

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Councilman Jerry Red Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.
3. **Roll Call:** Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Wayne Ardoin Alvin Stelly and Ex-Officio: Jerry Red Jr. **ABSENT:** Jimmie Edwards.
4. **Person to address the Committee:**
 - **Mr. John Slaughter addressed the council,** “I reside at 1913 West St. Mary Blvd. Lafayette, La. At this time if it is ok I would like to defer my time to Mr. Kopieczet who is the principle in the development if that’s ok.”
 - **Mr. Marek Kopieczet addressed the council,** “I reside at 225 Wentworth Blvd Lafayette, La. My contact number is 337-207-5516. There is no opposition looks like, so I will ask that on the Kennerson Road Plath we have already been delayed on it and notices did not go out on time last committee meeting so that sort of started the whole process over, so I am asking that we don’t have any more delays and send it up to full council for vote.”
 - **Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I have a question, Kennerson Road is a subdivision and not a mobile home park.”
 - **Mr. Marek Kopieczet stated,** “It is not a mobile home park. It is a subdivision with lots for sale.”
 - **Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “I am here to answer questions.”
 - **Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “Are there any restrictions such as the type of houses that will be placed in that area? Will they be allowed to put mobile homes, home on blocks, or brick home? What type of restrictions in regards to the type of homes?”
 - **Mr. Marek Kopieczet stated,** “There will be restrictions. We are not going to say no mobile homes on the restriction because the Ordinance does not call for that. For our own property value sake will do a ten year or newer mobile home and 1,000 sq. ft. minimum on anything.”
 - **Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “So in other words it could end up being a mobile home situation.”
 - **Mr. Marek Kopieczet stated,** “If someone buys it and they decide to do with it as your Ordinance says it is allowed then yes mam.”
 - **Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “What he plans to do is clean up this property and sale these lots to anybody. He will put restrictions on what you can and cannot do with your property to keep it up for them to enforce themselves but there is not enforcement on what kind of structure they can live in on their property. He can enforce how old it can be. He is not running a private mobile home park or a private where he is building houses then renting them. He is simply going to clean up the property and sale the lot but they will have restrictions attached to the sale with the subdivision.”
 - **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Again the restrictions are something that is civil. There is nothing we can enforce because we do not have zoning in the parish. Like every

subdivision for the most part put their own restrictions and follow them. If they do not the HOA take care of that issue and make them do what have to be done.”

- **Councilman Harold Taylor stated**, “Thank you for bringing the new Plath. I have not had time to look at it but a couple of things Aucoin Associates letter to us and one of the things were no elevations or contours were provided. These are deep narrow lots, how will your drains run off from the subdivision and individual lots to be managed so that there will be no negative impact on adjacent property, subdivision or individual lots. Have you all addressed that?”
- **Mr. William Jarrell stated**, “We have. We have discussed that and we talked about rear drainage. He is still going to own the property around that is touching all of these lots. It is in his best interest to do some kind of drainage but it is going to be on him.”
- **Councilman Harold Taylor stated**, “The second observation was a view of a Google Earth Map Imagery that seems to indicate the existing roadside ditches along the north side of Kennerson Road were very shallow considering the number of lots required driveway culvert size and roadside drainage ditch improvement would be required, is that going to be taken care of?”
- **Mr. William Jarrell stated**, “So this Kennerson Road was the old State Route 744. It is the Old State Highway that they gave back to the parish. The highway ditch is plenty sufficient enough for 18 inches or greater. I will be running analysis for the culvert sizes for the lot but it will be 18 inches minimum.”
- **Councilman Harold Taylor stated**, “What I understand and correct me if I am wrong but the ditches are too shallow are they going to be cleaned out?”
- **Mr. William Jarrell stated**, “They are plenty big enough. It is hard to see right now but they need to be cut. Mr. Harold, we shot a few shots already and there is enough grade to fit the adequate size pipe in there.”
- **Councilman Harold Taylor stated**, “Thank you.”
- **Chairman Jerry Red Jr., questioned**, “How many acres are we talking about?”
- **Mr. William Jarrell stated**, “The total acres of what is being Plated and what is being developed is 41 acres maybe. The total property is 150 plus acres.”
- **Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated**, “How many lots?”
- **Mr. Marek Kopieczet stated**, “42 lots.”
- **Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated**, “Will the trailers have to have skirting?”
- **Mr. Marek Kopieczet stated**, “Truthfully yes, as far as I am concerned yes. I don’t have the restrictions in front me but we have to sit down with an attorney and write them all out and figure what we want. Decide if we won’t allow farm animals and we won’t allow trash on the property. There is a whole list of things that we have to go through and I haven’t gone through them yet.”
- **Chairman Jerry Red Jr. stated**, “I asked this question because there was another developer in another district and I believe it is District 11 and he came to this council and the trailers suppose to have skirting and there is no skirting around the trailers.”
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “I can address that. We read through the minutes and none of that was part of the minutes for the meeting. I know what was discussed in that meeting but nobody agreed to do what we all though was said in that meeting. I thought the same thing that you did.”

- **Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “This guy did say that he was going to make the tenants or the people that own the lots put skirting but there is no skirting.”
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I know we talked about it but it did not make it to a motion of the council or anything. The new ordinance that is coming into place for the trailer homes is going to have it. Every Trailer Home in the parish will have to have a skirting regardless if it is in a Trailer Park or not.”
- **Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “I am just asking because the people that live in that area is complaining because they want to make it better for the people but yet the people come in and they don’t do what is required.”
- **Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “Mr. Jerry, the way that should work is that he is going to be the majority owner in that subdivision so he is going to be the one when there is only 5-7 and they are not putting skirting. Mr. Marek will be the one to enforce the restrictions because he is going to be the majority owner until they all sell.”
- **Chairman Jerry Red Jr., stated,** “Thank you.”
- **Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** “I do understand that you are going to impose some restrictions for each lot. Are you going to put that on the Plat? Are you going to give us that information that is part of this bid to opening this subdivision or will it just be a verbal agreement from this meeting and that is what I am trying to find out?”
- **Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “That needs to be recorded with the final Plat, the restrictions. The restrictions are not something that has to be submitted with the final Plat but they need to be recorded with the final Plat. When he goes to sell they need to have the restrictions already with it.”
- **Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “Will you have that ready in two weeks? You came before the council saying that you are going to make all of these things work. I am just saying that because we already went through that with an individual in my district and none of it came to pass. If I took you for a ride, I can promise you that you will not want to live in that subdivision. My only concern is if it moves into a neighborhood or a neighborhood is developed and it turns out to look like the one that we approved then nobody that serves on this council or sits in this room would appreciate that next door to their house, I promise you. I am just trying to protect the interest of the people. I know that we don’t have a law that say that you have to do it but you are the one that is telling us that you are going to do it. If we impose that I would be 100% to move forward on it.”
- **Mr. Marek Kopieczet stated,** “I don’t have any issues in having a list or getting it to you all before. I guess my question is that it creates a back and forth where we don’t like this and we don’t like this when the reality is the ordinance does not say any of it. If I do impose something that says your skirting around it or age restriction or whatever it just leaves me in a position of people coming back to me saying that age is to old it needs to be 5 years or it needs to be 3 years.”
- **Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “We have nothing in place to say that now so I yield to you Mr. Bellard.”
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “His restriction that he is going to have in the subdivision is one thing but once we pass that ordinance for the Mobile Homes Parish Wide, not a Mobile Home Park, Mobile Homes in General before they get electricity they will have to have skirting and they will have to have everything that you are asking and everyone in this council are asking for. Even if his restrictions are not upheld we will pass a law that requires it. They won’t be able to get electricity until that is done. I know that is how we can do it and have piece and make it a law. That is our plan to make that happen.”
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “When you sell the plot you are just going to present to a person that this is what you are buying and these are the restrictions.”

Everything else will go accordingly. If it is a trailer they will have to go according to the way we write the ordinance. If it is a house do you have a minimum size? Will it be tiny houses or campers? How big are the lots?

- **Mr. Marek Kopieczet stated,** “They are one acre lots. As far as the restrictions there will be restrictions, there will be a square footage minimum. I am happy to make it big enough not to keep campers on the property. I realize that is not what anybody wants.”
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “All of the other rules will be followed as far as the ordinance on how long the driveway has to be and this is off Kennerson Road off of Hwy 182.”
- **Mr. Marek Kopieczet stated,** “That is right, yes ma’am.”
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “The last question is lighting. A lot of times you have street lights that you are going to put up. We did not discuss the road going into the subdivision.
- **Mr. William Jarrell stated,** “This is all on the public road. I don’t know if they have lighting.”
- **Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “Mr. Bellard, I am sure there are some that are probably wondering and I heard that you made the statement that it will be a requirement that every mobile home has skirting or is that just the new ones that are going to be coming into existence and those that are already in existence will be grandfathered in?”
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes they are just grandfathered in. If they move or somebody moves out of the house and they want to get electricity again then they are not grandfathered anymore. They will have to get it.”
- **Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “Mr. Bellard, off of the Service Road off of I-49, that way, I have had some issues with the turns off of the service road and it goes again right there. It is near Kennerson and on that other side. I had some issues with the state once before with the signs because there will be a lot of traffic on that end. Maybe you can look into that. It is Kennerson Road and Plantation. I just want him to check that because it is going to be a lot of traffic on that other end.”
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We can get with the state tomorrow.”
- **Mr. John Slaughter stated,** “I needed some feedback from the council. This is not a Mobile Home Park. I think that is what the people have in mind if you drive into this and there are layers of mobile homes. This is 40 lots along the road and it is single family dwelling, 1 acre for modest income families. That is what we are trying to do. One acre lots. In order to sell 40 lots the consecutive lot have to look pretty good. No one will buy the next lot with a broken down put your leg on it next to it or whatever that structure is. To make the other part of the development work this needs to look good, that is how this thing works. Success in one part gets success in another. There is thought about planting oak trees. If you are driving down Kennerson Road, to me, there is nothing but hackberry and trash trees along that road. I think that the way we have it in mind that that development will improve everything about that road. Again one acre lots for modest income families to build single residencies that is the idea, not a trailer park that is not what we were doing. I just want to clarify.”
- **Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “If someone builds they have three houses in a row and somebody buys a lot and they come in with a Mobile Home and that is okay, there are no restrictions.”
- **Mr. John Slaughter stated,** “At this point there isn’t. You are asking about what happens after the original sale and I understand that. I believe in the nature of developments of those subdivisions than just lots along the road that the neighbors have a lot to do with what happens with the guy in the middle. You have two or three neighbors that have been

there for a long time and happen to sell. I have never seen a house get raised to put a mobile home in but let's say that happen. The guy that wants to put a mobile home in between two houses will have a hard time, that is my feeling but to answer your question honestly there are no restrictions as of now we will have to acquire with whatever happens in the fourth coming meeting regardless of restrictions. I want to look everybody in the eye and say this is not a mobile home park, it is unfortunate that this has been tossed around."

- **Councilman Alvin Stelly stated**, "I am like Mr. Lejeune. I have a problem with a subdivision. They had a bunch of restrictions. After everybody built on it and it was not a mobile home park it was a mobile home and one acre lots. After they build the house they started putting mobile homes in the back and a camper right here. They have junk cars, what are the restrictions? They can't do nothing about that."
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "That will all come into play with Code Enforcement and whatever our ordinance call for."
- **Councilman Alvin Stelly stated**, "They won't be grandfathered in."
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "When it comes to the junk vehicles and stuff as far as the home if it is something to do with their restrictions they have to govern themselves. We did pass an ordinance in Ms. Mildred's District for that to take place to make the restrictions for the actual ordinance. That helped so they do have some type of zoning so they can't do what they want to do anymore without breaking the law. So that is my recommendation when it comes to the Trailer Home Park Ordinance that is coming up, just Trailers in general. It is not just the Trailer House, you have some other houses that are not kept up as well and we understand that. Our Code Enforcement takes care of those nuisance ones."
- **Councilman Alvin Stelly stated**, "I have problems with a Half-way-house. On one of those Subdivisions they had restrictions."
- **Mr. John Slaughter stated**, "If I am not mistaken you all have an ordinance in place that was passed maybe two or three years ago. I think, correct me if I am wrong, they only have two dwellings per lot or maybe it is one dwelling per lot."
- **Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "You can do two depending on the square footage."
- **Mr. John Slaughter stated**, "You have to get a permit for the second one if I am not mistaken."

5. Public Works Report:

- **Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, "Everybody had all of their questions answered. Are there any other person that would like to speak in Public Comments? We will go to item #5, the Public Works Report."
- **Mr. Barry Soileau stated**, "I will let Ms. Cynthia Fontenot speak before I give my report."
- **Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated**, "Good evening Councilmembers, Parish President. I just want to give you all an update on Kappy's Korner. I have been dealing with going back and forth with the owner of the property. They said that they would get it cleaned up and they never did. We have more property violations signs and that is part of the ordinance that we have to place those signs before we can go on to the property and start cleaning it. I did place a sign so we are going out there next week just let you all know and we will start cleaning up the property. Once we get the items and the debris picked up around the property then we will look into bringing it before the council to ask for a demolition."

- *Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated*, “That is Kappy’s Korner at the corner of Hwy 178 and 182.
- *Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated*, “Yes sir.”
- *Councilman Alvin Stelly stated*, “Mushroom Road.”
- *Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated*, “On Mushroom Road we having trouble as I have been telling you going there. We have gone all different hours.”
- *Councilman Alvin Stelly stated*, “You can’t catch the man.”
- *Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated*, “No. Sir.”
- *Councilman Alvin Stelly stated*, “What do we do with that Jessie?” That have been going on for almost two years. That was before you came on.”
- *Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated*, “Yes sir. I understood that you explained that have been going on. I went several times and the investigators went, we went early, we went late. The only other thing is that we will have to camp out and try to catch them.”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “They live on the property.”
- *Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated*, “Yes Sir but nobody never comes and nobody is accepting the letters.”
- *Councilman Alvin Stelly stated*, “It is getting worst.”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “I will get with Mr. Duplechain tomorrow and see if there is another legal resource we can take if they are not able to be served, there is some kind of way we can serve them.”
- *Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned*, “Ms. Cynthia, how about on I-49 the old Rocket Beach.
- *Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated*, “I did not get a chance to go out there. I will go out there and look at that. With the holidays we have not had a chance to go out there but I will go out there and check on that on Friday.”

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director addressed the council. He stated, “This is the monthly report from December. We boom axed 5 roads and cleaned culverts on 8 roads. We did culvert insulation on 3 roads. We moved debris on 11 roads and we did ditching on 10 roads. We did grading on 38 roads and placed material on 10 roads. We did patching on 29 roads and we did 12 street signs, 5 stop signs, 3 speed limit signs, and trimmed 5 roads with trees.”

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

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy and Alvin Stelly.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

6. Discuss and forward all applications received for four appointments to Fire District No. 3 for a four-year term. (01-01-2024 - 01-01-2028).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 17th, 2024** forward all applications received for four appointments to Fire District No. 3 for a four-year term. (01-01-2024 - 01-01-2028).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, and Alvin Stelly.
NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion forwarded.

7. Update on Jessie B. Road. (Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain).

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Jessie B. Road is listed as a public road and there is nothing in the Clerk of Court records indicate there was any abandonment of the road to make it private by Parish Government.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Who brought that up as far as the council.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “It came from the full council.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I was just updating the council.”

8. Forward all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 6 for a two-year term. (02-17-2024 – 02-17-2026).

A motion was made by Councilman Gil Savoy, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 17th, 2024** to forward all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 6 for a two-year term. (02-17-2024 – 02-17-2026).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, and Alvin Stelly.
NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion forwarded.

9. Forward all applications received for five appointments to Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District No. 15 for a four-year term. (02-17-2024 – 02-17-2028) .

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 17th, 2024** to forward all applications received for five appointments to Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District No. 15 for a four-year term. (02-17-2024 – 02-17-2028) .

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, and Alvin Stelly.
NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion forwarded.

10. Forward all applications received for one appointment to St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 for the remaining of a four-year term. (06-21-2021 - 06-21-2025).

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I know we talked about this before that Mr. Grant Fontenot would be able to serve until we pick someone else. When is it that he can start serving until we pick next month.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Are you asking that question to our attorney.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “He already said that he could, so I wanted to know when can he start.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The council will make that appointment in two weeks.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “He was appointed but never served because no one got back with him to let him know he could serve until we appoint a new person.”

Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “He do not live in the district.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Yes but Garrett said it was ok that he serve until we have replacement.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “If he has property in that drainage district worth \$500.00 or more than he can serve on the board. This particular case it appears that in two weeks the council will make an appointment for that gravity drainage district board.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Duplechain this is in reference to he being appointed by this council already and he doesn’t live in that district. You had mentioned that he can serve until the council appoints someone else. It is still your opinion that he can be appointed until the council appoints someone else.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “We can have an interim, just as we have interim council serve.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “He has been appointed so he can serve now.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Right, if the council appointed him as an interim.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Ms. Barlow do you have any applications in reference to this.”

Assistant Council Clerk Karen Barlow stated, “Yes sir, we do.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “We would have to act at the next full council meeting for appointing.”

Assistant Council Clerk Karen Barlow stated, “Yes.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Ok so now he will serve the next two weeks until appointing someone.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Right that is what I wanted to know so I can tell him go to the next meeting.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 17th, 2024** to forward all applications received for one appointment to St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 for the remaining of a four-year term. (06-21-2021 - 06-21-2025).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, and Alvin Stelly.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

11. Discuss getting St. Landry Parish Legislative Delegation to assist in repairing Hwy 178 by Kappy Korner on to Sunset by Domengeaux Lumber Company by Hwy 182. The road is in dire need of repair. (Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin).

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “This particular road was turned over to the Legislative Delegation 3 years ago and we have minutes for that effect. Right now this road is just deplorable. I am asking that our full council send a resolution asking that our delegation put that road on a priority list and try to get it repaired. I am asking for a motion from the committee.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 17th, 2024** to forward a resolution asking for assistance from our delegation to repair Hwy 178 by Kappy Korner on to Sunset by Domengeaux Lumber Company by Hwy 182.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, and Alvin Stelly.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

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

Mr. David Beaugh addressed the council, “I am sorry for a little late but I just wanted to bring this to the council. My name is David Beaugh. I reside at 420 Beverly Road, Opelousas,

La. My contact number is 337-224-8379. My business is we all talking about putting new places in St. Landry Parish. Is there anyone who is accountable for picking up trash in our parish in any district? I know we are all aware of this but it has gotten ridiculous.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Beaugh to be honest with you we had coffee this morning with some people that are involved with Solid Waste and I made that statement that it is ridiculous. They had someone dump a refrigerator on side of Highway 190 right pass Fontenot Veterinary Clinic during the holidays. It is just pitiful that people have no respect.”

Mr. David Beaugh stated, “We just had a grand opening for a new school down the Lewisburg Road. If you pass there right now there are box springs, mattresses, and every other piece of trash you could possibly think of.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “If you go down I-49 right now across from Doctor’s Hospital there is some furniture and across from there is some mattress.”

Mr. David Beaugh stated, “I agree with you and I am not debating you but I am just here asking who is accountable to clean up the trash.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I would like to share what I do in the district that I represent. I get in touch with the Sheriff and he is really good in assisting me with that, also Mr. Richard LeBouef with Solid Waste. I make contact with him and he had special trucks go out and pick up. You may want to try those two and you might get some help.”

Mr. David Beaugh stated, “I understand what you are saying I may want to try but who is accountable on the council for making sure on a monthly basis the trash is being picked up? These guys will invest their money on these lots and they want to make sure everything is clean. If they see all of this, chances are they will go somewhere else.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I am not sure if there is anyone on the council accountable for such a situation but I was trying to give you some possible solution.”

Mr. David Beaugh stated, “I have done that. I have called them and the Sheriff come but they will come once and unless you call them again you will see the trash.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I call them each time I need to call them.”

Mr. David Beaugh stated, “I will give you an example. My question is through the city and I don’t know who we need to get in touch with in the city because even coming in from the Lewisburg Road right here. When you take that road from Joe’s Sandwich Shop to come into Opelousas, have anyone seen this? It is ridiculous guys. There is dirt where the sidewalks are, the water can’t even get into the drains. I know that is a city issue, I totally understand.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I have the same suggestion as Ms. Thierry. I drive a school bus so I see what you see and I go down Beverly and Richard. I know what you are talking about and I do pick up the phone and I do call Morgan or if I can Mr. LeBouef because he just can’t all the time get a person out there to pick up one thing but Morgan and Morgan will go out and they will pick it up. I know that you are frustrated.”

Mr. David Beaugh stated, “No I am not frustrated, I am asking who is accountable.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “My answer to your question would be because it think it is us as citizens. When see something we need to take action. I will be honest with you, I have a district and I fortunately drive a school bus so I am all over and I can always call. A lot of these people have jobs or they have another thing that is going on and they will not always see what you see that you may pass by every day. You ask a question and I am just saying that I think that it is the public that we have to sometimes go that extra mile and take that initiative and we know who is the collectors and we have to do diligence to. I know what you are saying because I see it and I am calling for Jefferson Street and different streets. I am calling out of my district and I don’t look at it as a district, I look at it as a Humanitarian thing to do if I see something I need to try and get in touch with the right people. When you

asked the question about whose job is it or who is keeping the porch light on it has to be all of us. That would be my answer to your question. I think it takes all of us. You mentioned the sheriff, I have a street on McNeese and I call constantly but you have to understand that people are driving constantly so they will constantly throw trash. The sheriff is not going to put a bed out there and sleep on those streets and have those inmates picking up trash 24/7. People in the neighborhood, I tell my people that we need to be responsible for our neighborhood if they see something. People that live in the neighborhood and we something and a lot of times it is the people that live in these neighborhood and they are dumping the trash. It really does take a village with this. I don't think all of us can constantly do it. I am just saying that I think when I see it I call it in, that is all I can do besides going out there with a truck myself which is illegal to pick up all of this trash. I think the sheriff does a good job but he cannot go when we call him because he has a big parish to cover to. That would be my answer to your question, who is accountable, all of us are."

Councilman Gil Savoy stated, "Ms. Nancy, with all due respect that is not answering his question. His question is: Who is responsible?"

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Well I just said that it is all of us responsible Mr. Gil."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Let's get a little order here. We will have one at a time. I do respect this gentleman. He does have a legitimate complaint. We will speak one at a time on this matter."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Mr. Bellard, do we have anybody that works for Parish Government that is responsible to ride up and down the roads and make a note of where the trash is and make a call to have someone pick it up, do we have that person?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No. The responsibility for the trash collection in the Parish of St. Landry is with Solid Waste. Everybody pays the sales tax. When you pay something at the store you get eight-tenths of that cent goes to Solid Waste for Trash Collection. The Sheriff Department does operate I think 3 crews of litter abatement crews which is paid for by Solid Waste. We have a Grappler Truck that we bought to help and assist whenever people call but there is nobody on our level here that holds anybody accountable for that because it is not in our job description to do that but the people do pay a tax to Solid Waste for that job."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Mr. Beaugh, are you satisfied with that answer?"

Mr. David Beaugh stated, "I will not say if I am satisfied or not. Just tell me when I can speak."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "Usually when the people pick up trash if they see mattresses or springs they usually report that but I don't believe they are doing that either. That does not help us as Councilmembers. Usually they report that."

Mr. David Beaugh stated, "All I am saying is that I live down Beverly Road. The councilman said it is against the law to pick up trash?"

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "No I said for me to go around with a trailer and pick up trash everywhere."

Mr. David Beaugh stated, "Okay, let me just say this. You have been driving down Beverly Road and Richard Road. I have picked up trash on that road for the last 6 months. The first day that Chick-Fil-A opened, guess what? I had 3 containers from Chick-Fil-A down Beverly Road. All I am asking is and I understand Waste Management but who is going to pick up the trash that everybody throws and put it in that trash can that waste management picks up? I pass in front of every house on Dunbar this morning and there were trash cans in the front yard and you know what there was probably anywhere from 5-8 pieces of trash in the ditch. I don't know what the answer is but there have to be somebody accountable in looking at this and saying okay we want everything in St. Landry Parish to grow. We want new people to come in. Guess what, people are not going to come in when they see roads like this. The

roads are bad enough but now we have so much trash it is ridiculous. All I am asking and I am not stepping on nobodies toes is who is accountable?"

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "All I can tell you is this, I have seen people dumping trash from Burger King and everywhere out of their cars. People need to be taught."

Mr. David Beagh stated, "Who is accountable for sending out information requesting. Do we put up more no littering signs? Do we have anything in the budget that we can put up more littering signs? A fine of \$500.00 or something like that."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I think we can put up more signs. Our biggest problem is people have no respect for other people's property anymore."

Mr. David Beagh stated, "I totally agree. I am not debating that."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We are fighting that battle across the whole parish and we are writing citations. We have two investigators and they write citations almost on a daily basis. We have cameras that are out all over the parish and they send the pictures to the investigators and they take action. The problem is there is nobody that says somebody is in charge of this. The only thing that I know is that we pay this tax to Solid Waste and they are in charge for picking up trash but nobody is in charge of them other than the board that runs it."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Maybe we can consider reaching out to Mr. LeBouef and see if they can come up with some type of solution for this problem since they are the ones who have the contract for the collection of the waste in the parish. Maybe they can find some funds and they can hire a person to ride around in the parish and see where the trash is needing to be picked up. It is just a thought that came to my mind. We can reach out, you will never know, you have not because you ask not. So ask."

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, "I pick up trash but I don't believe we are paying taxes and suppose to pick up trash on the side of the road. My solution, the sheriff can do so much but we have so many prisoners sitting down in the jail. If we would have enough help we should not have trash on the road at all. I think there is a lot of them that needs to get out of those jails and pick up trash on the side of the road."

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Dexter Brown, you are the councilmember for that area."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "Mr. Bellard, with the Sheriff, how many crews does he have to pick up debris on the side of the road? I know of one for sure."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They usually have 3 crews and they use the inmates to do that and Solid Waste pays for that. The Sheriff supplies them but Solid Waste pays for the deputy and the trucks and everything else. The problem is not enough deputies, everybody is short staffed but I know there are 2 crews right now that goes out and pick up whenever they are called upon. It is almost impossible and Mr. Stelly is right, they are not paying that eight-tenths of a cent sales tax to go hand pick trash, it is roadside pick up so there is a difference. I don't think there is any money allotted and maybe they could allot some money for that. The only thing that they are doing now is the free crews that the sheriff puts on the road with Trustees that is all that we have to pick up trash outside of the big bulky waste. I agree with Mr. Beagh. I am sitting here thinking about this. Who is accountable? Who is in charge of the trash? Who is in charge of keeping our parish clean? I think that it will rest upon us a govern body to do that. I know that we have Solid Waste that does it and they get paid for it but I think that we can put some teeth in to our ordinance to require certain things of certain people. One of the things that Mr. Stelly brought up and Mr. Lejeune brought up before is when the trash truck stop by make a note of that box spring or whatever is next to the road so they can get the bulky waste company to come and pick it up. I don't think that is happening right now so I think we can make kind of suggestions to require that to happen."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Not to interrupt you Mr. Bellard but I thought that we agreed on that whenever the new trash collection came into play. They had a big presentation on all and they had a scanner on the truck and whole nine yards. I guess maybe we should find out more about the contract, look at it and you can come back and get more information that you are looking for.”

Mr. David Beaugh stated, “In the meantime is there any way that we can make sure that the entrance to Opelousas and St. Landry Parish like from Joe’s Sandwich Shop coming down here in front of Targil, guys it is ridiculous and all of our main entrances into Opelousas. They are doing it on I-49, I don’t know what kind of deal they have over there but they have it all cut. The other day I passed by Lowe’s and all of that area over there where we have the painting under the live oak tree, guys, the trash was unbelievable. They guys who were cutting the Interstate, instead of picking up the trash first they cut over it and then they had double. I don’t know if it is still there or not but go over the overpass going to Tractor Supply look to the right. I guarantee you they have over 100 trash bags full of trash right there. Our main area coming into Opelousas is ridiculous how much trash they have. All I am asking is who is accountable. Thank you all.”

Public Works Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I appreciate you coming and bringing that to our attention. I think every councilmember sitting here tonight and every citizen sitting in this audience are concerned about the litter problem. This morning there were talk about it right her across the street at the Palace Cafe. We get together and we talk a little stuff but my thing is when people are going to throw a refrigerator on the side of the road right there on Hwy 190 by Old Troop K or have a recliner outside of Port Barre at the corner of LaHaye Road and Hwy 190, I know the address because I called it in. Where your brother have that insurance office they have stuff that is put there. That garbage truck operator and it was brought up with Mr. LeBouef right here, Mr. Lejeune is correct, that company, that man that is picking up that garbage can that morning or that afternoon, he should be responsible for calling it in. Therefore the next day or two days later it can get picked up. They have a gentleman that goes around the parish and you can call him anytime, Mr. John Guidroz, I will give him his due, he is always there to try to try and take care things, especially the bulky stuff. Like Mr. Alvin said the sheriff department, maybe we need to look at a program where we can get more prisoners. We are paying a lot of money to house these prisoners and what are we getting back because some of them would want to get out of that jail cell and get some sunshine and do something for this community. You have a legitimate complaint and it is like that all over the parish, not just in the city of Opelousas but I also see the litter abatement crew working inside of the city limits but they need to be out there on some parish roads and the rural areas. I appreciate you and we will talk to Mr. LeBouef and get him at the next full council meeting or the committee meeting and have some questions answered. I would appreciate it if you would be involved with it.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Just for the sake of the public maybe they don’t all know that they can call Bayou State and request that a special truck is needed to pick up any large items. All you have to do is call Bayou State and tell them that you want a special truck and give them your address and they will send a truck to your address. I posted this on Facebook a few months ago and it went wild, over 200 viewers reposting it. It maybe that some don’t know that they can have it picked up at their residence instead of going through the trouble of dumping it along the roadside. I am going to go back tonight and I will repost that information again. I do realize that everybody does not do Social Media. You can have it picked up at your address, just call Bayou State and schedule a special pick up. Thank you.”

13. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Gil Savoy to adjourn the Public Works Committee.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy and Alvin Stelly.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

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