

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, 2024 @ 6:00 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 18th, day of September, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. Chairman Wayne Ardoin called the meeting of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
- II. Councilwoman Mildred Thierry led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin asked the audience to please silence all of their electronic devices. He also ask that all councilmembers speak into their microphones.

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

IV. **CONDOLENCES:**

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere: Paul Collins, Geraldine Hawkins, Mary Elizabeth Boxie, O’Jerden Charles Mallet, Mary Jane Aggison, Joseph P. Landry Sr., Willie Lavergne Jr., Wendell James Davis, Langston ‘Lanco’ Mayfield, Webster ‘Webb’ Marcantel, Mary Medora Budd.

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry: Mary Jane Aggison, Rikki Rideaux, Joseph P. Landry Sr., Willie Lavergne Jr., Vernell Thompson, Elyouna Pitre, Josephine Prudhomme, Jody Louis Trahan, Gloria Dean Dupre Richard, Mary Brown Roberie, Norma Doucet Blood, Sharon Splane Gautreaux, Webster Marcantel, O’Jerden Charles Malaine Mallet, Wilma B. Sam, Paul Collins, Barbara Ann Mason Brownlee, Wildon Valmont.

Councilman Alvin Stelly: Kevin James Meche.

Councilman Dexter Brown: Wilma B. Sam, Langston ‘Lanco’ Mayfield, Willie Lavergne Jr., Paul Collins.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin: Catherine Prejean Stanford, Cecil Bert Lavergne, Josephine ‘Josie Prudhomme, Cecil Bert Lavergne, Geraldin Hawkins, Mary Elizabeth Boxie, Louis ‘Boosie’ Ambrose Devillier, Carl Vernon Schwartzenburn

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin called for a moment of silence for the families that lost their loved ones.*

V. **PERSON TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:**

Ms. Carrie Baird addressed the council. She stated, “Hi, my name is Carrie Baird. I live at 168 Richard Street, Sunset. My Phone Number 337-290-0802. I am here because the last time I was here if for the same reason. Animal Control is not fixed and you all have to do better. I called Animal Control earlier in July regarding a rabbit that an owner keep leaving in the sun in 90 plus degree heat with a fur coat on, for that rabbit it was a heck of a lot hotter. The animal kept trying to escape out of the 2 foot by 1 foot cage that they keep the rabbit in and they didn’t take the rabbit out, they never exercise the rabbit and they didn’t hold the rabbit, they say it is their pet. When the rabbit knocks its bottle down at 1:00 in the afternoon that animal does not get water again until 6:00 in the morning. This animal is on the ground, the ordinance says that this rabbit suppose to be two feet off of the ground. When I called Animal Control to come and see about this rabbit they drove right by my house, I was outside waiting for them, they drove right by the residence, they turned around and they left. I jumped in my truck, I chased them down to the red light, I had to slap my hand on their window and I said, turn around, you all

missed the house. He said oh we got the wrong address. I said no you don't because you drove real fast down the street and you turned around. I said you all are being paid to ride around in an air conditioned truck and do nothing, now turn around. He turned around and said well it is fine, it is a pet. They don't even know the ordinance. The ordinance says that rabbits have to be off the ground because if ants get a hole of it, it can't escape, if flees get a hole of it, it can't escape. On top of that July 19th, in Grand Coteau there was a dog that you all re-homed, not fixed to a man in Leonville. The dog landed up back in Grand Coteau one day, got hit by a car, blood is pooling into the eyes and the animal bit four people the entire weekend. The sheriff department we called, they could not get a hole of Animal Control. Sunset called, they could not get a hole of Animal Control. Officer Buck in Grand Coteau came out. We sat there for 4 hours waiting for someone to come and pick up this poor animal who was injured and hurting and needed to be put down, they never showed up. They came on Sunday when the dog was laying there for four hours they turned around and said he is on the move. I said no, he is not on the move, he has been in the shade all day. So now that it is cool you all show up at dark. I said he wants to walk around. I had to get the dog because they refused to actually walk away from where they were standing to go and get the dog. They did not take the dog. I called Ms. Lynn. She told me that the Sheriff's Department never tried to reach her. She said that they are going to get the owner, why not pick up the dog off of the street so it can stop biting people, call the owner and say come get your dog or just put the animal down. The two people who were from out of town passing through the state said, where is your Animal Control? I said the parish has one but I said they are not coming. If you want to take legal action let me know, I have plenty of documentation for your lawyer. I am okay with you all suing this parish, I guarantee it. He said this is ridiculous. The man left, they final showed up to pick up the dog on Monday. Ms. Lynn knew this dog should have been picked up, I called the state on Monday and they said that you all violated the law by not having that dog off of the street because it bit someone. On top of that I brought a kitten day before yesterday. I know that you all bring your animals because Bissell Corporation pays for a Vet to go to Lafayette Animal Control and you all get your dogs fixed over there. The one who runs Wild Cat Foundation said why aren't you bringing your cats because I have spaded and neutered in Sunset over 200 cats with my own money, my own gas, you understand, I spend \$1,000.00 a month to take care of these animals, give them medicine when they need it and feed them and get them neutered. I found the kitten at Go-Bears stuck in an 18 wheeler, its leg was injured. I went to the animal control and there were 3 people sitting behind the table. There were another 2 people standing around and they were doing nothing. The guy comes out and I said we have a dog running around here in Sunset and I saw the pick up last week and he has bitten someone, it is a pit bull and he is chasing a young man who is artistic. I am waiting for him to go into oncoming traffic because he keeps looking behind him scared that the dog is going to bit at him again and I said I am waiting for him to get killed. When his parents want to sue I will gladly give them all of my evidence also. I am telling you right now when I walked into Animal Control and I told Ms. Lynn that I know that you get your animals fixed on Thursdays in Lafayette and she said you seem to know a lot about what we do. I said yes I do because I get Lafayette to help me. St. Landry Parish does nothing for us, absolutely nothing. A while back Mr. Bellard and the Mayor had an agreement, I don't know what the agreement was but I am telling you right now I don't know why you all can't ask because I am not expecting the parish tax payers to pay for the town's problems, I expect the town to pay for it. I would think that Mr. Bellard and the Mayor could say for every dog we pick up we will charge \$50.00. We will hold the dog for 10 days for someone to come and claim the dog. If they don't claim the dog and the dog is adoptable we will put the dog up for adoption. After those 20 days at the end of that one month if that dog is not adopted you can put the dog down, something needs to be done. She refuse to help. I don't buy nothing in St. Landry Parish, I spend thousands of dollars in Lafayette because I don't want you all to have my sales tax revenue because you all do nothing for us."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Thank you ma'am. Your time is up. Are there any questions from any councilmembers? Mr. Bellard, do you have anything that you want to say about this or do you want to get with this lady about her situation."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I will tell her in an open meeting. Inside the Cooperate limits we don't have Jurisdiction. It does not get anymore simple than that."

Each Municipality has their own way of doing animal control, some don't have animal control. Until a call is made and ask for our help we don't go into a town. If you would call we are not going into a town."

Ms. Carrie Baird stated, "I know that, I called you all and you all said my police department had to call. I called the police department to have the pit bull picked up because it had killed a little Yorkie already and it is chasing people. The dog was never picked up. You and the mayor had an agreement. The last time you came to Sunset and I saw you a few years ago you said that you and the mayor had an agreement, I don't know what that agreement was can you tell me what that agreement was."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "What I just finished telling you. Whenever there is an issue in the town we don't mind going to assist but we do not have jurisdiction. We can only go and assist them in what they need to do."

Ms. Carrie Baird, "When the Sheriff's Department calls for Animal Control Grand Coteau and Sunset calls for Animal Control and nobody shows up and the dog has been left on the street for four days injured and biting people that is against the law."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "So it is very simple. If you saw the dog on the side of the road injured why didn't you pick it up?"

Ms. Carrie Baird, "I couldn't. Every time I went to assist."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Why didn't the police department do their part?"

Ms. Carrie Baird. "They did."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "If he said to put it down."

Ms. Carrie Baird stated, "They don't have the equipment."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "We are not going to have any arguments back and forth please. We are not going to have this at this meeting."

Ms. Carrie Baird stated, "They don't have the equipment."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "So we are not going on the side of the road and shooting a dog."

Ms. Carrie Baird, "I don't want you to. I want you to just simply bring that long pole that you have, put it in the truck and have it put down."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Who is going to pay for it?"

Ms. Carrie Baird, "Charge the town."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It is not that simple Ma'am."

Ms. Carrie Baird, "So you are telling me that you run for Parish President and you want us to vote for you but yet you can't help us with things like that."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It is not about me wanting to help anybody. It is about what the law says. I wish we had plenty money to go and do this. We do Animal Control out of the Health Unit. The Health Unit is set for humans okay. We spent \$500,000.00 a year on animals out of the health unit fund and it is legal to do that however when it comes to the municipality they have to do their own and we will go and assist them. If the Police Department want us to go and do something for them they have to do the charging, they have to do everything and we are going to help them but we are not going to go and arrest nobody, we are not going to do anything in the town because we don't have jurisdiction there. Again, if there is an animal on the side of the road that is hurt, that jurisdiction has to do something about it."

Ms. Carrie Baird, “So if you can’t help us inside the town why are you collecting property taxes inside of the town?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The Health Unit Tax is a Parish Wide Tax.”

Ms. Carrie Baird, “Then I will encourage next time it comes up for renewal that no one votes for it in Sunset. I will make sure we can and if that is your solution than fine.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That is your right, yes ma’am.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Thank you Ms. Carrie. Next we have Mr. Ray Rougeau. Give us your name, address and phone number please.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau addressed the council. He stated, “My name is Ray Rougeau. 324 Romar Drive, Washington, La. 337-580-0514. The reason why I am here is because we are trying to see if we can get our road given back to the parish. I have been living there for over 15 years and we got over 15 residents on that road and I never got a reason why the parish would not take it. We are paying taxes on the road.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “You are in the city limits of Washington?”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “No, we are out of the city limits. We are in District 5.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “That is your District Mr. Taylor. Would you elaborate?”

Mr. Harold Taylor stated, “Romar Road is a private road.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “I know that, that is why we were trying.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “The ordinance presently says that it has to be black topped before we can accept it. We have been working on an ordinance and just recently got word that the district attorney told us that it would be a conflict of interest. Exactly what did he say Jessie?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We did have an ordinance to put in place. Our District Attorney who is our attorney advised us not to do that because of liability reasons. No matter what types of waivers we would get done we would still be liable for anything that happens on these roads because our ordinance says that we need to have it a certain Spec to get into the system.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “What I am getting at is this: Do we know that the road is not the Spec’s? Or is it?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I can get somebody to go and look at it. If it is a gravel road then automatically it does not fit. It has to be a black top road and it has to meet the criteria.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “What I am getting at and this is another thing. We are paying the same tax as people that have a pave road but we don’t get the service they get.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Whenever you brought the property it was a private road then correct?”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “That is not the point that I am getting at. Yes it was but the point that I am getting at is that we are still paying the same amount of money that people that have a paved road.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The difference is that you own the road.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “Okay, if I own it why do I have to pay you all taxes on it?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So the taxes that you pay at your home is going to be the Ad Valorem Tax. You have the Health Unit Tax and you have a Jail Tax. You don’t pay any property tax related to roads in our parish.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “I don’t.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No sir, not property tax, no sir.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “I don’t pay property tax?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, no property tax goes to roads where you live at.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “I pay taxes in this parish and everything and I am on a gravel road. If it is up to par and it has the right dimensions and everything just because it is a gravel road or not I don’t see why.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Because our parish ordinance details exactly what a road suppose to be to be considered a parish road or to be taken in as a parish road.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “If you get with me later today or in the next few days. I live on a private road. It is a limestone road. We kick in so many dollars a year to grade it and to put gravel on it and I will be happy to share with you who does it and what they charge to do it if you all want to do that. This guy and I have been working on getting these private road back into the public system for 6 years. The latest is just a few weeks ago that the attorney said that we can’t do that.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “That is why I am saying that he is saying you all have the responsibility. That is the point. You all will have the responsibility. You don’t take over a road and say I won’t have responsibilities. Why would we want you to take it over?”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “At the time Romar Subdivision was built I was the Mayor of Palmetto and we put in the water system. At that time if the developer would have given it to the parish they would have accepted it, it did not happen. It did not happen. Now 20-25 years later this is what we got.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “The same thing 25 years ago is the same thing. The property changed, everything is still the same. To be honest instead of taking the escape goat out the attorney said this and that.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Mr. Ray, we have been working on this pretty diligently like he said for 6 years. It is frustrating not just on your end but on our end. I am going to tell you that our hands are basically tied. The Parish President just indicated the limitations of what we have. I am to the point where we will almost have to go or probably need to go legislatively to Baton Rouge to get these things changed. I have and he has in his district a designated road district that we pay taxes for as well as paying the parish tax. My constituents like you that have private roads are paying double taxes and getting zero service. The point that I am getting at is it is going to take something larger than here or larger than us where we will be talking to our representative and our senators to see if we can get the verbiage changed or at least let the state take a look at what we can do in a symptomatic way to give you guys the constituents and people that needs this taken care of for you to have mail delivery, bus routes, just general use and garbage pickup. These things are all out of our control as we speak but that does not mean that we are not going to try and do something about it as we have been trying.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “It is about one quart of a mile and kids have to walk all the way to the main road.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “I am sorry about that but the point is that we have a battle and we are going to follow legal advice and do what we have to do to make it better.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correction, do you live on Romar which is by Palmetto off of HWY 10? Is that in the Paxton District? Then you are paying a 15 mil property tax.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “I am paying taxes and I am not getting the services that I should be getting.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “No Sir.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “I am not getting the services that I suppose to be getting and I am paying the taxes. In other words I am getting robbed. Point blank everyone that is living on that road is getting robbed.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Like I said before there is noting that we can do as a government to fix this other than what Mr. Marks is saying. I think that we can make some changes on the state level which will change the statue.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “In the meantime until all of this get clear can we get our money back for these taxes that we are paying for that we are not getting any service?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That tax money is not coming to the Government it is going to District 5 Tax Commission. That is another story by itself.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “You said that the children on that road had to walk a quarter of a mile. I am in the school system as well and if you can make an agreement with the Superintendent Mr. Milton Batiste where as everybody on that road basically will have to sign off whereas the bus would not damage anything and they would not be responsible for any damages that the bus would occur from going down that road and they would need a turn-a-round point. Like right now, with that turn-a-round point and everything else that bus does not go down that road.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “No.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “If you can get together with Mr. Milton Batiste and their attorney Mr. Courtney Journey. It will be like a whole harmless agreement whereas we are going to send the bus down there and turn it around but you all would not hold the St. Landry Parish School Board responsible for any type of damage that would be to the road. You all can also do that with the postal service as well. Are all of your mail boxes are on the road as well?”

Mr. Ray Rougeneau stated, “All of the mail boxes are on the road? The postal services is already saying the road has too many pot holes and stuff. That is why they made us put our boxes to the main road.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “That is the problem. There are a lot of pot holes. You identified it as a good gravel road but now the pot holes is the situation. Mr. Brown would you please get with his superintendent and ask him to get a hold to these people and maybe come up with some kind of a solution.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Yes Sir.”

Mr. Ray Rougeau stated, “Sir, excuse me. It is a gravel road. It does have a little pot hole, it has pot holes in it. I am not trying to say I was trying to give you a different story. That is what you just said.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Well I understood it to be a smooth road but now it has pot holes in it.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “I will get with you regarding the School Board System and we will get together. I will get with you.”

Mr. Greg Johnson addressed the council. He stated, “Hello everyone my name is Greg Johnson. My address is P.O. Box 1159, Gray Louisiana. 70359. I am here in support of Mr. Willie Haynes, Former Board Member and Commissioner of St. Landry Housing Authority. I am currently the VP of Commissioners for Louisiana Housing Counsel. As I told the committee previously it saddens me that I have to come here and try to encourage or persuade this board to reconsider Mr. Haynes appointment to the St. Landry Housing Authority Board. Just today in fact we had a conference in Lake Charles and if any one of you were present and saw the amount of people that asked for Mr. Willie Haynes because of his professionalism, because of his knowledge you would be shocked, people from all over the state. In fact they wanted to get a bus to come to this meeting. I was like no that is not necessary, I represent the council at the meeting. It was told to me that he was removed from the board for negligence in duties. I can tell you Mr. Haynes help write some of the rules, write some of the regulations and he brought honest and dignity in addition to his professionalism to the council so I am asking this board to reconsider. Mr. Haynes is an ideal person to represent any parish in this state on the council. His current position was the Senior VP of the Louisiana Housing Council which is a big deal, it takes years to get to that position and he finally got there. He would be next in line to possibly be the President of The Louisiana Housing Counsel and to take and remove him in a blink of an eye in a meeting instantly for negligence of duties without providing an explanation or without providing an opportunity to correct whatever it is that he may have or may not have done wrong I think is a dis-service to St. Landry Parish. There is no Board Commissioner that is going to be privy to all of the HUD rules and regulations, you have Executive Directors for 40 or 50 years and they still don’t know the regulations because this is something that constantly changes. The day to day operations is on the Executive Director not on any Commissioner. If there is some rules that is not being followed that is on the Executive Director. Overall it is the Board of Commissioners to oversee that the finance are good, they create laws and rules that dictates what happens on the Housing Authority but the day to day operations they can’t expect nobody to remember every single thing that HUD have because I can’t remember it, people have been there for 50 years can’t remember it. I am simply saying that if the real reason was for negligence of duties we would like those duties spelled out, what was negligent? Also give this man that gave 31 years of his live to the Housing Authority an opportunity to correct it, an opportunity to finish his term out. That is the least that this body can do for somebody who gave 31 years of their live. I am asking you guys to reconsider and reappoint him to the Housing Board. Thank you.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Are there any questions for Mr. Johnson? Thank you Sir.”

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to approve the **Regular Meeting Minutes from August 21st, 2024** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Ernest Blanchard. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to approve **the Special Meeting Minutes from September 4th, 2024** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Ernest Blanchard. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

VII. PARISH PRESIDENT REPORT:

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So we have an update on Bayou Mallet and Bayou Carron. We have to re-bid that project out. Part of the advertisement was not done correctly. We are talking to the Legislative Auditors Attorney along with our attorney at the same time. We threw out the bid and we have started the process all over again. It is being done immediately so it will not be

a long time to wait. Cynthia has a program that she is applying for. I will let her speak on that dealing with the housing and basically cleaning up our parish.”

Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “If you will see in front of you they have an immediate release. It is a Grant Application that we have to have a Public Hearing on and it is scheduled for October 1st, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. It is open to the public and it will be here in the council room. On this Grant, we can apply up to \$500,000.00 that is the max. This is going to be geared toward beautifying the parish, demolishing the privately owned homes that we demolished. That property owner maybe cannot afford to do so and this would be a good time for them to contact our office and we would have to get different documents signed. It would be that we can demolish it and it is no cost to the property owner. They don’t lose their property. It is just helping to clean up the parish. I just want to advise you all what this is in reference to. If you see the sheet I have place one and if you all have any other questions or if you know of anyone prior to submitting the application we have to get a list of property owners that have some homes or any kind of structure, it does not have to be a house it can be a structure on the property that needs cleaning, need demolishing to contact me because I have to get them to sign a Proposed Agreement that if we do get the grant they would agree for us to go on to their property to complete that.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I think this is like in St. Martin Parish or one of the other parishes.”

Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “Right, St. Martin and Evangeline Parish. They got some money and we came across this so we are applying for it.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Is there a limitation, people have a bunch of rent houses and they are going to apply maybe because they want to demolish them because they are all in disarray. Is there a limit to how many properties for one person?”

Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “I will have to check on that. I am not sure about that question to give that answer.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “The Grant, does it require a match from the parish?”

Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “No Sir.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Is this a one time?”

Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “Yes Ma’am.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “As long as the \$500,000.00 will go.”

Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “Right, just as long as this money is available. That is the max. We can get \$250,000.00 but the max is \$500,000.00 and we are going for the max because we are a large parish, that way we could help more residents.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “It is a first come, first serve?”

Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “Yes, Ma’am. Applications are going to be due in Baton Rouge by December 16th, but we are going to submit it hopefully by December 9th, 2024.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Do you need the applications of the people before?”

Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “I need them to contact me. Yes Ma’am, it has to be attached to the application. If you know anyone have them contact the office so we can get that information so I can go out and inspect the home and speak to the property owner and get them to sign the pre-agreement so we can submit it with the application.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Basically I want to know if we are going to notify the public of this besides this meeting. Do you have a means or an avenue to do that?”

Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “Yes sir, it has already been released to the media. It is out there and we are going to try and advertise as much as we can to get it out there. If anybody have any questions or concerns they can contact the office but we do have an open meeting, a Public Hearing on October 1st, at 5:30 p.m.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Okay and that is where?”

Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement Officer stated, “Here at the council office.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The next thing I have is two Resolutions dealing with the Airport. The first one is **Resolution No. 017-2024**. This is for the obstruction removal project. The project is funded through FAA and DOTD. You should have a copy in front of you. I think it is \$334,618.00.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Do I have a motion to pass this Resolution 017-2024?”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to approve **Resolution No. 017-2024**.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 017-2024

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Government, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (LA-DOTD) have determined it to be in their mutual interest to facilitate the development of the herein described project at the St. Landry Parish Airport, to wit:

OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL ON NORTH AND SOUTH ENDS OF 18-36 AT ST. LANDRY PARISH AIRPORT

WHEREAS, the estimated total cost of the Project is \$334,618 and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) agrees to participate in the project cost up to the maximum amount of ninety percent (90%) or \$301,156 and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA-DOTD) agrees to participate in the Project cost up to the maximum amount of ten percent (10%) or \$33,462 of the estimated total cost of the project; and

WHEREAS, both parties now wish to formalize the arrangement on the Louisiana Airport Construction and Development Priority Program Airport Grant Application Form for Funding Year 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. St. Landry Parish Government confirms its desire to enter into an agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA-DOTD); and
2. Project amounts will be as follows:
 - a. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA): 90% or \$301,156
 - b. Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA-DOTD): 10% or \$33,462
3. Jessie Bellard, Parish President, is herein specifically authorized to enter into and sign such documents as may be necessary, including future modifications, time extensions, and project scope changes with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “**Resolution No. 018-2024** is for the Fuel Apron Pavement Rehabilitation that the state is putting in place with the Feds. The total amount is \$319,275.00. Ninety percent from the Fed is 10% from the state. That is to re-do the apron at the Airport by the Fuel Tanks.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to approve **Resolution 018-2024**.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Ernest Blanchard. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 018-2024

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Government, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (LA-DOTD) have determined it to be in their mutual interest to facilitate the development of the herein described project at the St. Landry Parish Airport, to wit:

FUEL APRON PAVEMENT REHABILITATION

WHEREAS, the estimated total cost of the Project is \$319,275 and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) agrees to participate in the project cost up to the maximum amount of ninety percent (90%) or \$287,348 and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA-DOTD) agrees to participate in the Project cost up to the maximum amount of ten percent (10%) or \$31,927 of the estimated total cost of the project; and

WHEREAS, both parties now wish to formalize the arrangement on the Louisiana Airport Construction and Development Priority Program Airport Grant Application Form for Funding Year 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. St. Landry Parish Government confirms its desire to enter into an agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA-DOTD); and
2. Project amounts will be as follows:
 - a. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA): 90% or \$287,348
 - b. Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA-DOTD): 10% or \$31,927
3. Jessie Bellard, Parish President, is herein specifically authorized to enter into and sign such documents as may be necessary, including future modifications, time extensions, and project scope changes with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The next one is **Resolution No. 019-2024**. This is a \$2,200,000.00 project that myself, Councilman Lejeune and Councilman Edwards worked on in D.C. It finally is coming to life. Basically it is everything that we need at the airport dealing with safety, stripping, basically we are going to have everything that has an issue is going to be fixed with this money. It is not a catch all but it is dealing with safety. We have a lot of projects at the airport and that is all being ministered through the FAA and the other 10 percent is from the State Department of Transportation."*

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to approve **Resolution No. 019-2024**.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Ernest Blanchard. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

Resolution No. 019-2024.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Government, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (LA-DOTD) have determined it to be in their mutual interest to facilitate the development of the herein described project at the St. Landry Parish Airport, to wit:

Airport Improvements (Earmark)

WHEREAS, the estimated total cost of the Project is \$2,200,000 and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) agrees to participate in the project cost up to the maximum amount of ninety percent (90%) or \$1,980,000 and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA-DOTD) agrees to participate in the Project cost up to the maximum amount of ten percent (10%) or \$220,000 of the estimated total cost of the project; and

WHEREAS, both parties now wish to formalize the arrangement on the Louisiana Airport Construction and Development Priority Program Airport Grant Application Form for Funding Year 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. St. Landry Parish Government confirms its desire to enter into an agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA-DOTD); and
2. Project amounts will be as follows:
 - a. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA): 90% or \$1,980,000
 - b. Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA-DOTD): 10% or \$220,000
3. Jessie Bellard, Parish President, is herein specifically authorized to enter into and sign such documents as may be necessary, including future modifications, time extensions, and project scope changes with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to accept the Parish President's Report.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

***Items passed through committee.**

1. Further discuss re-appointing Mr. Willie Hayes III back to the St. Landry Parish Housing Authority Board.

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Mr. Chairman, I really don't know how to start this conversation but let me start by saying I have been knowing this guy most of his life. I served with him as Mayor. He was the Mayor of Melville and I was the Mayor of Palmetto for three terms, I was there for God know how long. He served on the Police Jury for two terms and honorable guy. He spent 30 years working in the Housing Authority on the board. I meet with Mr. Bellard this afternoon to see if we could come to a compromise on this and it just did not happen. What gives me heartburn is that according to the Revised Statute 5:37, the removal of Commissioners it says: No. 1. A Commissioner of a Local Housing Authority may be removed for neglected duty, misconduct in office or conviction of any felon. The letter he received from Mr. Bellard regarding his removal says:

Dear Mr. Willie Haynes III:

Effective immediately you are hereby removed from St. Landry Parish Housing Authority. With all of the recent information given to me I feel it is in the best interest that I appoint another member.

Did he commit a crime, was he a convicted felon or did he neglect his duties I really don't know what the grounds he was dismissed on. This is a state law this is not a parish law. I am going to make a motion that we re-appoint Mr. Willie Haynes to finish his term out then the President has all the authority to re-appoint someone else after that, I think you have two years left is that correct? We will need a second before we can discuss it."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I have a motion do I have a second for Mr. Taylor's motion? Do I have a second for Mr. Taylor's motion?"

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Second for Mr. Taylor's motion."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Brown, you have the floor.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “I have a question for Mr. Bellard. Mr. Bellard in the event that the vote is not favorable to Mr. Haynes I am looking at the legal aspect of it. Is everything in order whereas Mr. Haynes cannot come back and file suite against St. Landry Parish Government.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Anybody can file suite against the Government, it is what it is. I can’t tell you yes or no. That is going to be a question for Mr. Haynes to answer. The process that we took and everything that we did was what I was advised to do.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Thank you Sir.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Yes, I would like to address Mr. Haynes if he could step forward if it is okay.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “The floor is open, you are asking for his presence.”

Mr. Willie Haynes addressed the council. He stated, “Yes, Ma’am, good afternoon to each and every one of you.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Mr. Haynes, I have a couple of questions for you. Have you had a lot of complaints in doing your duties as one of the Board Members?”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “Ms. Carriere I am very fortunate and very thankful of the 31 years of my tenure and this is the gospel truth, I have only encountered two incidents. One was with a disgruntle employee that was terminated by the Executive Director. The Commissioners have no authority to hire and fire the employees. Commissioners are only responsible for hiring Executive Directors. Of my 31 years of tenure not one, not one landlord have come before the board to submit a grievance to the Commissioners in all of that time. Undoubtedly we are doing something right or our staff, the Executive Director and her staff are taking care of any problems as they develop before they are brought to the board. If they are brought to the board we respond immediately to them. That is the answer.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I have a few other questions. You stated last meeting that you had all of the certifications that were required of you.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “Yes, there is no doubt about it. I have gone to several conferences whereas certificates were accomplished. Again as I have said earlier these certificates are not just given to you because you attend the conference you have responsibilities at that conference to attend these workshops and they are recorded. You have to sign in and sign out from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You have lunch breaks and breaks in between but they are not just given to you at the end of the conference and say here couch blanch, here is your certificated.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Another question that I have, Mr. Bellard stated that you were, I guess, what was the word? He did not, so we know that you did not commit a crime.

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “Oh God no.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “So do you feel that you have performed your duties.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “To the best of my ability, whenever an issue was brought before the board, beyond a shadow of a doubt my services were rendered accurately.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “One of the reasons why I think that you have a term that you should be allowed to complete is because you completed all what was required of you, all of the certifications. We as councilmembers have certifications that we have to do. I don’t think that it is handed to us, I think any one of us that is sitting here have jobs that we

were fortunate to perform in our lifetime and we had to earn our paychecks. For me, if you have done the job and you have not had any write ups or any complaints.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “Not any from HUD.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “That is what I was fixing to ask you. I have done a little bit of research from people, the tenants and the employees, your interaction. Yes, you have a lot of qualifications on paper so I wanted to know how you handle the tenants, how you handled your employees which I know that you don’t have day to day contact or any decision making.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “Well some of them I will see within the community. As far as the tenants themselves or residence that have come before the board to say Willie this is a problem and we want to go before the board with. We are encouraged to let them work with the Executive Director and their staff first because they are the ones who handle the day to day operation. Now if it is something that we see that is really major any Commissioner can call the Executive Director and let them know that I spoke with a resident and they are having this type of problem.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Mr. Haynes, I feel in my opinion that you should be able to complete your term. If there is anything that is required of you that is lacking I think that we should come together, the Parish President and yourself and we should try and resolve it.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “I am willing to work with anyone, the entire board, I am a people person, I am a Public Servant, I want to help, I can help and I will help if I am allowed. Allow me to finish out my term, present my services and as they said earlier if the Parish President or you as the board as a whole decide that the services that we observed is no longer up to par and I think that we need to replace you with someone else.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “That was one of the reasons why I asked about the complaints.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “There were no complaints brought to the board other than those two.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Yes and I understand. One of the things Mr. Bellard and we had spoken about was that everybody has to be held accountable. As far as I am concerned I think that you have done your job. I think that you should be reinstated for the next 2 years to complete your term. If there are any changes to be made I think that you are willing to work with that. That is just my opinion. Thank you for answering the questions.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “That is what I am asking the board to do. Are there any other questions? Please speak now.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “Mr. Hayes, thank you for your time. I respect your stance. My question is: Do you feel that you have given the parish tenants, if you will, every opportunity to access every program that is available to them where they can excel in Public Housing maybe to the next level?”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “For what we have available. I can’t say 100 percent because there are so many programs that are out there that I am not aware of. If the Executive Director of our Housing Authority or any Housing Authority receive any type of grant or any type of program that presented to the Commissioners we are going to jump on it immediately to try and provide those services for our residence. That is our job to provide safe and affordable housing. We have programs for students that are in high school where there are scholarships that are available through LHC. We submit that to the different schools. We have done what we are suppose to do.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “Do you feel that your Director have done everything?”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “The 31 years that I have been there all of our Audits were up to par. All problems that were handled on a day to day operation was solved to a reasonable satisfaction because it never made it to the board.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Thank you very much for your service. I was wondering how many members are on your council?”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “It is a six member board. Normally it would have been a five member board but under the administration of the former Senator Cravins there was an issue of urgency to place another member because they wanted someone from Eunice so he pushed it through the Legislation because he was a Senator.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “So you have six members. Of those six members are you the only one on the board that is certified like you just told us?”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “To the level that I am at yes.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Those levels are reachable by what?”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “By attending workshops and attending conferences to get your certificate and also by going on line when it is time for the Ethics Training and Sexual Harassment Training.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “So none of the other Board Members attempted.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “They are in the process.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Are they fairly new members?”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “No, a lot of them work. What happened to me, after I retired I was able to invest more time into the Housing Authority, LHC with Mr. Greg. I released as VP of Commissioners because it was moving through the pipe line that Commissioners in the future would have to become certified. So I started taking these courses to become certified. I passed it on to all of the Commissioners when we would have LHC Meetings that was one of the items on my agenda to tell the Commissioners to get your certification because it is moving down the pipeline in order for you to be on the board you are going to have to become certified.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “So HUD just basically submitted this as a requirement?”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “It is not in black and white but it is moving.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “It is headed in that direction.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “It gives me an edge here tonight because I am certified. I am certified for the next three years 2027. This is my second time being certified.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “I will end with this. Our Parish President and ourselves are trying to come up with some type of guidelines and ordinances that is going to dictate to us the quality people that we need to have on these boards. It is not just your board it is every board.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “Every board, Every Commissioner.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “So we are going to be paying a lot more attention to that and the accountability and the responsibility of every board member if they are not followed as far as what they need to do then actions could possibly approached. We are just letting the people in the public know as well as yourself that it has gone to the side for to many years and now we need to pay attention to the details and that is why we are going to go forward with it.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “I have dotted my ‘I’s’ and crossed my ‘T’s.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Thank you Mr. Chairman.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Jody White. Mr. Haynes would you please stay up.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “I am going to lead to a question and the answer is just ‘Yes’ or ‘No.’ I don’t want an explanation. I want to ask you this: Obviously you have been in it long enough, you have certifications, you have knowledge of what your job is but at some point there was a meeting between you, the Parish President or someone of that effect and obviously something was asked of you.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “That I did not know.”

Councilman Jody White continued to stated, “And maybe there were inadequate answers. All I want to know is do you know what those question were that maybe you had inadequate answers to?”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “Yes, I know exactly what the questions were.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “Okay that is what I want to know, that is what I want to know.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “The answer that I gave was not inadequate. It was honest and to the point. Can I tell you what the questions were? The questions were: When is inspection? Well that is the job of the Executive Director and her staff. We don’t know when they are going to have inspections. Someone from the Housing Authority could call and say that they have a water leak. We would not know that, that is the maintenance department and the Executive Director, they would handle that. The question that is in question is Inspection of Section 8 Properties during COVID.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I am sorry. I don’t want to interrupt you but I am asking you to repeat just what you said before during COVID. I did not catch that. The Inspection.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “Inspection for Section 8.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Section 8 Housing.”

Mr. Willie Haynes continued to state, “Section 8 Housing. This is where you have Landlords who have houses that they rent out to residence. During COVID they stopped going out and doing Inspections. What happened was they started going out if there was a complaint they would take a picture of it. Now we were aware of that, the board because they would bring the pictures to us. In the conversation that we had he asked if I was aware of the new HUD Ruling whereas if you are videoing it needs to be shown dual where as if I am here videoing it needs to be shown at the Housing Authority Office. I said well no I am not familiar with that, I am not, it had not been passed to the Commissioners. I don’t know all of the rules and regulations, the ends and the outs. Even with the time I have spent there if our Executive Director would have gotten that ruling and passed it on to us and we was not doing it then I can say that I was in violation and I had done something wrong but I was honest, I explained it that I was not familiar with it. Mr. Greg, we are still trying to find that ordinance where he was talking about whereas you have to have the videoing going on at the same time at the place and at the office. Then they said that the pictures did not have a date on them well we looked at the pictures and we did not notice whether or not the date was on them because you had water leaks, you had paper and trash all on the floor so we just looked at and the Executive Director was going to take care of it and send the maintenance men out and correctly not the Commissioners. There was no motion even needed to be made on the pictures, she was just giving us an update on what was transpired, that was it. That was the question.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “A statement, it appears as though you had a lot of trust and a lot of faith in your Director.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “Yes.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette continued to stated, “This is just me. I feel that she disappointed you. A question to the council: Do we have or does the Parish President is within his rights and his means to make this departure for Mr. Haynes?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “According to the Statue it is within the authority of the Parish President to make a removal based on whether he thinks it is neglected duties or the other two. Then it goes on to the next step which is today there is no legal loophole that is going to prevent this council from voting today. So the council can take their vote today, the only other thing I can say is that whatever motion that is made needs to be stated again very clearly, it is seconded. So each councilman will know clearly what they are voting for or against.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “Counsel, does the President have a right?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Yes.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “Okay, thank you.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Yes.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Bellard do you want to speak now or do you want to wait until every councilmember have spoken?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No I am going to speak on this issue right here.”

Mr. Willie Haynes stated, “I can have a seat now?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard continued to state, “Other than that I have my official statement that I gave to the council. Regarding the rule that changed in December of 2020 that was changed because of COVID, but pictures are not allowed, it has to be live video between the two parties other than that it is not acceptable. Our problem is this and this becomes where our liability for me as a Parish President knowing that this activity took place, knowing that every month a document has to be turned in for these landlords to get their money knowing all of the information that I know regarding this issue they were doing it wrong okay. Obviously Mr. Haynes did not know what the right way to do this and maybe he did not have to know it but the agency itself should have known it. When it comes to two hundred and something thousands of dollars a month of Federal Government monies and I appoint a board I expect that board to be active, I expect that board to know the general responsibilities of their function and this was not done. Therefore this is what I did. In the 31 years, thank you for what you did, I get it all of that information at that time nobody knew who really appointed who. At the time I was notified that it was my appointments to make, I take those appointments very seriously because it is a responsibility that I have and also a liability that I have. So the decision that I made was based off of more than just this one question but it told me a lot that the Director advise them of inadequate information and nobody checked into it. I did go to HUD last week and met with the Director’s over there and I went through the whole process with them and I can promise you they are going to have a visitor from Washington pretty soon because a lot of the stuff that we discussed is not being done at that time. Is it anybody’s fault, I don’t know because HUD has not been here in years. They usually come do inspections on the process, they have not been here. They have been shorthanded, I get it. If a document is going to be signed and money is to be transferred and it is a board that I have to appoint then they are going to have to know their job.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I have two things to say. One is our council answered your question correctly that Mr. Bellard does have the right to remove the person but he also answered that it is almost like a VETO. The board can make a decision also. The next thing I have to say is this: Mr. Bellard you mentioned that when the board is not functioning properly we should remove the board. If that is the case I think that the whole board needs to be removed because they were all negligent in doing some duties. One person should not be held accountable for the whole board.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So the Chairman of the Board is responsible for the Board. Same thing here, Mr. Ardoin is responsible for the actions of this council in a council meeting making sure that the agendas are out here and making sure that things needs to get done, that is how the system operates. Without going into too much detail and I told some councilmembers I am not going to embarrass anybody because it is not an embarrassment moment. It is that I am responsible for this board and I take that responsibility like it needs to be done. I think in the long run we are going to see a lot more boards that we appoint as a council and as a Parish President that you are going to see some removals or they are going to have some that are going to resign because everybody in this council needs to realize something these board are in place in lieu of us doing it. They represent us and the people vote use in, not these board. I take my job very seriously, I did what I did and I am not going into too much details because I don’t want to embarrass anybody because it is not about that. I did give you all an official statement right here and I gave it to the press. Everybody is welcome to have it and I stand by it.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “A couple of things. To follow up on FJ’s question in R. S. 5:37 Section B-1 it goes on to say that the governing body shall determine whether a removal shall be upheld. So we do have a vote on it. I yield at the time.”

Mr. Greg Johnson stated, “I just wanted to make one comment. If there were any serious deficiencies, any serious issues this body and the Parish Government would be aware of it. HUD has a thousand checks and balances in place. I do some of the auditing for HUD and I can tell you if there were any issues, if there were any serious issues this body would have been notified, Parish Council would have been notified and it would have been well documented. I would simply say even if there are some minor in fractures which of course we want our boards to be perfect, we want our government body to be perfect but you have a ton of checks and balances with the Housing Authority because you get a lot of Federal Money. Those oversight, those audits and those inspections they come up even if just one client complains they send and investigative team out. I understand the Parish President said that they were shorthanded, yes they were shorthanded but the inspections were still done. I have a copy of the inspections and there have not been a whole lot of violations with the St. Landry Parish Housing Authority. I can guarantee you if it was anything that was eye rising, money issues, violations or rules you would know about it. On any inspection they find something, that is their job but they do it to make the Housing Authority better. I can tell you St. Landry have not had that many violations. I just want to assure you that even if this body is not looking this is one Board and Commission that is overseeing very heavily by HUD. That should give you guys some comfort.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So the reason why I take my job so seriously is because I want to make sure that we do this right. I went to New Orleans and I sat down with the people in New Orleans, the directors that take care of this. I don’t just listen to what somebody is telling me or providing a documentation that nobody can provide, I go and I talk to the people that is in charge. My answers and my statement is based off of my own investigation that I did and I can assure you it does not stop with just this one statement after this meeting is over with. I have a responsibility and all of you have a responsibility for the rest of these boards. We appoint 100 members to these boards, 100. Out of that 100 60 percent of them do not including this board do not do the Ethics Training, Sexual Harassment and the Cyber Certification. When the initial conversation that we had with them they sat there and they said oh yes, we do all of those certifications. Well you should be able to find that but they can’t find them and the state does not have record of it. My thing is this, we have this on every board and I stand by my decision. Again, I went and sit down with the HUD Personnel to find out the information so I can better serve our people of our parish.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Final question Mr. Chairman. I think the council need to consider two things. One, we appointed this gentlemen several years ago, 12 to 0. Two, A Commissioner of a local Housing Authority may be removed for three reasons: Neglect of duty, misconduct in office or conviction as a felon. Has he been terminated for any of these reasons, no? I rest my case.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “You have a motion on the floor that he continues serving on this board until his term is over with and he has agreed to that. He will be glad to remove himself after his term is over with.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I have a statement that I would like to make. I would like to say that I have no doubt in my mind that Mr. Haynes is qualified based on what was presented to this board. I also will not base my decision on him not being able to answer some questions that is not my situation. I have constituents in that area that I have to represent that I have taken into consideration before I make my decision but it is not based on him not be qualified, I feel that he is highly qualified but that is not my reason.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I just want to ask one last question. I know Mr. Bellard you are doing checks and balances which I appreciate because I had trouble with boards. In this case I know that you said some of the board members had not completed their certifications, do you know with the six board members if Mr. Haynes have completed his certifications, Sexual Harassment, Ethics and all of the certifications that were required of him? Do you know if he has completed it?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So here is the answer, no.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “So he has not.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “For the last five years none of the board members have continually done their Sexual Harassment or any of the Ethics Training. I am answering the question.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I am going to ask that we not continue going back and forth. I think that we have a motion on the floor and a second. I think that it is time for us to go ahead and vote. We can stay here all night long and exchange okay. At this time I am going to ask that the vote be called. Madam Clerk. You have a motion on the floor. Would you repeat the motion before we vote? The motion that Mr. Taylor made. If I am correct he had a second for his motion.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “The motion is to re-appoint Willie Haynes to the St. Landry Parish Housing Authority to serve out his term.”

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to re-appoint Mr. Willie Haynes to the St. Landry Parish Housing Authority to serve out his term ending 08-17-2026.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks and Alvin Stelly.
NAYS: Jody White, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSENT:** Ernest Blanchard. **ABSTAINED:** None.
WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

****Motion Failed**

The vote were as follows

<i>Name</i>	<i>Vote</i>
<i>Councilman Jody White</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Councilwoman Nancy Carriere</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilman Faltery Jolivette</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Councilwoman Mildred Thierry</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Councilman Harold Taylor</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilman Ken Marks</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilman Alvin Stelly</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Councilwoman Vivian Olivier</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Councilman Dexter Brown</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Councilman Timmy Lejeune</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Councilman Jimmie Edwards</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Councilman Ernest Blanchard</i>	<i>Absent</i>

2. St. Landry Parish Council to serve as the Board of Review for anyone present + wishing to file a protest in reference to his or her property values.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Do I have anyone in the audience who have any comments in reference to the Board of Review on your taxes that you are paying?”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. Chairman, I thought that was settled.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The appeal that was filed was withdrawn before the meeting. The e-mail was sent.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “It was e-mailed. I advised you of that one Mr. Taylor. The one that I gave you before the meeting. The one that Ms. Sherry advised through an e-mail to Ms. Sherell.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It has been withdrawn. They withdrew their own appeal.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Is there anyone else. You don’t have anyone else Ms. Sherell?”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “No. that was it.”

3. Authorize Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain to review the changes to Ward One South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 Map and file an updated copy with Clerk of Court.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Mr. Chairman, that ordinance is before the council for introduction this evening. The purpose of the ordinance is to file a Revised Drainage Map for that Drainage District. I believe our chairman have a copy of the Revised Drainage Map and soon I will to. Once it is passed by the council next week the ordinance will be recorded in the court house and that ordinance and that revised drainage map will be stored here in the council chambers.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Boagni who is the one that made the map is present in the audience. He has furnished every board member with a copy of Ward One South Drainage Map and he will furnish our clerk with a copy to be on file here. I need a motion to authorize.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to authorize Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain to review the changes to Ward One South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 Map and file the updated copy with the Clerk of Court.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Ernest Blanchard. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

4. Further Discuss Retention-Detention Parish Wide and prepare an Ordinance for adoption for the October 2024 meeting.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “This ordinance which provides for a Drainage Impact Analysis pertaining to the entire parish and not one drainage district. I had spoken to one of our Engineers on the phone and it is not quite ready yet, it is almost ready, they are still refining it. That ordinance is up for introduction this evening and I believe that ordinance will be pulled or tabled until our engineers work out the final detail of it then that ordinance will be ready to be passed.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “We don’t need a motion on this. We will bring it up at a later date like you told me. It is a cake in the oven it is just waiting to be baked.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It is not ready to come out of the oven yet.”

5. Vote to re-appoint Dale Polozola for one appointment to Public Works Commission District Six for a four-year term. (10-20-2024 – 10-20-2028).

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to re-appoint Dale Polozola for one appointment to Public Works Commission District Six for a four-year term. (10-20-2024 – 10-20-2028).

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

6. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 3. (No Term Set).

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 3. (No Term Set).

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

7. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to Fire District No. 7 for a one and two year terms. (11-18-2024- 11-18-2025) and (11-18-2024 – 11-18-2026).

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to Fire District No. 7 for a one and two year terms. (11-18-2024- 11-18-2025) and (11-18-2024 – 11-18-2026).

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

8. Present the Council with a copy of the Minutes from the new trash pickup company that was introduced by Mr. Richard LeBouef.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I am requesting that we pull this. Thank you.”

IX. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-037 **Pulled**

AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE A DRAINAGE IMPACT ANALYSIS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ST. LANDRY PARISH BEFORE THE NEW RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT SHALL BE APPROVED BY ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT, AND THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE LOCATED IN CHAPTER 36 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I think we are pulling this until next month. This is the parish wide one. It will be ready by next month.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Are you good with that Mr. Boagni? We do have a rough draft of it. I think you all each have a rough draft of it.”

Mr. Boagni stated, “The draft in front of you is from the board and it needs to have some verbiage from the parish.”

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-038
Sponsored by Chairman Wayne Ardoin

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2014-004, WHICH IS IN ARTICLE IV, DRAINAGE DISTRICTS, IN CHAPTER 36, IN THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN ORDER TO ADOPT A REVISED OFFICIAL DRAINAGE MAP OF THE WARD ONE SOUTH GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 1, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND DECLARING WARD ONE SOUTH GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 1 DRAINAGE PROJECT A PUBLIC NECESSITY THEREBY AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF ANY AND ALL NECESSARY IMMOVABLE PROPERTY RIGHTS, INCLUDING SERVITUDES, EASEMENTS, RIGHTS-OF-WAY, AND ANY AND ALL OTHER PROPERTY RIGHTS REQUISITE TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SAID DRAINAGE PROJECT EITHER ON AN AMICABLE BASIS OR THROUGH THE USE OF THE EXPROPRIATION PROCESS, IF NECESSARY

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-039
Sponsored by Councilman Harold Taylor

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESSORY STRUCTURE FOR FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION

X. ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:

A motion was made by Councilman Harold Taylor, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to Adopt Ordinance 2024-032.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Ernest Blanchard. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-032
(Sponsored By: Councilwoman Nancy Carriere)

AN ORDINANCE TO DONATE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY LOCATED ON BERNICE STREET, OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA, TO THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS FOR A SEWAGE TREATMENT STATION WHICH IS FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government owns a parcel of land on Bernice Street in the City of Opelousas.

WHEREAS, the City of Opelousas needs to construct and operate a sewage treatment station on said parcel of land on Bernice Street in the City of Opelousas.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Louisiana Article VII, section 14, prohibits the donation of a political subdivision's funds, property, or things of value to a private or public person or entity unless the donation meets the requirements of the Louisiana Supreme Court in the "Cabela" case, Board of Directors V. All Taxpayers, et al, 938 So. 2d 11 (La. 2006). Said requirements in that case are that the transfer of property from the political subdivision to a person or entity must be for a public purpose that comports with the governmental purpose which the entity has legal authority to pursue, the expenditure or transfer of public funds or property, taken as a whole, does not appear to be gratuitous, and evidence must demonstrate that the public entity has a demonstrable, objective, and reasonable expectation of receiving a benefit or value at least equivalent to the amount expended or transferred.

WHEREAS, the transfer of the parcel of land to the City of Opelousas for the City to construct and operate a sewage treatment station serves a public purpose, and is not gratuitous, because it will be cost effective, efficient, and facilitate increased responsiveness to the needs of the citizens of Opelousas for the sewage treatment station servicing their sewage to be owned by the City of Opelousas. St. Landry Parish Government and the City of Opelousas have a demonstrable, objective, and reasonable expectation of receiving a benefit or value equivalent to the property being conveyed.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that the following property shall be conveyed by an Act of Donation to the City of Opelousas, and said property is described as follows:

A certain tract or parcel of ground, situated in the Bernice Lastrapes Subdivision in Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, described as starting at a point (which is the Northeast corner of the tract now described) on the South line of Bernice Street which is 100 feet Westerly on said street from the Northwest corner of lot transferred on February 19, 1971, under Original Act No. 553635 in Conveyance Book B-17, page 20 and from said starting point proceed a distance of 100 feet in a Southerly direction parallel to the West line of said lot sold on February 19, 1971, to the Southeast Corner of the property now being described, thence proceed in a Westerly direction and parallel to the South line of Bernice Street a distance of 43 feet to the Southwest corner of the property now being described, thence proceed in a Northerly direction a distance of 90 feet to the Northeast corner of a tract of land sold under Act No. 517889 in Conveyance Book D-15, page 601, to the Northwest corner of the property now being described, thence proceed Easterly along the South boundary line of Bernice Street a distance of 62 feet to the point of beginning.

This property bears Parcel Number 0103477000.

All machinery, equipment, and other movables, that are necessary and/or being used in the processing and treatment of sewage in and around the sewage treatment plant on the above described parcel of land are hereby conveyed and transferred to the City of Opelousas, and shall be conveyed in the Act of Donation.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that St. Landry Parish President Jessie Bellard is hereby authorized to sign any and all documents and conveyances that are necessary to transfer the above described parcel of land, and the machinery, equipment, and other movables, that are necessary and/or being used in the processing and treatment of sewage in and around the sewage treatment plant on the above described parcel of land to the City of Opelousas.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-033
(Sponsored By: Councilman Alvin Stelly)

PULLED

AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE ROAD DISTRICTS SUB-1 ROAD DISTRICT 11-A, ROAD DISTRICT 12 OF WARD 2, AND ROAD DISTRICT 1 OF WARD 3, TO SUBMIT TO THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL ALL INVOICES AND RECEIPTS FOR PAYMENT FOR WORK PERFORMED ON THE ROADS IN THOSE ROAD DISTRICTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PAYMENTS ARE MADE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT ROAD DISTRICTS SUB-1 ROAD DISTRICT 11-A, ROAD DISTRICT 12 OF WARD 2, AND ROAD DISTRICT 1 OF WARD 3, SHALL SUBMIT TO THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL ALL INVOICES AND RECEIPTS FOR PAYMENT FOR WORK PERFORMED ON THE ROADS IN THOSE ROAD DISTRICTS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PAYMENTS ARE MADE.

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Harold Taylor to Adopt Ordinance 2024-034.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Ernest Blanchard. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-034
(Sponsored By: Councilman Harold Taylor)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 18-85 OF CHAPTER 18 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CHANGE THE WORDING IN SECTION 18-85 (c) TO READ “50 lots or 5 acres, whichever is lesser....”

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 1-06 of the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter states that the parish government shall have the power to pass all ordinances necessary to promote, protect, and preserve the general welfare, safety, health, peace, and orderly conduct of the parish, and this includes the power to pass ordinances on all subject matters not inconsistent with the constitution or denied by state law;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT SECTION 18-85 (c) OF CHAPTER 18 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES SHALL BE AMENDED AND NOW READ AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 18-85. - Standards for subdivision proposals.

- (a) All subdivision proposals, including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions, shall be consistent with this article and sections [18-2](#), [18-3](#), and [18-4](#).
- (b) All proposals for the development of subdivisions, including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions, shall meet floodplain development permit requirements of sections [18-31](#) and [18-61](#); and the provisions of this article.
- (c) Base flood elevation data shall be generated for subdivision proposals and other proposed development including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions which is greater than 50 lots or 5 acres, whichever is lesser, if not otherwise provided pursuant to [section 18-30](#) or [18-60\(a\)\(8\)](#).
- (d) All subdivision proposals, including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions, shall have adequate drainage provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards.
- (e) All subdivision proposals, including the placement of manufactured home parks and subdivisions, shall have public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-035
(Sponsored By: Councilman Ken Marks)

PULLED

An Ordinance to Establish Rules and Controls to Ensure the Accountability and Transparency of St. Landry Parish’s Local Governmental Entities.

- **WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Home Rule Charter Section 8-07(A) provides, “The parish council shall have general power over any special district or local agency previously created by the governing authority of St. Landry Parish or hereafter created by the council, including, without limitation, the power to abolish the agency and require prior approval of any charge, tax levy, or bond issue by the agency;”**
- **WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana provides, “The governing authority of a local governmental subdivision shall have general power over any agency heretofore or hereafter created by it, including, without limitation, the power to abolish the agency and require prior approval of any charge or tax levied or bond issued by the agency;”**
- **WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute Section 33:1415(B) provides, “In any case where the governing authority of any parish or municipality shall have created or established, or shall hereafter create or establish, any board, commission, agency, district, office, government of any entity whatever, having governmental functions, power or authority, such governing authority is hereby authorized to provide appropriate budgetary and fiscal controls over said agency or entity.... The parish or municipality shall exercise such other budgetary and fiscal controls as are necessary and proper to ensure the maximum feasible coordination of government on the local level;”**
- **WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute Section 42:12 provides, “It is essential to the maintenance of a democratic society that public business be performed in an open and public manner and that**

the citizens be advised of and aware of the performance of public officials and the deliberations and decisions that go into the making of public policy;”

- WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute Section 42:1102(18) and (19) define “public servant” as including public employees, elected officials, and appointed officials;
- WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute Section 42:1170(A)(3)(a)(i) requires public servants to “receive a minimum of one hour of education and training on the Code of Governmental Ethics during each year of his public employment or term of office;”
- WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute Section 42:343(A)(1) requires public servants to “receive a minimum of one hour of education and training on preventing sexual harassment during each full calendar year of his public employment or term of office;”
- WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute Section 42:1267(B)(1) states that each “local agency shall identify employees or elected officials who have access to the agency's information technology assets and require those employees and elected officials to complete cybersecurity training. Each new state and local agency official or employee with access to the agency's information technology assets shall complete this training within the first thirty days of initial service or employment with the agency.”
- WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute Section 33:1415(A) provides, “Where a parochial or municipal governing authority is given the power to appoint members to boards or commissions, whether presently or hereafter created, the governing authority shall also have the power to remove and replace the members or commissioners;” and,
- WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government considers accountability and transparency of the utmost importance for the meetings and operations of local governmental entities.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that the following Ordinance establishes rules and controls to ensure St. Landry Parish’s local governmental entities maintain accountability and transparency for the Parish citizens’ knowledge and benefit.

1. Annual Financial Review or Audit Required.

- a. All special districts and local agencies previously created or hereafter created by the governing authority of St. Landry Parish shall, within 120 days of the beginning of each calendar year, conduct a financial review or audit of the preceding year’s operations, expenditures, holdings, and debts.
- b. The financial review or audit must be performed by a licensed Certified Public Accountant, and the report of the financial review or audit must be provided to the St. Landry Parish Government within 180 days of the beginning of each calendar year.
- c. If the St. Landry Parish Government does not receive a report of the financial review or audit within 180 days, as required herein, the St. Landry Parish Government may retain a Certified Public Accountant to perform the financial review or audit, and may charge the non-reporting entity for all expenses incurred for the financial review or audit and for the preparation of the required report.
- d. If the St. Landry Parish Government retains a Certified Public Accountant to conduct the financial review or audit of the non-reporting entity, the non-reporting entity must provide (or allow the review of) all information and documentation required by the Certified Public Accountant to fully and properly conduct the financial review or audit

2. Video Recording of Public Meetings Required.

- a. All special districts and local agencies previously created or hereafter created by the governing authority of St. Landry Parish shall record by video all public meetings, including committee meetings. Proceedings conducted in Executive Session are not subject to this requirement.
- b. The video recordings of the public meetings must be delivered or transmitted to the St. Landry Parish Government within seventy-two (72) hours of the meeting.
- c. The St. Landry Parish Government shall upload and post the videos of the meetings for public viewing. The method and means of posting the videos for the public shall be at the sole discretion of the St. Landry Parish Government, and may change from time to time, after public notice.
- d. The failure of any St. Landry Parish special district or local agency to record public meetings by video and to deliver or transmit such records to the Parish Government shall provide the Council cause to conduct a review or investigation of the special district or local agency, and the Council may take any action authorized by the Charter, Code of Ordinances, or Louisiana law that it deems appropriate based on its finding.

3. Education and Training Required.

- a. All public servants, board members, and commissioners of any special districts or local agencies previously created or hereafter created by the governing authority of St. Landry Parish shall be required to receive a minimum of one hour of education and training on the Code of Governmental

Ethics during each year of his public employment or term of office, in accordance with the mandates of the Louisiana Code of Ethics, including La. Rev. Stat. § 42:1170.

- b. All public servants, board members, and commissioners of any special districts or local agencies previously created or hereafter created by the governing authority of St. Landry Parish shall be required to receive a minimum of one hour of education and training on preventing sexual harassment during each full calendar year of his public employment or term of office, in accordance with La. Rev. Stat. § 42:343.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to Adopt Ordinance 2024-036.

On roll call vote: **YEAS:** Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Ernest Blanchard. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-036

(Sponsored By: Councilman Ernest Blanchard)

AN ORDINANCE TO SELL ADJUDICATED PROPERTY TO AN ADJOINING LANDOWNER OF THE ADJUDICATED PROPERTY AS PER LA R.S. 47:2202 (B)

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 47:2202 B. states that the governing authority of each political subdivision may allow an adjoining landowner to purchase adjudicated property for any price set by the governing authority without public bidding at a public meeting of the governing authority; provided, that the governing authority determines that the adjoining landowner has maintained the adjudicated property for a period of one year prior to the sale. Such a sale shall be deemed a public sale.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government has determined that Edwin Patrick Manuel is the adjoining landowner of adjudicated property and has maintained said adjudicated property for a period of one year or more, and thus, Edwin Patrick Manuel may purchase the adjudicated property through a public sale without public bidding.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that the following adjudicated property shall be sold by public sale to Edwin Patrick Manuel, an adjoining land owner to the adjudicated property who maintained said adjudicated property for one year or more, without public bidding, for a price set by St. Landry Parish Government of, as per LA R.S. 47:2202 B., at the assessed value of \$3,000 and said adjudicated property is described as follows:

1 LOT IRREGULAR IN SHAPE (0.199AC) IN THE NE/4 OF THE NW/4 OF SEC 34 T-65 R-1W 708569 (V-27-153) 947218 (J-41-458)

This adjudicated property bearing parcel number 8602320500 in the St. Landry Parish land records.

XI. RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

There were none.

COMMITTEE MINUTES:

- XII.** A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the **Administrative Finance Committee Meeting Minutes** from **Wednesday, September 4th, 2024** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Ernest Blanchard. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to accept the **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes** from **Wednesday, September 4th 2024** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Ernest Blanchard. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

XIII. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Jody White, Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, and Jimmie Edwards. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Ernest Blanchard. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 18th, day of September, 2024.

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