# ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 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:

*Mr. Francis Henry addressed the committee. He stated*, "Good afternoon, I am Francis Xavier Henry. I am retired from St. Landry Parish School Board and I am applying for a position on the St. Landry Parish Drainage Board Coulee Crouche District No. 22. I would appreciate you all appointing me, I am willing to work and serve with the current members to solve the drainage problem in our area."

Public Works Chairwoman Vivian Olivier thanked Mr. Henry for coming.

*Mr. Gerald Faul addressed the council. He stated*, "I am president of drainage board district No. 22 and I am here to recommend Francis Henry to serve on the drainage board in the place of his deceased brother Paul Henry. I would like that to be effective if it could be as of last month if I can because he attended our meeting last month at my request. Thank you."

Public Works Chairwoman Vivian Olivier, "It has to go to full council?"

*Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated*, "Yes, it has to go to full council meeting June 18, 2024 for approval."

Mr. Richard Soileau addressed the committee. He stated, "Hello, my name is Richard Soileau, I live at 716 Sandpit Road Arnaudville, La right outside of Grand Coteau. Myself and a few of my neighbors are here tonight, I been living there about 40 years, which is a beautiful place in the country. When I moved there, it was just farmland. Now there are several very nice homes down my road. I must say in those 40 years it has been a gravel road and ditches far and few between culverts, we have some gravel right now but most of it is getting washed away because we do not have ditches. Probably in the last 10 or 15 years whenever we had a hurricane or recently with the weather we been having trees across our road and power lines down. The residence of the road has been clearing it. I am lucky enough to have neighbors with heavy equipment. One guy with bulldozer, an excavator, couple with big tractors, and another neighbor with a bobcat, I have not seen anyone from the parish do anything down the road to pick up anything. I know it was on TV that it was state money to clear branches but we have trees and debris from hurricane Laura that still has not been picked up. I am here tonight to just ask if we can get some assistance."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "If there is something on Sandpit Road that is not being done I was not aware of it. The trees that were knocked down was picked up by the parish."

Mr. Richard Soileau stated, "I guarantee they were not."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "So who picked them up."

Mr. Richard Soileau stated, "We moved them out the road."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "From the side of the road."

Mr. Richard Soileau stated, "They are still there."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "They are still some there Mr. Bellard. Mr. Soileau with all due respect, I have been with Mr. Barry Soileau who is our Public Works Director and we have removed some trees over there through the years and that is why I asked for you all to come here tonight because we do have a problem down Sandpit Road. I have asked and I have spoken to Mr. Bellard and he is in agreement with it and Mr. Soileau is in agreement with it we need to do something we far as getting some contractor to come in and use these blades on these helicopters and sort of open up this road where we can get some sunlight in. Until we get some sunlight in it is overgrown. It has overgrew very bad and it is ashamed that you have a gravel road like that and it is in disarray like it is with drainage problems. As soon as you get off of HWY 93 the culverts are washing away. We can get it when sunlight get in and dry up and possibly re-do that road and get you all some relieve over there. That is the only route that you all can come out of when we have a storm. I was there the other day and you all did have some people working over there unfortunately they could not speak English but never the less they were cleaning that road and you all were able to get in and out. I am glad that you all are here."

*Mr. Richard Soileau stated*, "I would appreciate any help that you all can give. I did have one last request. Back when the Parish Council did the Smooth Ride Home years ago there was a priority list of roads and I know that money is long gone. There are many gravel roads that still need to be redone in the parish. If there is currently a priority list of what is going to be done in the future and what your plans are it would be helpful. We may be the last one on the list but at least we would know. I would appreciate it. If that is something that you all can provide to the public."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We don't have a priority list to speak of. We have one that has been in place for years. Priority change every year depending on how much it cost to do some roads. It depends on how much it cost to maintain these roads. To my knowledge I will look at it right now to see what the cost would be to take care of that road. We don't make promises. I will not promise you a new road today or tomorrow because I know that I can not do that but I can tell you this, if you have an issue on your road somebody needs to let the Parish President know or the Public Works Director know directly so we can go and see about it. If you have trees blocking that nobody can tell you any different. If I knew about it I promise you I will go and see about it myself because I do that all the time. A dead end road is detrimental whenever a person can't leave because I know the exact dangers of that, so that is a priority for me. When these roads get blocked we don't leave until they all are removed if we know about it. I will give you my cell phone number so if that issue happens please call and we will go and clear it and make sure that you all have some access."

*Mr. Richard Soileau stated*, "I appreciate that. We usually do call but in the meantime we do our best to clear the road if we can because we live there in case of an emergency because we want to get out as soon as possible. Thank you all I appreciate it."

**Public Works Director Mr. Barry Soileau stated**, "I did speak to you and we are getting to you but you have to just bear with us."

Mr. Richard Soileau stated, "We have, I have been bearing for 40 years."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "Mr. President, I heard Barry speak of contractors, do we currently have some still working in the parish?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "We utilize some contractors to do some of the work. There is no longer any assisting from the State."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "Can we get an extension?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "I did, I got two but there was so much debris across the parish. The cost that we submitted to the state on April 10 was a little over \$300,000.00. That is just for the April 10 one. Again we are not talking about a hurricane. We have some

major issues when it comes to these trees but when it comes to a dead end road I can promise you all if I know about it I will go and see about it myself. In Ms. Nancy's District we have some and I went myself. I don't want anybody to get caught back there or anything."

**Councilman Ken Marks stated**, "We have a very unusual situation with very large trees that were knocked down and nobody locally had the equipment to be able to handle such a volume and such a heavy weight. Do we have contractors identified with larger equipment?"

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "Yes we do. We have a contractor that can handle that. He can handle the big trees."

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, "I do want to say thank you very much you have handled Fort Hamilton very well."

Mr. Tony Castillo addressed the council. He stated, "Councilmembers, President my name is Tony Castillo. I am originally from Houston and my wife is from here and that is how I ended up here. I am Mr. Soileau's neighbor down the road. I am here also representing Ms. Buck who could not be here. We have a lot of problems with that road, not only from the down trees but the flooding. In my section I have 1000 feet of frontage and the worst thing the parish did was put gravel on it and it fills up my ditch. When it floods it just runs over into my property. My house is 600 feet from the frontage road and it is water from there to the house. I have drained my pond several times just to get catfish out and I have seen it get filled up in 3 hours. It is 150 x 250 yards, <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> quarters of an acre, 10 feet deep, that is how much water that is going to my property. When I brought the property I had an operator clear out the fence line because I had dogs and I wanted a fence up. I also had them use their excavator from her property through my property through the other property that I own and beyond that out of my own pocket to clean it out, widen it and deepen it. That still was not enough. I also on my other lot out of my own pocket I dug a ditch going to the Coolie to go through my property the second property and beyond. That still did not help because when the gravel fills up that ditch it back flows to the number lot where we live and it flows east and not south. As far as the trees last year I was fortunate we had big live oaks. Last year one fell right into my gate. If I would have not had a doctor's appointment I would have never known. We all have standby generators I could not get out. This year we lost power three times in 10 days. The only reason why we could get out is because of Dr. LaHaye's tractor. He was out there with us. It is us clearing what the parish should be doing, we just need help."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "Again if I am notified we will take care of it. If nobody tells us I can't help you. I have to know about it and Barry is going to tell you once I know about it I can't un-know it and I take that very seriously especially when it comes to tapping people on dead end roads. That is a priority for us."

*Mr. Tony Castillo stated*, "This is the first time that I have come to the councilmembers. This is not the first time that I have approached the parish. After I cleared out my dozer and did all of my dirt work and I noticed that the ditches were filling up I went to the parish to seek help and they did not do that and that was 12 years ago."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Mr. Tony, I know what Mr. Bellard is coming from but this last storm when you all had Dr. Lahaye's people working I was there. I spoke to those gentlemen. I notices that they all had brand new equipment so I knew it was not parish equipment. Barry and I spoke and the road was open but Barry was busy with all of the parish. I have to give him his credit that he was trying to stay on top of it but he knew you all could come out because that was the main thing. When I got a phone call from Ms. Buck I went down there and they were opening up the road that day. Everybody had problems. Right down the road from you all is Mushroom Road and they have the same thing. I have to give Mr. Soileau his credit because he went down there and he also saw it was open up so you all can come in and out."

*Mr. Tony Castillo stated*, "Here is the other reason why we are here. All of the debris that is pushed to the west side of the road. We had a natural drainage, there is no natural drainage now. The rain is going to cross the road."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I understand exactly where you are going with that and I can assure you tomorrow morning that they will have some trucks on that road taking care of that. Again when I know about something it is going to be taken care of. I can only show you two actions. Tomorrow morning they are going to have trucks down that road picking up that debris to make sure because drainages is a big problem across the parish. We don't need debris stopping up drainage. Tomorrow morning they will be there."

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated*, "Thank you for coming. Thank you Mr. Bellard and Mr. Soileau."

### 4. Public Works Report:

*Mr. Barry Soileau*, *Public Works Director addressed the council*. *He stated*, "We boom axed 37 roads and culvert cleaned 38 roads. We did culvert insulation on 10 roads. We moved debris on 250 roads to the landfill and we did ditching on 3 roads. We did grading on 151 roads and spread material on 3 roads. We did patching on 28 roads, shredding of 48 roads, 49 sign installations, 35 tree removal, repaired 4 washouts and distributed 1700 sandbags."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "We will be in the process of bagging more sandbags next week. People are taking them and using them for the right purpose so that is a good thing."

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, "Mr. Bellard I appreciate it because I did get some sandbags. I know its 10 and I know that is a lot but is it any way we can get one or two extra."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "No, that is fine. We put a limit on it because sometimes it is a lot of greedy people that just want something but anytime we can give out extra we will. Especially if you have any elderly or handicap in your district that needs it we can bring it to their homes. That is also available that why I text so that those people do not have to leave to get it. The trustees fill the bags and we have 2 sandbagging machines since 2006 and that is how we are able to bag so many bags."

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune 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 one appointment to Faquetaique Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four- year term. (07-20-2024 – 07-20-2028).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18**<sup>th</sup>, **2024** all applications received for one appointment to Faquetaique Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four-year term. (07-20-2024 – 07-20-2028)

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

**6.** Forward all applications received one appointment to Bellevue & Coulee Crouche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 for a four-year term. (07-20-2024 – 07-20-2028).

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18**<sup>th</sup>, **2024** all applications received for one appointment to Bellevue & Coulee Crouche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 for a four-year term. (07-20-2024 – 07-20-2028)

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 six appointments to Public Works Commission District Five for a four- year term. (07-20-2024 – 07-20-2028).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18**<sup>th</sup>, **2024** all applications received for six appointments to Public Works Commission District Five for a four- year term. (07-20-2024 – 07-20-2028)

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

**8.** Forward all applications received for five appointments to Coulee Crouche Gravity Drainage District No. 22 for a four-year term. (08-17-2024 – 08-17-2028)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18**<sup>th</sup>, **2024** all applications received for five appointments to Coulee Crouche Gravity Drainage District No. 22 for a four-year term. (08-17-2024 – 08-17-2028)

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.** Update on Sandpit Road. (Chairman Wayne Ardoin) *Taken care of earlier in the meeting.*
- **10.** Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Bayou Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 12 for the remaining of four-year term. (07-15-2023 07-15-2027)

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, "On this particular one Mr. Ted Marcantel was serving on the board and has passed away. I am asking, his son is an engineer and he is applying for that position. I would like to have him appointed to that seat until we appoint somebody there. He also represent Jody as well."

Councilman Jody White stated, "Right do we need to make a motion on that to move to full council."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Yes."

A motion was made by Councilman Jody White, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18**<sup>th</sup>, **2024** to temporarily appoint Dane Marcantel for the remainder of a four-year term and advertise for one appointment to Bayou Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 12 for the remainder of four-year term. (07-15-2023 – 07-15-2027).

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

**11.** Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointment to St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District for a four-year term. (08-31-2024-08-31-2028).

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to advertise for two appointment to St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District for a four-year term. (08-31-2024 – 08-31-2028)

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

**12.** Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Housing Authority for a five-year term. (08-04-2024 – 08-04-2029)

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18**<sup>th</sup>, **2024** to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Housing Authority for a five-year term. (08-04-2024 – 08-04-2029)

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

**13.** Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to John Gabriel Lewis Jr and Enola Lewis advising to come and address the council regarding (Demolition of structure and shredding/debris removal) of their property located in Linwood Loop, Opelousas, La. Parcel #0105451200

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18<sup>th</sup>**, **2024** to authorize the council clerk to send a certified letter to John Gabriel Lewis Jr and Enola Lewis advising to come and address the council regarding (Demolition of structure and shredding/debris removal) of their property located in Linwood Loop, Opelousas, La.

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

**14.** Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to Joseph Scottie Dumas and Melissa Villery advising to come and address the council regarding public nuisance of their property located at 171 Gulino Street, Opelousas, La 70570. Parcel #0104463050

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18**<sup>th</sup>, **2024** to authorize the council clerk to send a certified letter to Joseph Scottie Dumas and Melissa Villery advising to come and address the council regarding public nuisance of their property located at 171 Gulino Street, Opelousas, La 70570. Parcel #0104463050

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

**15.** Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation advising to come and address the council regarding (Demolition of shed, property cleanup, and tree removal) of the property located at 239 Bullard Avenue N. Opelousas, La 70570 Parcel #0103875700

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jody White to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18**<sup>th</sup>, **2024** to authorize the council clerk to send a certified letter to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation advising to come and address the council regarding (Demolition of shed, property cleanup, and tree removal) of the property located at 239 Bullard Avenue N. Opelousas, La 70570 Parcel #0103875700 **On roll call vote: YEAS:** Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **Motion forwarded** 

**16.** Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to Midfirst Bank advising to come and address the council regarding (Demolition of structure, grass cutting, and debris removal) of the property located at 728 Mcneese Street Opelousas, La 70570. Parcel #0105008100

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18**<sup>th</sup>, **2024** to authorize the council clerk to send a certified letter to Midfirst Bank advising to come and address the council

regarding (Demolition of structure, grass cutting, and debris removal) of the property located at 728 Mcneese Street Opelousas, La 70570. Parcel #0105008100

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

**17.** Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to Marvin J Guillory and Penny Guillory advising to come and address the council regarding (Demolition of old structure and debris cleanup) of their property located at 8844 Hwy 190 Opelousas, La 70570. Parcel #0602770965

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18**<sup>th</sup>, **2024** to authorize the council clerk to send a certified letter to Marvin J Guillory and Penny Guillory advising to come and address the council regarding (Demolition of old structure and debris cleanup) of their property located at 8844 Hwy 190 Opelousas, La 70570. Parcel #0602770965

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

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

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "Madam Chair, before you adjourn just an update we went on and took care of 142 Harold Street Opelousas, La, we gave him the extension and he failed to do his part."

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,* "I would just like to say thanks to Mr. Bellard and Mr. Barry for all you do in moving on that I been trying to get that cleaned up for over 8 years and it finally happened but remember this until we got a woman involved with that also."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "Madam Chair, I have a request to bring to full council a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between Parish Government and Public Works District Six to do bridge work at Little Darbonne Bay. I would like to have that forwarded to full council."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Mr. Marks we talking about the bridge work?"

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "Yes."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "While we into that discussion maybe once we finish that maybe possibly can go into litigation and discuss the other part. I think our attorney will have to assign someone for that case."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "You want me to include that as well or separate."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "Separate just so we can discuss at full council meeting for more information and maybe take action at that time."

*Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated*, "The only question I have is, would we need to go into Executive Session for that in the next meeting?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It is a possibility yes."

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18**<sup>th</sup>, **2024** to CEA between St. Landry Parish Government and Public Works District Six for Bridge Repair Work at Little Darbonne Bay.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Tuesday**, **June 18**<sup>th</sup>, **2024** to authorize the council to enter into Executive Session to discuss cable at a site within District Six. **On roll call vote: YEAS:** Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune, and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **Motion forwarded** 

*Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, "I would like to thank Mr. Jessie Bellard and his team and Mr. Barry Soileau and his team for taking care of the parish like they do. Thank you all very much."

## 19. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune 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 KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK