

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES • AWAITING COUNCIL APPROVAL

ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY MARCH 6th, 2024 @ 5:45 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W BELLEVUE ST
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

MINUTES

- I. This meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Ardoin.
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation was stated at our 5:30 p.m. special meeting.
- III. **Roll Call: PRESENT:** Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Ernest Blanchard. **Ex Officio:** Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor and Dexter Brown.
- IV. **Item for Discussion:**
 - **The council did not go Executive Session to discuss Lawtell Water District.**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I have a recommendation for the council to take Lawtell Water System and make them an Advisory Board and Parish Government assume the responsibilities of running Lawtell Water.

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Are they going to continue to meet regularly like they have in the past.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct, that will not change at all but it will just be in an advisory capacity.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Mr. Bellard the revenue that is inside of that district, will it remain in that district.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Lawtell Water stays Lawtell Water nothing changes as far as the operations.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Can it move to another district and another water tower be repaired with the revenue that is in there.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Lawtell Water stays in Lawtell, whatever expenses are in it cannot be used for nothing else. Like any other district we have in the parish, it has to stay in that district and not used for any other purpose.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Maybe I am not understanding, you said it will be an advisory board. What is that going to consist of, will the board members still be the board members. ”

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Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They will have the ability to tell us what is needed in that Lawtell Water District and advise Parish Government on what is needed to be done. They just not going to have the authority to hire and fire and do that type of activity anymore.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Can you elaborate on was there an issue.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes there was an issue and everyone should have received the recordings.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Section 8-05 of the Home Rule Charter allows the Council to do this by Resolution. It may be an Advisory Board to provide advice regarding operations and of course, the Board would not have any Administrative or Legislative Authority, would be advisory only. So Section 8-05 of the Home Rule Charter allows the Council to do that by Resolution and there are certain steps in here to how to do it but you can do it.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I will ask you a question Mr. Bellard, the Louisiana Rural Water Association, have they come in and look at this water district and gave some recommendations of what needs to be done over there?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I believe they did, Yes sir.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Can we get their findings, I think we need to look at that. I had another Water District call today, which you received the same phone call that they would like to take over this Water District. People in Opelousas are complaining about their water, it is cloudy in the mornings. Why is it, maybe the chemicals they are putting in it. Everybody is complaining about the water that they drink. I am concerned about this Lawtell Water. We have heard different rumors nothing have surfaced here publicly in a meeting but we need to look at the situation.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Definitely, once I get that report from them, I will give it to the Council.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jody White for Lawtell Water District to become an Advisory Board and Parish Government take over the Finances of the Board.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Ernest Blanchard.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor and Dexter Brown **ABSTAINED:** Nancy Carriere. WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 6th, day of March, 2024.

V. **ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adjourn the Special Meeting.

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On roll call vote: YEAS Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards, and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor and Dexter Brown
ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 6th, day of March, 2024.

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