

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7th, 2024
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Chairman Wayne Ardoin called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor was absent for this meeting
2. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation was said earlier in the meeting.
3. **Roll Call:** Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard.
Ex-Officio Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor.

A motion was made by Councilman Faltery Jolivette, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to appoint Councilwoman Nancy Carriere as Temporary Administrative Finance Chairwoman for the Administrative Finance Committee.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion carried.

4. **Person to address the Committee.**
 - a. **Mr. Lance Armentor (CEO of Opelousas General Hospital) Introduction and update on Opelousas General Hospital.**

- *Mr. Lance Armentor addressed the council.* He stated, “Good evening everyone. My name is Lance Armentor. I am the new President and CEO at Opelousas General Health System. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to come and speak with you all for a couple of minutes about who I am and what our plans are here in the great future of our Hospital. First and foremost I wanted to make sure that everybody knew that we do have some good support here and I wanted to announce a couple of the members that came from the Hospital. From my board we have Mr. Albert Semien which I am sure he is no stranger because I have traveled with him around town and I don’t think that he ever meets a stranger. We have Mr. Robert Wolf, another big supporter from our board. We have Dr. Rachel Tate who is our CMO at the Hospital, Ms. Suzanne Kidder, Chief of HR and Mr. Tim Marks who is our Vice President of Population Health and all of our partnerships at the hospital and as you know we have a lot of partnerships. Myself, a little bit about me, I have been married for right at 19 years to my wife Samatha and we have five young kids, four daughters and one son ranging in the age of 2 years old to 12 years old. We recently moved to Opelousas this past weekend and I am very happy. I have been commuting from Lake Charles to Opelousas since April. Mr. Dexter I actually think that I am in your Jurisdiction I moved to the Ranch.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Mr. Timmy as well.”

Mr. Lance Armentor stated, “I am not sure who’s District I am in but I am on Saddle Drive, so whoever has Saddle Drive. We are very excited about moving to the community in Opelousas. I can tell you that coming from Lake Charles I married a woman that is from Mamou and that brings challenges with in itself. She if very hardheaded and she definitely has a lot of Cajun roots. The hard thing for us and what we were so excited about you can’t get a good link of Boudin in Lake Charles anymore. Lake Charles has lost a lot of its Cajun Heritage and so coming here we are really excited to be here and be a part of that heritage and raise our kids in this community and be a very vibrant active member of Opelousas and St. Landry Parish. For the Hospital I will tell you that I think the future is very bright for the hospital. There are a couple of key things that I hold very important and it drives my moral compass, it drives my faith and every decision that I have

made is weighed with prayer and what is in the best interest of OGH and the people that we serve in this community. The first and foremost thing that this Hospital is going to do moving forward under my leadership is we are going to take care of the people in this community. We are going to change our culture and we are going to be a culture that is one that is a servant hospital to the people in this parish and the community that we serve especially the underserved population. We have a large underserved population in healthcare here that we own them access to healthcare so we are going to do that. We are going to take care of our employees and our staff. We are going to make sure that our employees are treated fair and equal and we are going to make sure that they have the opportunity to grow. We are going to make sure that they have avenues for the Youth in this community and other people in this community to be able to have good jobs and make sure that the hospital stays vibrant in this community. Lastly, we are going to make sure that we can keep our money here locally. One of the big things that we are going to do is make sure that we get vendors from this community an opportunity to do all of the work at the hospital that they can. I think that it is very important that we keep our money local and we are not hiring vendors from Lafayette, Baton Rouge or New Orleans. We need to use the people here that are local and use the people that have been in their own family business for years to help drive the economy here in Opelousas. Lastly, we are going to invest back into the community. As the Hospital gets better and we grow we are going to invest back into the youths, education, school system and we are going to invest into the recreational programs and helping kids through scholarships and give them great creative avenues to be able to follow their education and grow within our community. I wanted to take a moment to tell you all some of the things that we have planned for the hospital and what we are going to do. If you all have any questions I would definitely be open to answer any of those. I know that was kind of quick because I only had a short time.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “I would say first of all thank you for coming and addressing us. I would say take care of your employees and tell them to uphold a great quality of care for the patient that is upmost the quality of care. Thank you sir. I appreciate you.”

Mr. Lance Armentor stated, “Thank you Sir. Thank you all.”

- **Mr. Robert Carter of Fire District 7 addressed the council**. He stated, “Good evening, my name is Robert Carter. I live in Big Cane. 45894 HWY 361. I am presently the board chairman for our Fire District and I am looking forward to continuing that if you all will rule like that. We are thankful for our fire department. We are a growing fire department and we have a lot of good trucks, a lot of good people and we have problems like every other fire department that is voluntary. We appreciate you all supporting us as we support everybody in the community. Thank you. Do you all have any question?”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “I do Mr. Carter, how are you? Thank you for coming. How many years have you served on the Fire District?”

Mr. Robert Carter stated, “Since 2013.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “So you are well versed. I see that you are a retired construction manager as well.”

Mr. Robert Carter stated, “Yes, I did a lot of traveling on jobs.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “Thank you for your service. I appreciate you.”

- **Ms. Lena Charles addressed the council**. She stated, “Good evening to our Parish President Mr. Jessie Bellard, thank you for being here and all of your assistance. To our Parish Council men and women thank you so much for allowing me to have these few minutes. I don’t see the clock so I will talk as fast as I can. This is our

42nd year for the Southwest Louisiana Zydeco Music Festival, our theme reflects that. Our theme says *'It is not broken.'* It is an unbroken chain and legacy of the Creole Culture in Zydeco Music in St. Landry Parish. We are so happy to be able to be the keepers of the culture and the tellers of our own story. For you all as Parish Government St. Landry Parish to have this as our parish festival means a lot to us. It also means a lot to the people that are coming from all of the different states, international folks and everyone that comes down they want to come and see where it all begin. They come to our host parish which is St. Landry Parish. We do a good job of putting on and organizing the festival but we could not do it without the support of St. Landry Parish, Parish Government and all the vendors as well as the business folks that show their hospitality. Every year we have a kick off of the Zydeco season which is busy and we are going to be busy because we have to hit everywhere and every nook and cranny to promote this thing. We want our local folks to be there to be able to receive the folks that are coming from out of town and from the other states. I don't know the influx of people in West Texas that love to come here and they are on their way. We are especially looking at our hotels and our rentals, we have all of that on the website, it is not totally updated yet but tomorrow you will have a special invitation to be at our kick-off of Zydeco Season Opelousas Interpretive Museum on Main Street between 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. If you can shake a leg and take off from your work or other responsibilities we would love for you to be there. We will be unveiling our card and all of the different activities for that weekend as well. We take our responsibility as being part of this parish very seriously. We follow every letter of the law of the ordinance of mass meetings for an event. This special event is more than a mass meeting for us so we want to make sure we have everything. All of our insurance and everything is in order so you as our partner feel that you have a responsible partner to make sure that everything is in place. So tomorrow we will have a good time, Geno is going to be there and you will be able to take a photo opt so come down and show your face is you can stop in and out. I don't want to keep you all that long but I have an invitation for you all and I can entertain any questions before I wrap up my three minutes. Are there any questions or concerns?"

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "I just want to say welcome back."

Ms. Lena Charles stated, "Thank you. It has been a while. It has been a difficult journey but thank you all so much. I appreciate you and thank you all for all of your thoughts and prayers that were with me and my family during this time. A part of me is missing but the community make up a lot of that part so thank you."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Ms. Charles I just want to personally say thank you for all that you do for our Parish. We really appreciate it."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "Thank you."

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I know that you mentioned tomorrow night they were going to do the unveiling. You did not say where it was going to be?"

Ms. Lena Charles stated, "I did not say tomorrow night. I said tomorrow between 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. That is lunch hour. We specifically want this for the business folks and our sponsors to come out and we will be unveiling it at the Opelousas Interpretive Museum. That is across from the old J.B. Sandoz next to City Court. That is where we are having it. It will be a light refreshment and they can come in and ask questions and take pictures. That will kick off our Zydeco Season."

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I to want to take this opportunity to tell you thank you for all that you have done for the parish and the city."

Ms. Lena Charles stated, “Thank you. Are there any other questions? As I said I have an invitation and I will pass it out to you all. I will try to be back for the next meeting to have the cost and we will have that official opening as well as your user gift package from me. Thank you.”

5. Parish President & Finance Reports:

- a. The Preliminary approval showing a Subdivision “Daly Estates” of 143.52 Acre Tract of land being partitioned as lots 1-15; located along HWY 182 and HWY 178; situated in section 174 & 175, Township 7 South, Range 4 East Opelousas, LA.**

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, August 21st, 2024* to authorize The Preliminary approval showing a Subdivision “Daly Estates” of 143.52 Acre Tract of land being partitioned as lots 1-15; located along HWY 182 and HWY 178; situated in section 174 & 175, Township 7 South, Range 4 East Opelousas, LA.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion forwarded.

- b. Final approval of newly proposed 250’ Verizon Cell Tower site locations – 112 Elementary School Road US-LA 5453 Morrow, LA Parcel #0402739510A**

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, August 21st, 2024* to authorize the final approval of newly proposed 250’ Verizon Cell Tower site locations – 112 Elementary School Road US-LA 5453 Morrow, LA Parcel #0402739510A

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion forwarded.

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I am sorry at this time we forgot to get the President’s Financial Report.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is provided. We provided it prior to the meeting.”

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “We do have a copy of it in front of us.”

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to accept the Parish President & Finance Report

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion carried.

- 6. Authorize the Council Clerk to place an order for minute books beginning with the year 2025 thru year 2028 at a total cost of \$885.50.**

A motion was made by Councilman Faltery Jolivette, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, August 21st, 2024* to authorize the Council Clerk to place an order for Minute Books beginning with the year 2025 thru year 2028 at a total cost of \$885.50.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion forwarded.

- 7. Authorize a signed copy of all Cooperative Endeavor Agreements, Lease Agreements and Intergovernmental Agreements be provided to the Council Clerk once signed and decide if we need a Resolution to do that. (Chairman Wayne Ardoin).**

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Bellard, we sign all of the Resolution could your office provide her the copies so that she will have them in her office. She is not getting them back is what she is saying.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “That is the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, Lease Agreements and Intergovernmental Agreement, stuff like that.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “If you all could furnish her with the paper work so she could file it.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes that is fine. Whenever an Intergovernmental Agreement is approved by the council and the Cooperative Endeavor Agreements that is part of the record in this office. I will come and sign it but I am not going to take it with me. It should be done in this office and let it say here as part of the record. If we are taking them then that is not right we don’t want them.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “If you have any from now on you give them back to her.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “I don’t get any CEA’s. I only have Resolution and Ordinance that I file in here.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “From now on you will furnish that.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Okay so let’s make this clear. If the council takes action and it is for an Intergovernmental Agreement or a CEA it needs to stay here and I will come and sign it here and the other party who ever it is with will do the same thing. That way it does not leave this office and it stays as part of the record that you all approved. We just don’t want to make sure that it does not leave.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “I am fine with that Mr. Bellard. I scan it in so I will keep a signed copy on the computer.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “I would like to know in the past who has them after they are signed? The other parties and the Intergovernmental Agreement. As Mr. President was saying they should not keep them maybe they should get a copy.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “As long as he signs them I can make sure that we both have a copy.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Don’t you bring them upstairs right, don’t you file them?”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Not the Cooperative Endeavor Agreements only the Ordinance I file upstairs.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “So we keep the original.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “So you all will get together on it? She asked me about it and that is why it was placed on the agenda.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That is fine.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “For example I have an Intergovernmental Agreement right now that have been signed with the Clerk of Court and the Parish Government and I have it across the street. I will bring it to Sherell at the appropriate time. We will also get an authorization that everything inside the building goes with Parish Government, the building by Dairy Queen. The Clerk of Courts Building. That old building that we will take away.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “What has been the procedure in the past for the CEA’s? You mentioned it was done electronically.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “That is something that I do. I scan everything, Resolutions and Ordinances are kept here. I don’t keep Cooperative Endeavor Agreements and Intergovernmental Agreements here.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “The president just stated that they stay here and he will come here and sign it and that way you will have your copy.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “That is perfectly fine.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “My question is whoever the Endeavor Agreement is with they will need to get it in a timely manner as well. So how is that being done?”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “I don’t handle that. With my stuff if I need to get it to someone I give it to them the next day.”

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, “Do we generate it?”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “No, we don’t generate them.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, not all of the time.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “I guess what I am trying to determine is when there is a CEA or whatever of Governmental Entities, how do we know that it is being forwarded to those people as well in a timely manner? I had an incident and it was a little delayed so I had to call and find out where it was. That is all that I am asking.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I think that is the one that Garrett has in his office right now.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Also there is one with St. Landry Parish District 6 Public Works Commission. That one will be transported here where it will have a signature from the Chairman, Mr. Fitzgerald and from Jessie. That will go to Sherell so she will keep it here. The details of that is being worked out. I was notified about it right before I walked over here so I will talk to Jenny about it tomorrow.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “My point is that I was at the District 6 meeting and they have received information about the CEA and their obligations financially. Their questions were: What if the expenditures go over what has been projected is the new CEA going to be waived or will there be some type of adjustments?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I talked to them today. If the cost goes over the estimated amount by 20% they are good with that and they have obligated to facilitate 50%. Their concern is this: What if the cost is more than 20% over? I got that information right before I walked over here so I was going to bring that to Jenny tomorrow morning.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We will work that out.”

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I have one question. It is almost what you all are asking and I don’t think that it directly got answered. My question is this: In the past we have done CEA’s with other entities such as the city. We have had issues where it was not signed or nobody had a copy of it. I know where we are going moving forward but going back someone may say that we had an agreement with the parish and nobody has a copy of that agreement is what I am trying to figure out.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated. “It should be in Mr. Bellard’s Office.”

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “He said he does not have copies where are those copies?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Which copies are you speaking of?”

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Anything from the past. Any agreements that we have had. We have had agreements from the past with the city and other entities so if they come back and ask about them. Since you don’t have them and she does not have them where are they?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Madam Chairman, a lot of those agreements, if you want to know what is in them they are in my computer and I have hard copies at my office if we want to know what is in them. Now the signed copies I think they are with Sherell.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “No, they are not with Sherell. I do not have any signed copies. The only thing that I am responsible for are the Resolutions and the Ordinances. I asked for the signed copies of the CEA’s on purpose so I can keep them here in case someone ask for them and they will be at my fingertips because I scan them in.”

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “So that is my point. Garrett if you have anything on your computer.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I have unsigned copies on my computer. I have forms of all of the contracts that we have done. Now the signed copies, our clerk, I think scans them in or she wants to scan them in or she will scan them in so someone will just come here and they can get a signed copy from our clerk.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Yes, that is what I want to do.”

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “The unsigned copies that you have in your computer is what I am concerned about. We have had that issue with the city recently. From years ago we were suppose to have it that everything was signed and it was not and now it is an issue now. So that is what I am asking about anything that is unsigned.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Everything gets signed once it leaves my computer. I have hard copies but the signed copies would go to our clerk and not me.”

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Just make sure that she has a copy of it because if it comes back we need to be able to produce that it was signed and she needs to have a copy of it because everybody does not go to your office for a copy they go to Sherell for a copy.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I think it is a simple process that it does not leave this area until it is signed. After it is completely signed then everybody who sign gets copies of it but the official record stays here with minutes of the meeting. I think that is the easiest way to make this happen so we don’t have that confusion.”

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “That is fine. I think we are all on the same page because nobody knew that.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Correct.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “So again that is the new process going forward.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Yes, I would like that process.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “I am understanding that the copies that Garrett has are we going to get hard copies or scanned copies so that Sherell can keep these on file?”

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Yes, Garrett said he was going for forward it to Sherell.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Yes, Sherell will have all of the signed copies. If someone wants a copy they will come here and Sherell will have it. Just as a backup I keep everything in my computer and I keep hard copies I don’t always get the signed copies.”

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “That is fine just as long as she get it.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “Pardon my ignorance but they are still not signed copies as Madam Chair was inquiring. Passed old signed copies are they available? Where are those signed copies? We have agreements with agencies and we don’t have contractual agreements with signatures on them.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “If I want a signed copy of a CEA or an Intergovernmental Agreement I would come here and then if Sherell has it scanned in here computer I would simply get the signed copy in here.”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “We are going in circles. Madam Chair I am going to get with Mr. Bellard’s Office. They are the ones who should have all of the signed copies because you all are approving it here and he is signing it there. I would just have to go to him and see what signed copies we are missing and I will scan it in the computer and we will be done with that.”

Administrative Finance Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Hopefully that will work. Thank you.”

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, August 21st, 2024** to authorize the Council Clerk to receive a signed copy of all Cooperative Endeavor Agreements, Lease Agreements and Intergovernmental Agreements that are authorized by the council and signed by the Parish President.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion forwarded.

8. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Bellard, Mr. LeFleur evidently is a no show but I am going to ask the parish council to start the procedure on selling the bonds in Road District 1 of 11-A. Fund 042 so we can start the procedure of getting cost estimates.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “He is working on it.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Do we need a motion to go ahead and start the process?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes, that is fine.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I will ask a motion from the council in reference to dealing with the road tax in my area District 9 which is Road District 1 of 11-A, Fund 042. We will start the process of selling the bonds. The taxes were just renews so we need to start the process to get some roads over layed.”

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday August 21st, 2024** to approve starting the process to sell the bonds for District 9, Road District 1 of 11-A, Fund 42 to begin the process of overlaying roads.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion forwarded.

9. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to adjourn the Administrative/Finance Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion forwarded.

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