

**PARISH PRESIDENT JESSIE BELLARD WAS ABSENT FOR THIS MEETING**

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 last 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 implemented. 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 supposed 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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.*

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