pick up the trash in the ditches and stuff like Styrofoam cups?”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Director of Solid Waste stated, “Yes sir that is part of what the Abatement Crews do as far as any kind of drainage thing. That is not what they are doing but as far as in the ditch and on the road side, not on private property is where those guys go, the Abatement Crews.”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “We use to have a crew in Eunice that would do that and we don’t have a crew anymore.”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Director of Solid Waste stated, “That was with the City?”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “Yes.”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Director of Solid Waste stated, “You have an abatement crew in Eunice that is there almost 5 days a week that is doing that. We have an issue that we are going to take a lot of the inefficiency to the city of Eunice because we are no longer

allowed to use the city barn as a non-processing transfer station. That is why we are going in front of the Commission on Monday night to try to take and move that to have a central location just to bring the wooded debris and the cuttings to that location which would make us more effective in Eunice.”

, “Thank you Mr. LeBouef for what you and your crew do for the parish every day. During the holiday times I know that we have 30 constituents basically that get large gifts and they throw boxes down the road. I just want to put out whereas to the public since we are on Social Media that we have two recycling centers, one in Opelousas and one Eunice. They can just bring those boxes to those recycling centers if they can’t fit them in the dumpsters or they can leave them on the side of the dumpster and don’t litter the parish. For Christmas I had to make several trips down my road and I put the boxes in the back of my truck and I brought the boxes to Hwy 190, the recycling center in Opelousas. It is just trying to keep the area clean, trying to keep St. Landry Parish Clean and everything else. I just want to ask you whatever you can do to put it out there will help.”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Director of Solid Waste stated, “I think that will cover what Mr. Lejeune has out. That could all be part of the Central thing. We went ahead and we distributed the trash cans for Bayou State we can go with a point of order again with all of those things to address what Mr. Lejeune said. Thank you for what you and your crew did when you picked up those tires on the backside by Wisdom. I appreciate what you guys do. Everybody needs to know that those recycling centers are available to all of the public. Instead of putting it out there get paid for your trash, bring it there. You have a buyback program that is in place and they will pay you for whatever you bring. Just about anything except glass we will take. I appreciate you guys so much.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Are there any more questions? Thank you Mr. LeBouef and thank you for what you do.”

11. Forward to Regular Meeting Resolution No. 003-2024.

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish is a finalist for \$5,500,000 in funding through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative Program Round Two, and there are documents and requests that St. Landry Parish needs to sign regarding the funding and acceptance of the grant.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council, that Jessie Bellard, St. Landry Parish President, is authorized to sign any and all documents and requests for disbursements pertaining to the Watershed Initiative administered through the Louisiana Office of Community Development.

THEREUPON, the above resolution was declared adopted.

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “We will need a motion to bring it to the full council but I have a couple of questions. I thought Jessie would have been here but Van I think that the council need a little more detail on what we are going to do with the \$5,500,000.00.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “We applied through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative round 2. We applied for funding to clean out the State Canal, parts of Bayou Carron and Bayou Des Cannes. It does not mean that they are actually going to do those but they are going to do modeling on it first to see if the clean out work will affect the communities around it. What they would like to do is slow the water down so it does not flood downstream. They are looking at possibly doing some retention ponds and things like that. They are going to do some modeling first before we actually get awarded the grant. Acadiana Planning Commission is behind the modeling and they will fund the modeling completely. Once we get the reports back then they will decide if we can spend the money on one or all three of those bayous.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “The Bayou Mallet Project from Bayou Karron to the parish line is still on hold with the US Core of Engineers?”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “Yes.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "What is the latest progress on that?"

Mr. Van Reed stated, "None. According to Barry Soileau there is none."

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "Did they give you all any reason for the hold up?"

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, "They are doing surveys and the Core of Engineers have all kinds of surveys that they can do, they are looking into all of that. That is where our money is sitting right now. We are waiting for them to give us the okay so we can proceed."

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Mark, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 21st, 2024** to approve **Resolution No. 003-2024**.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish is a finalist for \$5,500,000 in funding through the Louisiana Watershed Initiative Program Round Two, and there are documents and requests that St. Landry Parish needs to sign regarding the funding and acceptance of the grant.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council, that Jessie Bellard, St. Landry Parish President, is authorized to sign any and all documents and requests for disbursements pertaining to the Watershed Initiative administered through the Louisiana Office of Community Development.

THEREUPON, the above resolution was declared adopted.

12. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "I would like to give a report on a couple of Ordinances that I have been authoring. The first one is the Mobile Home Park and Subdivision Ordinance. It is in its final draft and Garrett has got that. Mr. Engineer, we will visit with you as soon as we get the final draft to get you to look at it. We will get a copy to each councilmember, it will be read into action at our meeting in two weeks and 30 days later at our March meeting it will be up for a Public Hearing and Adoption. We would like to do that. The other one is the Change of the Solar Farm Ordinance to the Entergy Generation."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Right, the Entergy Generation Project Production. It is expanding out to more Renewable Entergy, Clean Entergy forms of production. The world is moving more and more in that area. We are expanding it out to Entergy Generation Production which will include Windmills and things like that."

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "It will be finalized, no you have a few changes to make."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "It will be very soon."

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "Both of these ordinance will be sent to each of the councilmembers for further review and when we have the hearing we will have more questions. I am free to answer any questions that you all may have that I can answer. Mr. Marks, my side kick on this one, he spent a lots of hours with me going through this and getting it put together."

13. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to adjourn the Administrative/Finance Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

PARISH PRESIDENT JESSIE BELLARD WAS ABSENT FOR THIS MEETING

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th, 2024
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Chairman Wayne Ardoin called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. Ex-Officio: Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** None.
3. **Elect Chairman:**

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I will now call the second meeting to order which is Public Works Committee. We will elect a Public Works Chairman."

Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, "If I am in order I would like to make a motion to elect Ms. Vivian Olivier."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Second."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Are there any other nominations?"

Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, "I will close the nominations."

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to elect Councilwoman Vivian Olivier as the Public Works Chairwoman for 2024."

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

4. **Person to address the Committee:**

Mr. William Jenkins addressed the council. He stated, "Good evening, Chairman, council men and women. I came to talk to you all about the permit fees. We are an Electrical and Air-Conditioner Contractor and a few years ago if we had to cut a line or service or something for one of our power companies we had the okay to cut the line, pull the meter and we would hook the people back up. Then the power companies said that the parish want us to buy permits, not us particular but the customers. They would require a \$10.00 permit fee to get the power back on at the people houses. They said it was for an affidavit saying that they did no other work like building or adding to the structure or anything. Then after Hurricane Katina the state said that we had to have certified inspectors. The parish hired some inspectors for some reason and I found out last year. We don't buy permits in this parish, they don't require us to go and buy the permit, even for a new construction, it is either the home owner or the contractor. All of a sudden if you do some work you will find out that your customer has to pay \$150.00 for a permit to get the power put back on. I was just wondering why the permit fees are so high. Mostly every municipality that we work in, every other parish the fees are not that high. I am the Electrical Inspector for the City of Opelousas and we basically have three different fees for the kind of work that we do, Alterations are \$50.00, new Construction is something else but for alterations, the highest fee that we have is \$50.00. We are just wondering why the fees are so high and where could we get a copy of what you all did to do these fees to make these fees official. That is all that I have."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I have a copy but I don’t have it in front of me at this moment. Mr. Jenkins had called me and I was suppose to give him a copy of the fees. I would ask the council to look at those fees so we could look over them to see what they are. I don’t think anybody know off hand what the fees are. Maybe we can look at them and see what they are and how they are compatible to other parishes, maybe just look into this again.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “Mr. Jenkins, I can have the Permit Officer call you and give you the fees and the fee schedule. I can also have Ms. Karia provide the fee schedule to the councilmembers as well.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I also agree with Ms. Carriere. I feel the same way. I think that we need to re-visit that ordinance. If it is \$150.00 we need to look at that. You know many times Government can be easy. We have to follow the law plus we have to use common sense plus we have to have a heart of compassion. If I go to someone’s home and I am seeing their living conditions and knowing they don’t have the way to pay \$150.00, that is when you have to let common sense kick in and some compassion. I think that we need to re-visit this ordinance and see what we can do to make it where it will be constituent and customer friendly as well. Life is hard enough for some other than us putting extra things if it is not necessary for them to have to deal with. I think that we really need to re-visit that ordinance. Thank you.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “Mr. Jenkins, if you will give Ms. Milburn your number after the meeting we will have the Permit Office call you.”

Mr. Bernard J. Lewis III addressed the council. He stated, “Good evening everyone. I have a little bit of a thing. I contacted the Electrical Inspector about 2-3 months ago on a job on Miller Road. I called him to ask him a question about certain things that I needed to do on the job. I have been doing it for a while but I know a lot of the codes changed at the beginning of last year. I had a conversation with him that morning just to see what I needed to do and where I needed to go. He was a little flustered and he was aggravated. I don’t know if he is the only Electrical Inspector for the whole parish but it got to a point where my line of questioning apparently upset him. At that point he got irate and he got profane with me and he hung up in my face, I really did not appreciate it. I called Mr. Bellard’s Office to speak to Mr. Bellard about it but he did not answer and they had someone else call me back. I don’t know if that is the actual procedure but I know he is the highest I can go with that situation. I just wanted to bring it to your attention as to where professionalism in this work goes a long way. You can’t handle people the way you feel because you are feeling some type of way about a certain situation or other people. The reason he said that he came at me that way is because electricians like to argue with him. I stated to him that I was not trying to argue but I was just trying to get a little information that I did not have. So that is all that I have to say.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Would you like us to have the Parish President contact you? Ultimately he is his boss.”

Mr. Bernard J. Lewis III stated, “He can. That is why I tried to contact him. They had a lady call me back instead of him calling me back, I left him a message on his line. I have not heard from him sense then.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “If you will give us your number after the meeting we will look into it and we have Mr. Bellard give you a call.”

Mr. Bernard J. Lewis III stated, “Yes Sir. Thank you.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Mr. Van, since you are sitting in for Mr. Bellard I don’t believe this is the first time, I have had an experience also. This is not the first time that we have had complaints. This is the question that I have, what is the consequences? We have people that are not handling situations professionally and we have people that are out there trying to do a job. If they are not understanding if things

have changed then they have questions. My thing is this, what are the consequences? That would be one of my questions? Because it has happened in the past.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “I am unaware of any complaints that is just me because I am not connected to that department. I will talk with Jessie and get the Inspector Supervisor involved and we will find out.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I know that you are not the Parish President that have received any complaints but as the council I am wondering what we can do to have a paper trail. If we have complaints, where can they file a complaint if they have one? We need to try and see about that because a lot of things are not know because nobody knows who to talk to. He did say that he went up to the highest person that he could. We need to know where a complaint can have a paper trail so we can know. We are the parish council and I know we don’t hire people but the point is that we represent the people. They are going to call us when they a have a complaint so they need to know that it is noted. I would like to know.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “We will definitely look into that.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “Just to add to that with that being said, if you are an employee of Parish Government wouldn’t a complaint actually be written and filed in Human Resources.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “If a complaint is made the supervisor has the option of documenting that with Human Resources, yes.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “Which would lead to if we have questions over and over about a particular person we can maybe summon Human Resources in reference to something in their jacket if we have an ongoing problem.

Mr. Van Reed stated, “Yes, Mr. Bellard can request his file, the Inspector’s File to see if there are other complaints that have been filed.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “The public needs to know if they can file a complaint. If they don’t know and they are trying to resolve it then nothing is ever going to be in a file. We need to first let the Public know there is a place that you can file a complaint and that way we can see. It has happen before and there is nothing noted.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “I will get with Jessie and we will get with Human Resources. We will get with his Supervisor and we will see if we can formulate some type of complaint procedure for the Public.”

Ms. Patrice Lewis addressed the council. She stated, “Good evening, my name is Patrice Lewis. I am a Managing Member of B & J Electrical Services with my dad and my brother. It has come to my attention as being a Managing Partner that we have an Electrical Inspector for the parish that is not properly credentialed. When you have someone who is not properly credentialed to do their job and you are relying on this person who is also known as the authority having jurisdiction and you are relying on them to know something about that industry especially in our case, the Electrical Industry and they don’t have the proper knowledge to guide you it can be a problem and it is not conducive to our business. I know I have experience with hiring people based on a job description. I have to look at the credentials needed for that job description. If someone approaches me to hire them but they don’t have the credentials, as much as I would like to hire them, I can’t. It won’t be conducive to my business. If we have an Electrical Inspector who I was told has certain credentials that have been pending for two years how can you do a job and you are not qualified to do it. If that is the case for our parish I encourage you to re-evaluate his job description based on the required credentials. If he does not have that in place I strongly urge you to reconsider him being in that position and find someone qualified for that position so that business like ours can receive the help that we need from the authority having jurisdiction then we can get proper approval for the work that we do and we don’t have to around and around in circles with someone who has no idea what they are talking about. I can speak for our business, we are 50

years of electrical experience. My grandfather was an electrician, my dad is an electrician and now my brother is an electrician and they have to work with someone who suppose to have knowledge that is equivalent to theirs or a step up and that is not happening. I thank you so much for you time and for hearing me out.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “Ms. Lewis I have a personal heart thing there because I contract for 28 years and I have experienced the exact same thing. What I would like to see from my experience in the pass is that we be obligated to the people that our president is hiring that they are qualified. I have a note here after Mr. Lewis came up and talked and one of the notes says, ‘Are our inspectors qualified to inspect?’ I would just like to see that we would make a general effort to see what those qualifications are and just see if the people we have fit. Because at the end of the day as Mr. Jacob said earlier we are passing these ordinances and we are charging these people for these permits and it is the people who pay the taxes who are buying these permits and it is not a win-win situation here. I would just to say to the committee that perhaps we could just look into that and make sure that we have qualified people and I concur with you Ms. Lewis.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “Ms. Lewis, if you would give Ms. Milburn your number after the meeting we will have someone check into it and give you a call back.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Mr. Van Reed, how many Electrical Inspectors do we have? Do you have any idea?”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “We have one.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “How many Building Inspectors?”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “I think one.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Van, if you are certified in all areas.....”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “I am not aware of that. We will definitely find out tomorrow.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “We have had this discussion. I don’t know if everybody can remember this, the new members probably don’t but we had some building inspectors that were interested in doing the work for us so it won’t be a conflict and we did discuss the building inspector and the qualifications. I don’t know if you all remember what the conversation was, do you all remember? It was not satisfactory to me but again everybody else was okay with it. From what I can recall the building inspector was not qualified in all areas or he was not certified in all areas, let me correct that. Mr. Van said that he will see what it is and we will have it and we will know definitely but I remember that issue coming up. Also Mr. Van, if you can do me a favor with the Coding. If we could get a present copy of the codes and see that he has it. When he is making decisions a lot of that is based on the coding. If it has changed our electricians in the parish, all electricians need to be aware of that. I think most of them are up to date on that so we need to make sure all of that is in line and he does have the correct coding books, there is a book that he has to follow and I think it is like the bible so we need to make sure that all of that is in line because like Mr. Jolivette said, they are representatives of the parish because they are doing work and they pay taxes and for the tax paying constituents of the parish.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “Not a problem. We will look into that as well.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “Mr. Lewis and Ms. Lewis, your homestead, is it still on West Bellevue?”

Mr. Bernard J. Lewis III stated, “I am on Cherry Street.”

Ms. Patrice Lewis stated, “I am on Noah lane in Opelousas.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “I just remember from back in the day you all being on West Bellevue Street. Before you all leave please take my card. If there are some more issues we can talk about it instead of waiting for the next meeting if there is an issue.”

Ms. Patrice Lewis stated, “Excellent, thank you.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Not to long ago I brought a Utility Trailer from someone in Opelousas. This guy is from Texas and he moved to Opelousas and he build houses. We got on the subject about building codes. He brought up the electrical inspector. He said the building code booklet is about yeah thick. For that inspector to be certified in several areas that is a lot to take in. He asked how many inspectors we have because he recently built a house. He basically stated that one person over the inspector’s division was a lot for one person to handle. Ms. Lewis was talking about certification, we would like to have everybody certified in whatever they are doing. Just like I am an educator, I have to have my certification in education, I am a Reserve Police Officer and I have to have my certification with the police officer association. We just want to be correct in everything that we do to be on the correct side. Thank you.”

5. Public Works Report:

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, “I will allow Ms. Cynthia Fontenot with Code Enforcement to go before me.”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “Good evening Madam Chairwoman and Councilmembers. If you look before you they have some packets in front of you for property on Harold Street, it is located at 172 Harold Street. I inspected this property last August and I sent the property owner a letter. It was received by certified mail and I also sent it via regular mail. They did contact the office on three occasions and they were going to get it demolished and get it cleaned up. Until this day I went out and inspected it again last week and it is in the same condition. St. Landry Parish Government is coming in at this time to get authorization so we can move on you all allowing the council clerk to send a notice for them to appear so we can demolish that resident. It is a bid eye sore in the subdivision.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, February 21st, 2024* to authorize the Council Clerk to forward a letter to the owner of the Property at 172 Harold Street and invite them to come and address the council about the demolition of their property.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “Thank you. The second item that I have is two affidavits of adjoining landowners that we received. Two property owners have some properties adjacent to their property. The first one will be *Chris and Audrey Marie Guilbeau-Trahan*. They are adjoined to some property that is adjudicated to the parish. It is one lot: T190, 100 x 105 on 3-Mile Lake Subdivision. It has been adjudicated to the parish as a Tax Sale on 07-20-2020 for 2019 Parish Taxes. Their attorney did submit an Affidavit of adjoining landowner. We are asking at this time if we can move on that property. We need a Special Ordinance for that. Attached you will find the Assessor’s Sheet showing the Trahan’s and the adjoining property that is adjudicated.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, February 21st, 2024* to approve an Ordinance to allow the Parish Government to sell adjoining adjudicated property located at the Three Mile Lake Subdivision to Mr. Chris Trahan and Mrs. Audrey Marie Guilbeau-Trahan. Parcel No. 0402518875.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “The third item is another affidavit of an adjoining land owner. The Parcel Number is 8602770904. It is located on Spatz Road in Eunice Louisiana. You will see the Assessor’s Sheet showing Mr. Marlon Keith Clark Sr. He resides at 160 Spatz Road. He is the adjoining land owner and he has been caring for the property for years and the upkeep of the property. This is one of the properties that had gone before and we cannot find that property owner. You all agreed to put them back on the Sale List. Mr. Clark has been caring for the property all of this time. It was not offered to him when he did go to the Parish Government Office a few years ago, a couple of years ago. At this time his attorney have submitted an affidavit of adjoining landowner. That is one lot 50 x 140 on Spatz Road. At this time St. Landry Parish Government is requesting a Special Ordinance so we can move forward on this.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 21st, 2024** to approve an Ordinance to allow the Parish Government to sell adjoining adjudicated property on Spatz Road to Mr. Marlon Keith Clark Sr. Parcel Number 8602770904. **On roll call vote: YEAS:** Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **Motion forwarded.**

Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Where are we at on Kappy’s Korner?”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “On Kappy’s Korner we have to get that Ordinance approved before you all at the Full Council Meeting.”

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, “January was a rough month for Public Works. With three weather events it kept us very, very busy. Despite that we did five cross pipes, we changed out. We cleaned out culverts on two roads. We did a Culvert insulation on four roads. We removed debris on 24 roads. We did ditching to six roads. We graded 55 roads. We spread material on 9 roads. We patched 25 roads. We installed 21 street signs. We removed 8 trees and 4 washouts. We gave out 1,500 sand bags two weeks ago due to the flood and we have another 1,000 sand bags made and set aside in an event of an emergency. We are prepared but hopefully not another one soon but we are prepared for whatever come to us.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Mr. Soileau, I have a question. Remember a few months ago I have requested that we do High Water Signs throughout the parish where ever those roads flood. It is just to warn someone who is not familiar with the area. I remember a while back you stated that you have started but you have not completed because you had to order more signs. Did we ever get that completed?”

Mr. Barry Soileau, Director of Public Works, “Believe it or not we did get it completed but I think that I still have 3 left standing. They are very easy to steal. It is unfortunate but we have some more and we will attempt it one more time.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “If there is anything that you all can do, I know you stated and Mr. Bellard have stated this as well about the money that is there to clean Bayou Mallet and Bayou Karron and nothing is being done. It has been over a year and we still have these people homes who are constantly being flooded. My heart just grieve when I pass and see Collins Lane. Did you all ever go out that way when it is raining? It is pitiful to see. You have Doctor’s that live on that road and you have a Dentist that lives on that road. It is not that they are more than anyone else but because of their profession they need to be able to get out to go and see about patients. It just hurts me to see that it is like hands are tied, the money is there but it cannot be utilized.”

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, “No ma’am. We have to follow procedures like any other entity. We are at that stage, in fact we have a person who is dealing with the Core of Engineers right now. I will put myself a note and I will call them again tomorrow. But anyone who have any dealings with the Core of Engineers know that it is not an easy task. This guy that we have hired to negotiate for us hopefully

he is making some headway but it is not easy. We knew this when we get to that point and that is the last hurdle. There is nothing that we can do to push them. They have to do their studies, they have to possibly save an animal or some kind of something that is in those Bayous. Once we have cleared that then we are going to proceed. Jessie and I both thought that these Bayou's would be cleaned by now. But Government tells us no, you have to follow procedures. Jessie and I are not too easy on following procedures and waiting to get something done. We are aware of that. All over the parish we flooded horribly two weeks ago. We are hanging in there trying to get things done."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Thank you and I appreciate all that you do."

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, "Not a problem. I am glad to do it."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I just want to tell you thank you for the fast action with the tree that fell down during the storm. I know that you all were very busy and you all were doing a very good job in trying to clear everything out. Can you tell me the status of Shorten and Donato? I know everything have been approve but is it just the weather that is holding up everything?"

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, "We have I think 7 or 8 more crossings to be overlaid. Maybe once February settles down we can move. I am terribly as anxious as you are to continue. It is in the works and we are waiting for Mother Nature to cooperate with us."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Thank you very much for that update and thank you again for all that you do and your patience Mr. Soileau."

a. Final Subdivision Plat approval for Gardner Farms Estates Phase III lots 26-42 located on Chris Road.

Mr. Jarrell stated, "Good evening Counsel. By the time we submitted final documents and everything we had all of this flooding and weather which caused some significant erosion in this new subdivision which is pretty normal when one is just built. Mr. Karl Aucoin did an inspection and wrote a letter to the parish. As of now we have addressed all of the erosion issues. The contractor have had some trouble erosion control but now he does have access to it. He said that he is trying to get our erosion control in for these ditches by the end of the week. There was an issue with the freeze with the new road at a joint that they had a small crack and that is being addressed. We are going to heat up the asphalt and bring in some new mix and roll it and address that crack. I don't know if you all saw the letter but basically all of these issues are already being addressed. I did speak with a client today about the HOA and their attorney is going to have a conversation with me tomorrow. They are unsure if they are going to do an HOA for this Subdivision but they will stipulate in each sale of a lot that that individual lot owner is going to be responsible for maintaining and sharing the cost with the other residence for maintaining the out fall ditches. Leaving the parish roadway they are going to remain private.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, **February 21st, 2024** to approve the Final Subdivision Plat for the Gardner Farms Estates Phase III Lots 26-42 located on Chris Road.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

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

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

6. **Authorize the Council, Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the Coulee Croche Fire Protection District No. 4 for a two-year term. (04-20-2024 – 04-20-2026).**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, February 21st, 2024* to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the Coulee Croche Fire Protection District No. 4 for a two-year term. (04-20-2024 – 04-20-2026).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

7. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four-year term. (04-02-2024 – 04-02-2028).**

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, February 21st, 2024* to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four-year term. (04-02-2024 – 04-02-2028).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

8. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the South St. Landry Community Library District for a five-year term. (04-02-2024 – 04-02-2029).**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, February 21st, 2024* to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the South St. Landry Community Library District for a five-year term. (04-02-2024 – 04-02-2029).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

9. **Discuss starting the process to accept Bear Road as a Parish Road. (Councilman Ken Marks).**

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Madam Chair, this is a situation that has been festering for over 20 plus years. Initially from the initiation of our Road Tax and Roads it was determined to be put into our roads to be taken in at that time. This road was initially put in on the list but did not make it. These Constituents have been paying these taxes, two taxes if you will, one for Public Works and one for Smooth Ride Home and get zero aspects of service. What I would like to propose to this council is that before we start to process on any road that we have some laws in place to dictate an ordinance if you will on what needs to be done and how it needs to be done where we will not have just anybody that have a private road that wants to have incorporated into our parish, they have to meet certain criteria, specific criteria. Mr. Taylor and I are very blessed to have a Public Works District so we are kind of self-sufficient if you will and that particular district is ready to take this road in and maintain it and take care of it just like the parish would. What I would like to propose tonight is to start an Ordinance or compose and ordinance to be brought to the council for policies and procedures for acceptance of non-hard service roads into Parish Road Systems. Getting with Garrett I think that we need to take a look at the verbiage and work out the details if you think that is appropriate.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Yes, I think this ordinance that you are proposing amends the ordinance that sets forth the procedure and the conditions for taking a road in and making it public, correct?”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Yes sir that is section 36-14.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I think that ordinance is pretty much ready now to be introduced in 2 weeks and as we look at it maybe it will be tweaked by the time it passed or not but I guess we will go over the ordinance carefully to make sure the procedures and the conditions for taking a road in are what they need to be.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Okay, thank you Mr. Garrett. So that is what we are proposing here. Before we put the cart ahead of the horse we would like to have these things proposed by the council and passed by the council. We have general guidelines going forward.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. Marks, are you proposing this as a Pilot Program with the two Public Works Districts?”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “I think it would probably be a good idea to have it as a Pilot Program and not as a Blanket and see how it works out and see if it is feasible or not. Common sense I think for it to work out that way. I would propose that as well.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Sometimes back we spoke about not particularly that road but private roads in general. It never did fly or get off the ground but what we did speak about was the particular. I know there is issues with the road, maybe not that particular road but there are a lot of roads that you can hardly pass on them and these people purchased the property in the area in which it is not a parish road. They knew that jumping in the program. We had a conversation about possibly the road acquiring a service permit. We would write an ordinance that would allow the constituents that live on these roads the opportunity to find out what the cost was and that would be the cost of the permit of service everything you would have to submit for a new permit and you would have to have every constituent on that road sign an easement or a right-of-way for that grader to go and service it at a minimal cost, as cheap as possible. I don’t know if that is what you are leading to or what but the problem that I have is if we start taking all of these private roads in then the rest of the parish and we have a lot of private roads and we have a lot of private roads that are in really bad shape. If we start taking this in I don’t know how we are going to afford it. Only in your area, because I get it that you have a tax but the rest of the parish don’t so what is going to happen?”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Mr. Lejeune I appreciate your bringing me up to date on basically a service permit if you will. I would not be perusing this to add extra cost to the parish system. This is not any money that the parish government would have to put out for this road, the district will take care of all of the expenditures okay. As long as those citizens sign an affidavit that we will have drafted up. If they are all in agreement then we would go through the due process to get it done. Not to open up as you say a can of worms but I think to protect those that can get this done through Parish Government rather than not is all that I am saying.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I am confused about something. I thought that we were suppose to draft an ordinance or we were suppose to have some kind of information that would explain. I have been waiting on it to give to a couple of constituents on what they need to do to get the road up to par so that we could accept it and that is a big task so it will not be cheap or easy. First of all I never got a copy to know because I have someone that is waiting on it to see what they need to do which all of the residents would have to put together because not one person can pay to get the road up to par. What are the qualifications? It is not just everybody getting it where it does not have pot holes also there is a situation where there is not enough width for ditches and all of that. I am trying to understand, I know what you are asking is that the same thing almost? I know you are talking about in your district where you have those tax dollars. I am talking bout in general. With the parish we suppose to have something in place to say what each private road would need to do.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “And we do. That is the one that we are referencing. That ordinance again, the amendment of that ordinance would be to specifically finalize that particular draft and go forward from there. To answer your question I would think that would open up any of your constituents in areas that have a concern what route you

need to go to get that done. I have the old ordinance and we are going to look at tweaking it and proposing it to you guys and go from there. You will have input.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “I guess to put it in a thirty-thousand foot view of what is being proposed here is there is no private road in this parish can be taken in unless the parish makes it public. We have to make it public to spend public money on it that is number one. What Mr. Marks is proposing is that as a Piolet Program in two districts that are self-funded that we allow these district to do whatever we have to do to legally get possession of the right-of-way. Once they get possession of the right-of-way and it is a public road then that district can go in and black top, grade it, put gravel or whatever they need to do and they will agree to maintain it. One of the things that it says is that it will be done at no expense to the Parish Government. That is the thirty-thousand foot view of what we are trying to do here. This particular road that he is speaking about is in his area is called Bear Street. As I understand when the Police Jury and their wisdom declared certain roads that were public/private the folks in that district were not real friendly with the Police Jury so he just cut them out and made a private road. Now that is the story that I got and I have no facts to back up what I am telling you but a lot of roads got changed to private roads when a lot of roads that were private got changed to public roads. All we are trying to do is find an amicable way. In these two districts I have spoken to my district and they said if I make it public they would take care of it. I think that he has spoken to his district. Let me tell you about his district. He has 67 miles of road in his district and 67 miles of his roads are blacktopped at their expense. That is parish roads blacktopped with the money that they are using. I am not that fortunate because I have 177 miles of roads and I would get a lot blacktopped with the Smooth Ride Home. That is the thirty-thousand foot view.”

**10. Discuss Daronne Bay and Courtableau Bay Bridge repair or replace.
(Councilman Ken Marks).**

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “We have a situation Barry, his department and the parish President is very much aware of this situation at Bayou Darbonne and Courtableau just north of Hwy 190 where there is an old wooden bridge that has been in existence some 90 plus years I presume. It is in dire need of repair, replacement I should say. This particular bridge does not have any edges, no borders on it. It is just flat. We had a situation in the ice storm where that particular bridge was completely iced over, thank goodness for our districts being pro-active and due diligence and they went out and put up a barricade to protect the safety of the public. Low and behold somebody removed the barricades in the middle of the night. Thank God we did not find them in the water because they could have easily have slipped of that bridge. St. Landry Parish School Board has already passed an ordinance about 2 or 3 years ago where they will not cross that bridge with students on buses. That situation is pretty dire. What I understand is that we have annually our bridge Federal Off System Bridge Money where the Parish President has the authority to pick and choose which ever bridges he sees dire need and there are 3 of them if I recall that are possibly enough money to take care of. All I am want to do here is to bring it to the forefront and to make sure that we don’t let this fall through the cracks and let us do what we have to do to get this thing done for the safety of our citizens and any other area that needs attention like that. This bridge I understand is pretty high on the list and with that being said we are waiting on the process to get the monies and we might even have some opportunity from the district to help as well.

Mr. Van Reed stated, “That bridge is number one on the list that we have submitted to the stated.

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “I was told that and I appreciate that and I want to make sure that it stays number one. That is why I was bringing it up maybe to open up some of my councilmembers of some bridges that may have some concern in their particular district that maybe was not brought up to Barry and his office or the Parish President.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “What is on the other side of the bridge?”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Courtableau Road. You have Port Barre that goes to Hwy 190 and it makes a loop and the Bayou have roads on either side. To get across the Bayou the only access route on the east side would be this bridge. On the west side you have Port Barre Bridge to be able to get to the other side, a concrete bridge. So that is the situation. It is a pretty long stretch without people having to access to get across.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “If they close the bridge nobody is really trapped they can get around it.

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Yes, they have alternative routes even though they may not like them but yes they do have alternative routes but it is a 7 mile trip.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “What about safety reasons? Maybe the bridge needs to be closed until they fix it. We will probably get more ice and we will have flooding. If they have another way to get around temporarily why not close it until?”

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, “As the situations come up when they have a freeze we close it. We work well with the Public Works Department. When we have a weather event my crews separate and we check every bridge, we know everywhere where it floods and we go and check them and we close them.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “The only reason why I said that is because he said that they moved the barricade at night and thank God nobody went into the water. That is the reason why I am saying that.”

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, “I appreciate that and that is true but by the same token I don’t think that it would be a pleasant thing to close at this time. I think we can try to hurry up and try to get money do it.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “That is correct Barry. Basically the local residents are aware of the situation and they had been for a number of years. That is a great access for them. I know that it is not the best situation Ms. Nancy but at least it gives them a route to be able to cross that is close to where their residence are.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “If they remove the barricade and they go into the water who is responsible? The bridge was unsafe because they crossed it and they went into the water. If somebody gets killed and they removed the barricade and the barricade is nowhere to be found and someone says there was never a barricade.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “Ms. Nancy, I think Barry, Jessie and I can look into a stronger or bigger barricade that cannot necessarily just walk away. Like he said we did lose a lot of barricades during the flooding event. I know for a fact that last year when we put out barricades we went to pick them up and they were gone. There was one barricade that I put out in the Lawtell area and I put another one on the other side then I noticed the one that I put out on the other side of the flooding was already gone. They do steal these barricades and I have no idea why they steal them. We can look into something a little stronger and a little heavier that cannot be taken.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I would like to make motion that we move this to the full council to have Mr. Bellard give us a report on approximately when this bridge will be seen about. Just to give an update to the people in the community. I am sure this bridge has been in that condition since it has been established. The rails did not fall off yesterday so they understand those weather conditions and the operation of that bridge. Maybe we could just give them an update of how far away we are from some type of service or reconstruction.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 21st, 2024** to authorize the Parish President Jessie Bellard present the council with updates on the repairs to the Daronne Bay Bridge and the Courtableau Bay Bridge.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

**11. Discuss proposed amendment to St. Landry Parish Ordinance against Littering.
(Councilman Faltery Jolivette)**

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “Thank you Madam Chair. To my surprise my constituent Mr. Ken and Mr. LeBouef have pretty much started the process in which I want to implement this amendment. The amendment is to encourage the public to participate in helping us find the people that is littering our highways and byways and back roads. As an employee of St. Landry Parish Solid Waste I have first knowledge of knowing all of the problems that we are having with litter. It is not just a bag of McDonald’s waste we are talking about refrigerators, dryers, mattresses a used furniture store. It is really bad. I was going to propose a way to catch these people but it is pretty much the biggest problem but the second biggest problem is finding them. How we can do this is to implement something like an anonymous phone number which Mr. Ken and Mr. LeBouef already spoke about and use that process to get the ball rolling to encourage them with an incentive. This incentive will come if there is someone that is prosecuted and whatever they are charged with as far as the fine. They can get a percentage of that as an incentive. It will get the public involved. I think a lot of people are seeing and turning a naked eye. If you go fishing you use the right tackle I think that you can catch more fish. What this amendment would do to the existing ordinance that we already have in place, which is pretty good, Garrett and I went over it earlier and I have a copy of it. I think that it would encourage the public to be more proactive in getting involved and keeping our streets and our ditches cleaned. It is also a part of the drainage if you look at it. It is just something to put there and we can look at. We don’t know what that return is going to be to the public. Lets’ just say that it is a third offense and it can be up to \$1,500.00 and after everything is paid like the court cost and what have you they can get 50% of that. That can be pretty enticing. That is my addendum to the litter ordinance. We have a plan in motion.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “We did not mean or appear to be taking anything from your process.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “It is a win, win.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “It is a win, win and your process for the ordinance puts the teeth and the things that we need to have into the enforcement aspect. The deal that Mr. LeBouef talked about is the support sector enforcement of that law broader than just one or two people or one or two entities. It is a win, win as you just stated. I just wanted to make sure that the public understand that we are working together on this and we are going to come to the conclusion of getting this parish cleaned up the way that it needs to be and all be proud of it.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Mr. Jolivette, you might would want to state that the public or the constituents would turn the people in would get a reward instead of saying a certain percentage of whatever the fine maybe.

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “The word is reward, yes sir.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “You might want to a make a category of a \$250.00 reward or maybe a \$500.00 reward. Just like crime stoppers.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “Actually that is how I had a small writing. That is how it is worded. There is a reward. You are right, it is like Crime Stoppers with tips. It is an anonymous call which we already spoke about and it is an incentive. The key word is the reward and the incentive to get them involved so we can catch the bad guy. I would make the call.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Is it going to be legal that we can give a reward? I have no problem with it. I am just wondering if everything will be legal. If you have several people calling about that same one incident, how do you give the reward?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I do not believe the council will Legislate that the public receive for the fine or reward or anything like that in the ordinance. The ordinance have enough teeth in it. A reward for a tip can be very effective as in Crime Stoppers which you see on TV and that is how people know about it and they know about it through Social Media and Television. That is how they know that they can make money by turning someone in. As far as the council legislating something going to public reward or the public part of the fine I don’t think that council can and should do that. The effect will be by a reward for a tip as we have with Crime Stoppers on television, that is how people know about it and it can be done like that. As far as the council’s part, the council have done its part as far as the ordinance. It appears to be enough teeth in it as far as this community service and first offence, second offence, third offence for both gross littering which is bulk items such as furniture and just plain littering. The fines are quite substantial. I think the council has done its part. So the next part is more along the lines of the Executive Branch and rewards for tips.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “How are they going to get it? If we are going to let the public know if you turned someone in and you are going to get a reward then where are they this money from? I know Mr. Jolivette suggested from the fine.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The fine would go to the Government. It would not go to private individuals. What you would want to do you would want to have it parallel like you see on Crime Stoppers where there is some kind of fund which would provide the tips. You might want to consult with the Sheriff’s Department on that. As far as the Criminal Ordinance the council has done its part on that.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “If we say that to the public then we need to have the money there for the public. Do Mr. Bellard have to make that decision if we can do that?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It would be a consultation between the Sheriff’s Department and the Parish Government. I do know that the Sheriff’s Department have a Public Relations Department in regards to Crime Stoppers. It would be something along those lines.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “The Task Force that was mentioned earlier is a pretty extensive list of law enforcement and a collaboration if you will of entities. I don’t know if it is possible but it is something that I am throwing out that might be able to be funneled through Crime Stoppers. This is a crime that is going to be an ordinance or is an ordinance so it holds merit, is that correct? So they already established I would think the enforcing aspect and it would be pretty well received by the General Public if it is going through that particular aspect.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Right, there is a fund where these rewards would come out of. We would want to find out how they do that with Crime Stoppers and that would give us a lot of insight as to how to do it.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “I happen to be a non-voting member of that Crime Stoppers Board. We can definitely start the ball rolling in that direction and see what they say about it.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Do we need to make a motion for anything on this issue? Are we going to wait until Mr. LeBouef comes forward with more information on the program that we are putting together now?”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “It look like Mr. Jolivette and Mr. Ken Marks are going to be the author of whatever comes out. So let them do the research and they will get back to us. I don’t think that we need to take any action from the council.”

- 12. Discuss moving Precinct 21-A located at Opelousas Fire Department Sub-Station 3, 109 S. Union Street Opelousas, La 70570 to Opelousas Civic Center, 1638 Creswell Lane Opelousas, LA 70570. (Councilman Jody White).**

Councilman Jody White stated, “Council, I was contacted by the Mayor of Opelousas and together we also spoke to the Fire Chief of the City of Opelousas in which the Fire Chief and the Mayor is asking that we no longer use the Precinct as stated here for the Fire Station as a voting precinct or a voting polling place. The Mayor has already stated that it is 100% okay that the polling place is relocated to the Opelousas Civic Center. I don’t know if I am at liberty to say but I will say it: There are some issues behind the scene that inevitably we would have to move that polling place anyway. It is know that substation is not even owned by the city of Opelousas. The actual owner of that building is also requesting that is no longer used as a polling place. In the future there are voting machines that rather is passes to use them or not they can’t be located in the days of that fire station where as when the doors are open the elements could affect what you have with those polling machines. At this time I am just asking that we make a motion and let the council vote on it but the mayor and the city fire chief and you have a letter in your packet that the fire chief wrote just giving some reasons that we just allow that voting polling place to be moved to the Opelousas Civic Center.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. White, I think the proper procedure is to have our clerk get in touch with our Demographer and make sure that we can move it into another district. I think that is a different voting precinct. I am not sure but we need to get a little more information. I agree that we will have to move it but the civic center may not be where we need to have it. We will have to find another location.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “To answer you Sir, understand that we did have which is a block down the street from that polling place it was used temporarily which was the Louisiana Methodist Church. That is no longer a polling place. In reference to geographical locations that I did look into that and probably the next alternative from the Civic Center might be back at the courthouse itself.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “How about City Hall.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “I am not certain that they are using City Hall.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Certainly the Mayor would want voting at City Hall.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “I think in reference to where they are already voting they are at the Civic Center.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Last year Mr. White I had a precinct there with the former Councilmember’s precinct. I choose to move because I know about the issue. We moved to the Civic Center. I understand what you are saying and I am just saying that because only right now it was asked back then for it to be moved and that is why I left because it was both of us sharing it over there. I relocated to the Civic Center for those people in that area. That is the proper place that it would be locate at the Civic Center.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “Also to chime in with that the Mayor and myself also spoke to the Registrar of Voters Office as well. It is not a surprise to them in reference to trying to move this polling place.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Whatever you have to do Garrett but I can only back that up that there were two. Mine and his and mine moved and the other one wanted to stay there which was not a good idea back then. I understand now. It was not because of the mayor back then it was those unseen situations you are speaking of.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I understand that our Clerk have already contacted our Demographer about that. Our Demographer is going to have to contact her and me again.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, February 21st, 2024**

to authorize the Council Clerk to contact the Demographer to give the council updates on moving Precinct 21A that is located at Opelousas Fire Department Sub Station 3 to the Opelousas Civic Center.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

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

None.

14. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adjourn the Public Works Committee.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

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

XIV. ADJOURN