

**Parish President Jessie Bellard was absent for this meeting**

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

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

1. Public Works Chairwoman Vivian Olivier called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation was said earlier in the meeting.**
3. **Roll Call:** Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier and Jimmie Edwards. Ex-Officio Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Timmy Lejeune.
4. **Person to address the Committee:**  
*There was no one to address the Public Works Committee.*
5. **Public Works Report:**

*Mr. Van Reed stated,* “Mr. Barry Soileau is at a meeting in Houma. He is not able to make it here tonight.”

6. **Authorize the Council Clerk to send a Certified Letter to Mr. Jeremy Keith Quebedeaux advising him to come and address the council regarding the clean-up of his property located at 541 Mushroom Road, Arnaudville, LA Parcel #0301042300A**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to authorize the Council Clerk to send a Certified Letter to Mr. Jeremy Keith Quebedeaux advising him to come and address the council regarding the clean-up of his property located at 541 Mushroom Road, Arnaudville, LA. Parcel No. 0301042300A.

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

7. **Forward all applications received for one appointment to Public Works Commission District Six for a four-year term. (05-15-2024 - 05-15-2028).**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to forward all applications received for one appointment to Public Works Commission District Six for a four-year term. (05-15-2024 - 05-15-2028).

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

8. **Discuss Lawtell Water District No. 1. (Councilman Timmy Lejeune).**  
*Councilman Timmy Lejeune was absent for this meeting.*

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,* “Madam Chairlady, I saw Mr. Lejeune’s text that he was not going to be at this meeting. In reference to this Lawtell Water System what Mr. Lejeune advised on his text that he wanted this council to give approval to Mr. Garrett Duplechain to go to their next meeting and discuss with those board members how they need to handle their meetings and what is the procedure of handling their meeting. There are rumors and we have one of the board members present here tonight and there are rumors going around that two of them have resigned. He is advising me that he has not resigned. We need to ask that they delay this thing until Mr. Lejeune is here so we can better understand what he wants done there. If one of those members are supposed to be resigning or two members how are we going to fill the gap right there, I think

we ought to delay it until Mr. Lejeune is present to explain what he wants done over there and let's find out if those two members are going to resign. There is a problem over there but yet let's find out who is going to stay and who is not going to stay."

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** "I would like to say a couple of things about this. First of all we certainly could authorize our attorney to go over there but when he gets there and they say you are not our attorney and we don't have to listen to what you have to say. So what are we getting into this about? It would seem to me that Mr. Bellard had mentioned that there were 66 members of these Commissions that haven't gone through the Ethics and other training that we have had, it is something along those lines, is this one of the boards that have not gone through Ethics? I just did Ethics here a week or so ago on line and I want to tell you something they are pretty good about getting the law to you. It would seem if they had not got training, Jessie said that he already notified the Ethics Board that these 66 Boards have not taken it. If we do anything we ought to give them a time line to do it, of course the state have the timeline which is December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. If they don't do it this time let's just replace them. Why are we getting in a battle about this?" Counselor do you want to say something?"

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** "I agree with you."

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** "I think we need to table this until we get more information."

**Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned,** "When is the deadline for the Ethics Training?"

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** "It is December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024."

**Councilman Alvin Stelly stated,** "So they have all year."

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** "Yes, they have all year."

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** "I read Mr. Lejeune's text also. I know you mentioned about the attorney because Garrett is the Board's Attorney. He is, He is the Attorney for those Boards."

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** "I represent the St. Landry Parish Council. This is my Client. There are 13 of them right here. If a Board calls me for Legal advice I give them Legal Advice free of charge of course as a service to the parish because these boards are under your umbrella but my Client is the Parish Government which is you."

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** "I think that is why he asked. I also took the Ethics and I think where it is getting confused is that we also, Mr. Taylor, I don't know if you remember we also, without going too much off the track was involved in the situation where we did something in a meeting that we were not aware of and Ethics did not teach us that. What I am saying is I think what he was asking was that he just kind of brief them on how to run their meeting. All of this other confusion about resigning and not resigning I have no idea about all of that. I think it was on how to run their meetings until we get some procedures in order. In the meantime they would not break anymore rules. I think that is what he wanted."

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** "So let me ask this question counselor. If we authorize you to go over there and you get there and they say what are you doing here, we did not ask you to come to our meeting, can they tell you to leave? Is there anything that you can do about that?"

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** "You can choose any attorney you want. You can hire and fire any attorney you want. If the client decides which attorney they want."

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** "We are going to send you, can they tell you no, we don't want your advice? Can the Lawtell Water Commission tell him that we don't want your advice?"

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** "They can choose not to accept the advice."

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Suppose they tell you that you can’t speak.”*

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Hopefully they won’t do that.”*

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “I am just saying, I am being practical about this. We are stepping in an area that we know nothing about. You are the expert, you tell us what you think.”*

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Well, what you can do is you can pass this to the full council meeting where we will have 13 Councilmembers weight in on this. But in the meantime you are correct, I am the council’s attorney. I am not representing the Lawtell District at this time, I am representing the Parish Council so you are correct on that. You can pass this to the full council meeting so we can get 13 people with a clear understanding on it by then. You are correct, they do not have to accept an attorney if they do not want to.”*

*Councilman Ernest Blanchard questioned, “Does that apply to all boards? Not just a Water Board, Drainage Board?”*

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It applies to all Boards.”*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I think what is going to get rid of some of these problems is for us to get our Ordinance in order and our Policies and Procedures in order because it was not going to hurt for Garrett to say this is how you all should run a meeting. Maybe you don’t know all of the rules either, so maybe it is best for us to set these rules and set these policies and procedures and then we present them to all of the boards. That may just take care of everything. You were not just going there to give any legal advice. Just because you know how a meeting was ran you were just suppose to advise them. We can just try and move forward with our Ordinance of getting the Policies and Procedures of running a meeting in order and we will present that and maybe that would solve all of this other stuff.”*

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Right, we are not going to have our foot on the accelerator and the break at the same time we are going to have to push this forward into the future and we will decide whether we want to accelerate or the break.”*

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to further discuss the Lawtell Water District No. 1 Board.”

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

**9. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Lawtell Water District No. 1 for a three-year term. (06-10-2024 – 06-10-2027).**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Lawtell Water District No. 1 for a three-year term. (06-10-2024 – 06-10-2027)

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

**10. Discuss adding Texas Eastern Road to the Ordinance for No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic Routes. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I want to have a motion forwarded to the full council in regards to this as requested by the Public Works Supervisor Mr. Barry Soileau. To Have Texas Eastern Road added to the ‘No Truck or 18-Wheeler thru Traffic Route.*

*Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Excuse me Ms. Chairlady. You have to vote as well because we only have 3 members on the board that is voting. We have to have 4 votes.”*

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated*, “I will volunteer to vote. That way Ms. Vivian won’t have to vote.” You are reintroducing the Ordinance to add Texas Eastern Road, am I correct?”

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated*, “It is the same ordinance that we have it is just adding this road to the list.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to introduce an Ordinance to add Texas Eastern Road to the Ordinance for No Truck or 18-Wheeler thru Traffic Routes.

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

*Motion forwarded.*

**11. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.**

None.

**12. Adjourn.**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to adjourn the Public Works Committee.

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

*Motion forwarded.*

*Mr. Van Reed stated*, “There will be an Adjudicated Property sale tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. in this facility.”

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated*, “Is that the one that Ms. Cynthia Fontenot was talking about earlier?”

*Mr. Van Reed stated*, “Yes, tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m.

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