

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY OCTOBER 28th, 2025 @ 5:30 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W BELLEVUE ST
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

MINUTES

- I.** This meeting was called to order by Chairman Jody White.
- II.** Councilman Jimmied Edwards led the Pledge and Invocation.
- III. ROLL CALL: PRESENT:** Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard.
Ex Officio: Jody White. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette and Timmy Lejeune.
*****Councilwoman Nancy Carriere and Councilman Faltery Jolivette was absent for roll call but later joined the meeting.***

Chairman Jody White stated, “Before we ask for any Public Comment I think from the consensus of the councilmembers present we would like to move Item No. 1 on the agenda under items for discussion to the bottom. When we go into Executive Session everyone will leave out that will be pretty much it.”

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, second by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to move Item No. 1 on the agenda to the last item for discussion so the council may enter into Executive Session.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette and Timmy Lejeune.

ABSTAINED: None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 28th, day of October, 2025.

- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT:**
None.
- V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Council to accept the Adjudicated Property Sales dated September 29, 2025.

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Property Administrator stated, “This is the results of the property sales that were awarded. We did have one underbid property on Sunny Street and that was the second time that we put it on the sales list. The Parish invested \$5,200.00 in cleaning up this property. We did demolition to two structures there. The first time we did not have any bids and this time we had one bid for \$700.00. I wanted to bring it before the council to see if you all wanted me to accept that or if you all wanted me to put this back on another sale.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “So the cost for the demolition was \$5,200.00 and you only got a \$700.00 bid.”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Property Administrator stated, “Yes Sir that was all that we got this time.”

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, “Can you re-bid?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “That is quite a bit of a loss. I don’t think that is something that we would want to do but maybe we don’t have a choice.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “At some point we will just keep on cleaning up that same piece of property and that is what it will come down to being. Whenever people call and complain on adjudicated property we try to take care of those and of course it cost us a little bit of money to do it but to get it cleaned up for the neighborhood.”

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, “Is the property clean now?”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Property Administrator stated, “It is clean but we have to continue cutting the grass. We will continue spending money on that property.”

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, “You only had one bid.”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Property Administrator stated, “Yes Sir.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Do you all need a motion to re-bid this property.”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Property Administrator stated, “It is whatever your desire is. We are just letting you all know that we only got one bid on this property and this is the second time that I placed it on the sale.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “They say that sometimes a third time is a charm. Do you all want to go back for a third time? I will offer it as a motion.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So let me make sure that we are clear. The list that you all have in front of you all does not include that piece of property. We will just re-bid it out. We just wanted you all to be aware.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “So we don’t have to make a motion on that right now. We need to move forward with our motion.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We just wanted you all too be aware with what is happening with that piece of property.

Chairman Jody White stated, “So now we just need to move forward with our motion for the council to accept the Adjudicated Property Sales dated September 29, 2025. Madam Clerk before you start the roll call please make a note that Councilman Faltery Jolivette have arrived.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Yes sir.”

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to accept the Adjudicated Property Sales dated September 29, 2025.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltory Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere, and Timmy Lejeune. **ABSTAINED:** None.
WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 28th, day of October, 2025.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 035-2025

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Ordinance 2025-037 creates the St. Landry Parish Bureau of Administrative Adjudication to adjudicate violations of St. Landry Parish Civil Ordinances.

Chairman Jody White stated, “Before we make a motion I have a question. It was brought up earlier. I don’t mind asking the question. In reference to the budget and finances for compensation for this position can you give us the outlook on that?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “She will be paid out of the fund that will be taking in the money from the tickets and the administrative cost and everything that is associated with the Hearing Officer’s Position. It is \$225.00 an hour for 3 hours per month if we have a hearing. I am not sure if we are going to have a hearing every month but right now we have a lot of tickets so we will need to clear up the books for the last 3 years. It will be roughly \$225.00 an hour for 3 hours. We have been in touch with other parishes and we are the fourth parish to do this in the state so this is fairly new.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Where are these hearing going to be held Mr. Bellard?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will get with the Judges. Either we will have it in the courtroom or in here.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “My next question is this: What is the job? I was under the understanding that if someone had a complaint they would go to our Justice of the Peace. What role do they play in St. Landry Parish?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So the Justice of the Peace and their Jurisdiction can do the same thing basically when it comes to liter and different enforcement mechanism for them with the Constable Rights. I know that they want to do liter court as a Justice of the Peace right now. I know that they are talking about that and they are getting together to make that happen. That will be another good thing to have in the parish where if someone writes a ticket in their jurisdiction they can hear it and that will give them revenue for their court so we are encouraging that to take place as well. This position right here is for our ordinances. Every ordinance that we have in the parish that we received a ticket from that is no way to collect it. We would have to hire an attorney to go file a motion in the court and technically file suit against that individual who is not paying their ticket. So this will give us the straight shot.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “So what tickets do your people that work for Parish Government write? Just liter tickets?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, no, Animal Control writes tickets, Code Enforcement writes tickets and of course Liter can be written as well.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Okay, thank you.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “Mr. Ardoin I can also say that I had a problem in my district and one of the officers came with me to address that problem and that officer did write a ticket in my presence so yes they do write them.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Okay, thank you.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “So it is not only the adjudicated property that she will be handling, what all will she be handling?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Everything in the Code of Ordinances that is considered a Civil Violation.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “How did we handle it before?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We didn’t. We wrote tickets and if they came to pay their ticket that was great but if they did not then there was nothing that we could do.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “My concern is this: We have a 4 million dollar problem that we had to borrow money to cover from an over spend. We don’t have anybody like Garrett that could do that for us. What about Josie Frank?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It cannot be a person that works for the Government. It cannot be a person that works for the DA’s Office. It has to be an Independent Person that is appointed and put here in front of the council.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “It is \$275.00 an hour?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is \$225.00 an hour.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “What other staff will she have.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We will have our people that is doing the work now. Nobody else will be hired to do that job.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “She is going to be paid out of these fines? Is that what you are saying?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Administrative Cost.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Thank you.”

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, “That pretty much covers my question as well, thank you.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “How much money do we have in that fund right now Mr. Bellard?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Zero.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Zero.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Because we can’t collect that money that is owed to us for the tickets that we wrote. At the end of the day people call us for violations and if we go out there and we don’t write a ticket it looks like we are not doing our job. We can write a ticket all we want and if we have to hire an attorney to go and do the work then we are just wasting money.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Thank you Sir.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “In reference to this item, I need a motion and a second.”

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to **Adopt Resolution 035-2025.**

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 28th, day of October, 2025.

Chairman Jody White stated, “Congratulation we have Ms. Lear in the audience at this time. Thank you ma’am. We look forward to working with you in the future.”

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Ordinance 2025-037 creates the St. Landry Parish Bureau of Administrative Adjudication to adjudicate violations of St. Landry Parish Civil Ordinances.

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Ordinance 2025-037 (5) states that the Hearing Officer for the St. Landry Parish Bureau of Administrative Adjudication shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana, and shall be appointed by the St. Landry Parish President, and confirmed by the St. Landry Parish Council.

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish President Jessie Bellard has appointed Charlee Lear, Attorney at Law, to be the Hearing Officer for the St. Landry Parish Bureau of Administrative Adjudication.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Landry Parish Council does hereby confirm and approve the appointment of Charlee Lear, Attorney at Law, to be the Hearing Officer for the St. Landry Parish Bureau of Administrative Adjudication.

3. St. Landry Parish Council to go into Executive Session to discuss Settlement Offer in Tyler vs. St. Landry Parish and then Council to vote on Settlement Offer.

Chairman Jody White stated, “At this time the St. Landry Parish Council will go into Executive Session to discuss the Settlement Offer in Tyler vs. St. Landry Parish. I will ask that everyone leave the courtroom or the council chambers.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “We will need a motion and a second to go into Executive Session.”

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to enter into Executive Session and turn off the microphones to discuss the Settlement Offer in Tyler vs St. Landry Parish.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 28th, day of October, 2025.

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to return back to Regular Session and turn on the Microphones.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 28th, day of October, 2025.

Chairman Jody White stated, “Upon moving back into the General Session in reference to the St. Landry Parish Council to discuss the settlement office we will need a motion and a second.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to discuss a settlement offer for the case of Tyler vs. St. Landry Parish.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 28th, day of October, 2025.

**** Councilwoman Nancy Carriere joined the meeting mid-way of the Executive Session.**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Councilwoman Nancy Carrier was not part of the meeting when it was time to enter into Executive Session.”

NOTE: Per Chairman Jody White: Councilwoman Nancy Carrier was not present to vote to send this item into Executive Session and she was not present to vote to return this item back to Regular Session therefore her vote does not count on item No. 3 of the Agenda.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Chairman if I am in order I will offer the motion according to Mr. Schexnayder with the figures that he gave us that we go ahead and settle this situation with Ms. Tyler and put his fees in there and pay him also.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “The motion was to go forward for the council to vote on the settlement offer and that passed.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Then that is all that we need.”

Chairman Jody White questioned, “What is the new motion that you are making?”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “It is the settlement fee. He gave us his fees before he gave us a higher figure he settled with a fee with us, right.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “No and with that being said the meeting is adjourned.”

VI. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adjourn this Special Meeting.

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

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 28th, day of October, 2025.

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