

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY JUNE 5th, 2024 @ 5:30 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W BELLEVUE ST
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

MINUTES

- I.** This meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Ardoin.
- II.** Councilwoman Mildred Thierry led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin ask that the audience silence their electronic devices.

- III. Roll Call: PRESENT:** Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **Ex Officio:** Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor.

IV. Item for Discussion:

- **Intergovernmental Agreement between the St. Landry Parish Government and the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court.**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The intergovernmental Agreement is basically for us to move a building that is next to the old Dupre Carrier Godchaux building that the Clerk of Court owns. They asked us to take it down for them because they were doing renovations over there and that building is hindering his progress. We are just going to take it down and what I would like to do is take it and move it to another location so we can use it for storage.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Mr. Bellard, once you take the building down or whatever is it our property?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No Sir, the building would be our property but not the property.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “That is what I mean, whatever you tear down becomes our property.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Who will be the owner?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Of the building.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “No the property.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Charles Jagneaux, Clerk of Court. He owns that whole section right there.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Okay, thank you.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Are there any other questions? Mr. Bellard, you are moving that building so where are you moving? Will it be some property that we have?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes behind the old Public Works Building on Airport Road.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “How big of a building are we talking about?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “60 x 80.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Are you going to haul it?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We will tear it down. It will cost too much money to actually move it. We will tear it down to the point where they can take it and haul the rest of it.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Are there any more discussions? Do I have a motion?”

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to authorize the St. Landry Parish Government and the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court to enter into a Contractual Intergovernmental Agreement.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 5th, day of June, 2024.

V. Renewal Option Ratification:

Contract to act as Fiscal Agent for the St. Landry Parish Government & all Divisions thereof, St. Landry Parish.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Which one of you all would like to go first. Ms. Sue is here.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If you all have any questions you all can ask them. This is just a renewal of our contract with Washington State Bank. All we are doing is just a renewal. Nothing has changed in the contract.

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “We have added one extra bank. I assume you will address that as well. I read the contract and all of these banks had to agree that Washington State Bank will be the lead for deposits and things of that nature, is that correct?”

Washington State Bank Representative stated, “That is correct Mr. Marks. We invited St. Landry Bank back in and they have agreed to come in so it will be five banks.

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “We saw and pretty much agreed upon the percentages.”

Washington State Bank Representative stated, “It will be determined by the holding of assets in the parish. Some of these banks have banks in other parishes. We will look at their holdings in the parish so that way the money is parish hopeful.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “These are local banks. We don’t go out and ask for any other banks. We ask them to focus on our local banks only. This is why we have those five banks.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “We had brought to the attention of the Parish President that interest rates have gone up. We have quite a bit of funds that have been deposited. Is there an opportunity for that number to change so we can benefit from the aspects of that?”

Washington State Bank Representative stated, “Your contract on Section 5 of the second page of the original contract dictates the interest rate that is going to be paid. It tracts some statutory language for bigger parishes. Parishes that have populations over 100,000 by law use the 3 month Treasury Bill which is moving all of the time. The 3 month Treasury Bill minus 200 basis points is the interest to be paid on your money in interest bearing accounts. You all have about 60 accounts spread throughout our banks so you all do have a lot of money but it is spread in a bunch of different accounts for accounting purposes which I don’t profess to understand, that is their job. The bulk of the money is a large amount of money that is spread out through those accounts. Anything in interest bearing would be earning that rate and you will see that reflected on your interest statement going forward.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Keep in mind and I know that we have discussed this in the budget process, just because our end of the year numbers say \$7,000,000.00 in one of the funds for instance Fund 149 it goes in there for a day and then it is out. It does not stay and it is not in there all at one time so I want everybody to understand how it works. The numbers at the end of the year becomes in the millions but it is not in the millions at any

given time. Whatever we are going to get we are going to get with the money in the bank. We are working with the bank on the interest rates and we will have some good numbers, it will be fine.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “So you or the Finance Director will let us know.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes. Also like Mr. Bertrand talked about the 60 accounts, give or take. They do all this stuff and it does not cost the Parish Government anything to manage these accounts for us. We would like to keep it local and we have always been with Washington State Bank and we have never and any issues so I don’t see any reason to change.”

Washington State Bank Representative stated, “The last time I was before or with the jury we were across the room in the big building. I think I was sitting in Garrett’s chair because I was working for Earl Taylor and Barry was my boss. I feel like I am home right here. Since 1999 Washington State Bank has been your physical agent. We try hard to involve the local St. Landry Banks. There were 10 of us in that group at that time and 6 of those banks have been merged, sold, acquired or whatever you want to call it. There are only 4 remaining original members and they are on that list. In 2020 St. Landry Homestead which is now Catalyst joined the group so now you have 5 local banks. We reached out to all of them and I have spoken to each president over the last couple of days along with Jessie and they all want in and they want to keep the parish money locally and that is the goal of this agreement and we intend to honor that, we intend to continue bringing you big bank services with a local flare. He has our cell number and he does not mind using it, I am just going to let you all know. When he needs something we jump. We will continue that of course at no cost to you all. They all have my cell number. Thank you all for keeping the money locally. I believe it is a big deal.”

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Jody White to authorize the Parish President to enter into a Fiscal Agent Contract with Washington State Bank.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 5th, day of June, 2024.

VI. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to adjourn this Special Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 5th, day of June, 2024.

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