

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

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

1. Public Works Chairwoman Vivian Olivier 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. **Person to address the Committee:**  
*No one to address the committee at this time.*

**4. Public Works Report:**

*Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director addressed the council. He stated, "This is the monthly report from February. We boom axed 5 roads and cleaned culverts on 12 roads. We did culvert insulation on 2 roads. We moved debris on 30 roads and we did ditching on 4 roads. We did grading on 114 roads and placed material on 8 roads. We did patching on 35 roads and we did 29 street signs, trimmed 5 roads with trees, and 16 washouts. January was a rough month for St. Landry Parish. We are behind in our grading in a lot of areas but March should be a productive month."*

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Jody White 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.*

**5. Forward all applications received for two appointments to 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, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024** forward all applications received for two appointments to 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.*

**6. Forward all applications received 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 Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024** forward all applications received 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.*

**7. Forward all applications received for two appointments to South St. Landry Community Library District for a five-year term. (04-01-2024 - 04-01-2029)**

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to

## UNOFFICIAL MINUTES • AWAITING COUNCIL APPROVAL

forward all applications received for two appointments to South St. Landry Community Library District for a five-year term. (04-01-2024 - 04-01-2029)

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

*Motion forwarded.*

### 8. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Public Works Commission District Six for a four-year term. (05-15-2024 – 05-15-2028)**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry 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 Public Works Commission District Six for a four-year term. (05-15-2024 – 05-15-2028)

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

*Motion forwarded.*

### 9. **Discuss ditching. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,* “Mr. Soileau, I been receiving quite a few calls wanting to know why their ditches are not being cleaned? Do we have parish equipment for cleaning of ditches? Do we have someone capable of running that equipment?”

*Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated,* “Yes mam.”

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,* “Is it possible that we can get some of them done a little quicker because some of them looking at it as if they are being overlooked. I tried to explain to them whenever you call in a work order, we as council members do not have the authority to schedule any work. The only we do is communicate the information between public works and the council member. I just want to make that clear even though some things have been brought to the attention of the council member that is not saying that council member has not reported it. It is a matter of the storm, the freeze, and so many other things it delayed some things but I want them to understand it is being reported.”

*Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated,* “Anytime one have a question about their ditches feel free to call me. Give them my name and number, I would be glad to go meet with them.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “I will make this clear, the council has nothing to do with day to day operation work. You cannot blame a council member but you can call and talk to me and blame me all you want but I will just be honest with everyone that we have over 900 miles of road. Which that gives us over 1800 miles of ditching and we have one culvert cleaner and one man running the culvert cleaner. It is impossible, we will never catch up on ditching and I am not promising anybody a single thing about ditching. So if somebody have a problem with their ditching please tell them to call me and I will explain to them we are doing all that we can with what we have with 1800 miles of ditching in our parish. It is done on a priority basis. The council has nothing to do with day-to-day operations of work. They will call and file a report and those reports are seen by public works as soon as it is filed. Just because it is not done in, a timely matter does not mean it is not going to be done. I cannot make any promises on that.”

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,* “Thank you and Mr. Soileau I would like thank you on every time I have called you to go and check on something you let me know you have been there and I appreciate that.”

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* “Mr. Bellard, Mr. Soileau is advising me that Muscadine Road is on the list for the ditching and do you have any idea on when they will start.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,* “It should be within the next two weeks.”

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* “Mr. Soileau I told you before the meeting but I want to discuss it in an open meeting. There is some progress that is going on the south end of the

## UNOFFICIAL MINUTES • AWAITING COUNCIL APPROVAL

parish off Highway 182, Thank you DOTD. You realize that Thelma Drive parallels Hwy 182, what people are doing is cutting off on Borel Road and Thelma Drive and you have three intersecting streets in that subdivision. Brand new streets maybe 3 years old but it is not like it used to be but people are complaining that they coming through there. What is happening is they are being flagged and they have to wait for a period so of them are lost and cutting off on Thelma Drive. They have young children running and riding bikes, I just do not want to see anybody get hurt. I know we cannot put any signs up with no thru traffic because they paying taxes like everybody else but maybe the Sheriff office can get involved. So please could you contact the proper authorities to assist these people. Thank you sir.”

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

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, “On Jessie Richard Road, the contractor service the road and dug most of the ditches down there.”

*Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated*, “They just did what the primary issues were as far people having drainage and sewage issues but we will do the whole road.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, “So that project not complete.”

*Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated*, “Oh no we going do the whole road.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, “I know they have to take some dirt out of an area and it kind of look ruff right there but there is intention on correcting that issue.”

*Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated*, “Yes.”

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “I was asked to remind everyone, I believe Sherell sent the invitation out but it is next weekend and I want to remind everyone of the Ladies and Gentlemen Leadership Club. Thank you.”

### 11. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards 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  
SHERELL JORDAN, COUNCIL CLERK**