

# UNOFFICIAL MINUTES • AWAITING COUNCIL APPROVAL

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024  
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

1. Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor was absent for this meeting. A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to appoint Councilman Ken Marks as temporary Chairman of the Administrative Finance Committee.  
**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, and Ernest Blanchard **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor and Dexter Brown.  
**ABSTAINED:** None.  
*Motion passed.*
2. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation was said in the Special Meeting.
3. **Roll Call:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, and Ernest Blanchard. Ex-Officio Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor and Dexter Brown.
4. **Person to address the Committee.**  
*No one to address the committee at this time.*
5. **Parish President & Finance Reports:**

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “This is a Resolution for the Storm Water Management District. This District we spoke about is in the State Legislative right now and will become a Bill. We need a Resolution as a support for that Bill. We are receiving other Resolutions from other Municipalities and other Water Districts. What this does is it allows us to have a Storm Water District. That District will be the Council. Kind of like we have the Road District and now we the Entergy District, so this District will be the Council. I do not believe in appointing people to boards that we should be taking care of ourselves. This is a very important project that we need to make sure we are all involved in and this board will be able to bring anything to the people for a vote. If we decide to do, my recommendation to charge \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons of water that is used because everybody that uses water goes into the drainage. We have drainage districts that have taxes. What I am going to propose at the right time is to bring to the people a proposition that will allow the water districts if they are inside the municipality or not that they charge \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons of water. That would bring in approximately \$3.6 million dollars a year that we can bond out to do a parish wide drainage plan. This would not affect the drainage boards that we have in place now. All these boards stay in place as long as they are collecting the tax and do what they supposed to do with their stuff. We

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will just have a parish wide plan that everybody will have to follow. This money would go to that plan and start draining out water like it should be but doing it parish wide not in isolated districts. These districts could still do their own work and whatever they been doing but now we have a lot of area in our parish that is not covered by a district. We need to find a way to fund it, \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons of water, and the average household would pay about \$5.00 or \$6.00 a month. The more water you use the more you pay but the more water used end up in a drain somewhere that we have to deal with down the line. That was an idea that came out and this Resolution supports a Bill that the State can pass to give us the ability to go to the people and create this Storm Water District Board.”

*Councilman Alvin Stelly stated*, “Mr. Bellard will everyone in the parish pay this?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Anybody that uses water.”

*Councilman Alvin Stelly stated*, “So any town water you would pay \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Correct over and above what your normal rate would be. It’s not going added to what you normally pay; we will not go above what is guaranteed.”

*Councilman Alvin Stelly stated*, “So in other words if your flat rate is \$17.00 then it would be from \$17.00 on up.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Correct we wouldn’t worry about the one that is already there just anything additional. The drainage plan would include the municipalities now because all of our water at some point run through the municipalities. So we would take care of the municipalities as well when it comes to the main arteries not drainage ditches but the major arteries.”

*Councilman Alvin Stelly stated*, “That wouldn’t change the drainage tax.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “No, that stays in place as long as the people want it to be in place. If they satisfied with the work then it stay in place as long as the people want it. These drainage districts are doing the work in their districts every one of them. This will just compliment what the whole parish wide system does.”

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated*, “Are you referring to just the drainage or the water system as well.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “This is strictly for drainage. Our plan would be to pass that fee as long as the people would vote for it. We would not put a fee on the books; we would bring it to the people. Then everyone in the parish would pay that \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons beyond what their normal rate would be. Anybody that uses it would pay.”

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**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “It comes to mind like your private water comes like Plaisance Water.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “It would be with them too. That is why we want to bring it to a vote of the people so we can do the whole parish.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “Mr. Bellard I know that we have some waterways that are State and Federal. Would that revenue have to go to those waterways because I do not want to take over State and Federal drainage canals?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “No that is one thing we do not want to touch however we will take care of ours, I am talking about the laterals and some of these bayous we do not have any funds for that. In our parish, we have zero dollars for these bayous and laterals that hold our water. We digging our ditches and the water gets from the ditch and get to the lateral and that is it. It stays there because we do not have the money to go any further so I am not in favor to do any State and Federal waterways because we do not have enough money to do that.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “My question would be will we be assisting the drainage boards that are in place to go further with their revenue.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “It is to enhance what we already have in place but on a parish wide basis because we have a lot of area in the parish that is not covered by a drainage board.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “I just want to bring real clarity to this, if my rate is \$20.00 per month and I receive 5,000 free gallons a month with the \$20.00 then I do not pay \$1.50 for those 5,000 gallons but if I use 6,000 gallons I would be charged \$1.50 more, is that correct?”

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

**Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated,** “I just want to make a statement. Are you familiar with Lawco Water System? We are about to have our second rate increase and people are already griping about that second increase.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes and I could see it but when it rains like it did the other day, my phone do not stop ringing and it comes from people that has drainage problems. They think that the government has all this money to fix the problems and I would love to say that we do but we do not have it. There is no dedicated money for drainage in our parish other than these drainage districts. As a parish, we have a parish wide road program but we do not have a parish wide drainage program. Again, this will be one of those things we will bring to the people for a vote. We could actually put a fee on it and not have to bring it to the people but that is not what I want to do. I want to bring to the people let them decide if they want to pay it or not. I am not in favor of just saying we will add this to your bill because I do not believe in that. Let people vote on it

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and if they want it that is fine and if not we will go to plan B whatever that might be. I do understand what you are saying and I think most municipalities are increasing their water rate but everything is up. All the chemicals cost a lot more money.”

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated*, “How will we handle it like the City of Opelousas will cut you a check every month for how much water usage the people in the city has used.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “That is our plan hopefully.”

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “I have two questions, one is because we have drainage boards that are collecting a tax dollar for that district, are we going to be prioritizing because let’s say the drainage board that is collecting a tax have bigger issues than other areas. Are we going to be saying you getting money already?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “My plan is to hire an engineer firm to come into the parish and come up with a parish wide plan which would draw out what needs to be done in our parish and work with the drainage boards to make it happen from the North to the South. So no we would not go into a district and say anything to that district other than this is what we coming with and they can help us follow our plan. The plan will be simple it will start on the North and end on the South but we do not have a plan so the plan have to be developed first.”

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “I am glad Mr. Ardoin brought up about the city and Mr. Blanchard brought up about how the rates are going up. We have some citizens that have water leaks, it has exceeded that percentage of water, and they have not paid that water bill to the city. If they have a water leak that is not their fault and using up water and constantly running up their water so it was look like they used 20,000 gallons and that is another fee. I am glad you said that we would let the voters decide.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “If they have a water leak and it is running up their water meter that is their problem not the city problem. If it is on their side of the meter and it is running, that is their bill. It is up to them to fix their own leaks. If it is running on the other side of the meter on the city side than it is a city problem. If it is running their water bill high then they should have fixed it.”

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “I understand that but I know situations where let’s say the tenant has moved and they left with a \$4,000 dollar water bill or a \$3,000 dollar water bill and we want to collect \$5.00 or \$10.00 extra. It may add up to about \$50.00 more dollars that they owe us, how are we going to handle those situations.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “At the end of the day we can only collect from people we can collect from like the city does now. The city will collect the money and they will give it to the parish in their own collection way. We will have that across the whole parish. Some people do not pay their water bills but I do not think we can fix that. If the city cannot collect it from them then we cannot collect it.”

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**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated**, “When we do collect it will it be funded through the school board office or how we will collect this money.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Probably so. It is already setup so it does not pay to reinvent the wheel. I would be thinking that would be the school board job to collect the taxes and then go from there.”

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated**, “If I understand you right, everybody will have to pay but at the end of the day do you separate the money between the 13 districts.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “It will be a part of the parish wide plan.”

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated**, “In other words stay in the parish.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Yes sir. Our first objective is to get the plan then whatever the engineers development the plan start on that part and work our way where it needs to be at, I would like to believe that 3.6 million dollars that we figured it would be we could bond out approximately 32 million dollars and start a project and get something going parish wide. So everybody would get the effects of this. I think it would take some time because we have Bayous that has never been cleaned out over the time. If we do not start doing something now we will never get ahead of this. Once it passes the State, then we can create the board but it will be the council. It could be next year.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated**, “I have one small question, we talked about the city because they will be involved in this how will that effect with the gullies and all because that is some drainage that is not a bayou.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Technically they are, see right here that gully is Bayou Yarbort it would be the major arteries which would be concrete in the City of Opelousas and in Eunice. All of these major waterways that run through them. That is what we will be taking care of, so the City would not have to worry about that anymore. That would be part of the plan because all of our water runs through them so if the Bayous and Concrete gullies are blocked up then our water do not flow. We have a problem in your district right now behind Opelousas General, it is all blocked up in the city but it backs up the water into the parish. It all works together we just have to have a parish wide plan.”

**Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated**, “Mr. Bellard we talking about the major waterways as far as drainage but what about the small ditches?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “The ditching as far as in the municipalities?”

**Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated**, “Yes.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “I am not going to say that we cannot do them but the plan would be for the major arteries in the parish to get the water to flow. We will

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be digging ditches to get to the arteries as far as parish is concern so we expect the municipalities to do the same thing. What we trying to do is when the water gets to the major arteries it takes off and get out of our parish.”

**Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated,** “So we talking about 1 or 2 things for the municipalities to work with us to get the smaller drainage areas to the big outlet.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We will take the water from the major arteries and take them out but I feel it should be the responsibility of the municipalities to bring the water to the major arteries like we do in the parish now.”

**Councilman Jody White stated,** “I understand it is about drainage from the North end of the parish to the South end of the parish and drainage is an issue that could never end. Always working on it but just an idea to hit the major arteries North to South if you had to give the first task what kind of time would that take years?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I would give an example of Bayou Mallet and Bayou Caron, it is two years that we have been working on that. The Core of Engineers stopped us and put all kind of roadblocks in place. We had to hire a consulting firm to deal with that. Once we get the plan in place unless we have a miracle from the core it may take two or three years before we see some kind of progress. It is not because we going slow but the next step Core of Engineers, which are always wetlands and these little birds in a tree. I am so tired of hearing about those birds in a tree but we stuck.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “Mr. Bellard correct me if I am wrong but when we were in D.C. we had a group that represent St. Landry Parish to request assistance in trying to move forward with the Core of Engineers to expedite the authorization of cleaning these canals.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Correct.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “I did not know that there is a Federal side and a State side of the Core of Engineers. It was on the Federal side to ask for assistance to ask the State and the Feds said no.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Correct, the State side we good but the Federal side is not as easy but we making some headway. The biggest issue is some of the trees that they do not want to see down. I do not care we can leave the tree up. I just want to get the canal done but they do not want us to put as much mulch on the side but whatever they want we have to do it but it cost so much more money to do it their way, which lessons the project. At the end of the day, we have to get it done so if they say we cannot put no more than 3 inches of mulch on the side then that is what it is going to be. Just give us some guidelines to follow and stick to those guidelines as well. Do not tell us to be this, then next time I meet with you there is another rule. I think we will be ok with the consulting agent we have now.”



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*Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated*, “Mr. Bellard I would like to know if this has an opportunity to expand to regions that do not have any coverage of a drainage board. Is there an opportunity for that to occur?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Meaning outside of our parish?”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated*, “Example Port Barre has a drainage district to the North and one to the South but nothing where we live.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “This will be parish wide the entire parish. This is a parish wide plan that consist of every piece of ground in our parish. It will work in conjunction with the boards that are already in place now. With the boards and this that is enough resources to make some things happen.”

### Resolution No. 006-2024

A Resolution for Storm Water Management District

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Legislature has legislated a bill for the 2024 Regular Session which will bear House Bill Number HLS 24RS-300 and which authorizes a Storm Water Management District in St. Landry Parish to contract with any parish, municipality, waterworks district or other political subdivision or private water company operating a water system providing water service to customers in the district for the collection of fees by an agreement to shut off water service to any premises that is delinquent on the payment of the fees imposed by the Storm Water Management District.

WHEREAS, The St. Landry Parish Council resolves that it is in full support of the Louisiana Legislature Enacting House Bill HLS 24RS-300 in the 2024 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and making it a law.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the Council is in full support of the Louisiana Legislature Enacting House Bill HLS 24RS-300 in the 2024 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and making it a law.

A motion was made by Councilman Faltery Jolivette, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to approve **Resolution No. 006-2024** - Resolution for Storm Water Management District.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to accept the Parish President & Finance Report:

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

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*Motion carried.*

6. **Forward all applications received for three appointments to the Greater Krotz Spring Port Commission for a four-year term. (01-15-2024 – 01-15-2028)**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to forward all applications received for three appointments to the Greater Krotz Spring Port Commission for a four-year term. (01-15-2024 – 01-15-2028)

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

*Motion forwarded.*

7. **Discuss starting the process to replace Dr. Jack Ortego on the St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District and authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District for the remainder of a four-year term expiring 09-02-2026. (Chairman Wayne Ardoin).**

A motion was made by Councilman Nancy Carriere, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District for the remainder of a four-year term expiring 09-02-2026.

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

*Motion forwarded.*

8. **Authorize the ratification of Ms. Sabrina Ardoin to be re-appointed to the St. Landry Parish Communications District E-911 Board of Commissions nominated by Mayor Kevin Colligan of Cankton and Mayor Nick Degeyter of Leonville.**

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024** authorize the ratification of Ms. Sabrina Ardoin to be re-appointed to the St. Landry Parish Communications District E-911 Board

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

*Motion forwarded.*



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### 9. Discuss advertising for a Board Member for the Teche Vermilion Pumping Station. (Councilman Ken Marks).

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 20th, 2024** authorize Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to the Teche Vermilion Pumping Station  
**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Dexter Brown, and Ernest Blanchard **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.  
*Motion forwarded.*

### 10. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* “We received a letter in our package regarding Fire District 6.

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “That matter has been resolved by the board. I got word this afternoon.”

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* “It had some English in it and it was sad to read some of the stuff they were accusing each other of there.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “Once it got to the board over there they took care of it. I think we just got it today but the board members took care of it at a board meeting. Those members are no longer with the Fire Department.”

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* “Ok so that resolves that situation. Can we discuss the possibility of bonding out Road District 1 of 11A money because it is coming so we can do projects in Road District 1 of 11A?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “Correct, we can start the process now. It does take a little while so by the time the process is done the money should be coming in.”

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* “Some of the streets in Linwood and Flag station is in bad shape and Suzanne Dejean Drive.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “If you want we can meet with William and come up with the roads and a proposal.”

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* “Ok, thank you.”

### 11. Adjourn.

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A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to adjourn the Administrative/Finance Committee Meeting.

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

*Motion carried.*

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE  
SHERELL JORDAN, COUNCIL CLERK**