

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>, 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. **Roll Call:** Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. Ex-Officio Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** None.
3. **Person to address the Committee:**

*Mr. Gary Thompson addressed the council, He stated, “I am Gary Thompson, I live at 309 Sugar Mill Road, Opelousas. I am new to St. Landry Parish. I moved here from Baton Rouge three years ago. In addition to buying my property I have since invested and additional \$200,000.00 in property improvements so I am very heavily invested here in St. Landry Parish. When I first brought my property for whatever reason my issue was drainage and flooding. For whatever reason I had 18 inch 25 foot long Culverts, two of them because I had a double drive entry. For whatever reason the parish came and pulled my culverts out and they returned and put 15 inch 20 foot culverts. So not only did my water flow get reduced but now you run off my culvert when you are trying to turn into my driveway. I have been asking to see Mr. Bellard since the beginning of January. I have been calling on a regular basis because this have been a problem. I finally secured a face to face meeting with him 2 weeks ago. We addressed all of this issue. Every time I would call for him his assistance whether it was Ms. Shawnee or the lady that was before her which would automatically transfer me over to Parish Maintenance. I have had Barry in Parish Maintenance screaming and yelling at me because I am calling too much and he has more important or greater issues in the parish than my flooding and my drainage. They have come out and they have cleaned my ditch probably 6 times in 3 years. What is happening is that I have a drainage canal north of my property and south of my property that crosses the road. It is full of trash and debris and does not flow so everything we get rain everything just backs up and I end up with a ditch full of trash and sediments and nothing is happening. Our road floods on both ends of the street and you can’t get in or you can’t get out. In calling the parish I ask what happens if one of my neighbors has an emergency I was told I guess we will send a Pirogue in to get you, that is not a response that a tax payer is wanting to here, so this has been on going. I just recently learned that there is a parish water board. I have only been dealing with parish ditches and culverts so apparently the canal issue is parish water board. Two weeks ago I went before the parish water board and I was insulted the entire time I was there. I had to listen to listen to bad president Biden jokes throughout this committee which was uncalled for. The Chairman mumble and made comments the whole time I was trying to explain my issue. They are telling me that I cannot clean the canals because if they do it will dump too much water into Plaquemine Bayou so we are stuck with flooding. The Parish Maintenance did come out and clean the ditch again although they are not shooting leasers so in front of my property it is full of water right now then it flows uphill so that water is not going anywhere. When I meet with Mr. Bellard two weeks ago he told me that he was going out that evening to look at my property but it never happened. He told me before this meeting that I would not accomplish my goal here tonight by coming before this committee. I am running into obstacles everywhere I go. I did not know that I was buying property that was going to have this flooding issue and drainage issue and have one department pointing the finger at the other department and the other department pointing their finger back and I am caught in the middle. I have property that I am proud of but I have flooding issues. I live alone, I am disable and I am retired. If I should have a medical emergency during one of these flooding times what do I do, sit there and die? I just don’t understand this red tape and nobody can help and I can’t get anything accomplished. The drive, they said they were going to come out and do extensions on my culverts, instead of doing extensions on both sides of my culverts they came and did just one side. I still have one side of my driveway that is a drop off when you try to turn in my driveway. This is what I am up against, whether it was right or wrong of me to come before the committee I am running out of options of what to do. I have a problem and I*

am asking somebody as a tax payer to just pay attention and do something about it. That is all that I have. Let me also say my Councilman, Dexter Brown told me to meet him here for 5:30 p.m. and he is not even here. He is telling me that the 15 inch culvert and again I don't know who to trust or who to believe or whatever but he is telling me that the Code is nothing less than 18 inch culverts but I have been told that that is not correct. A 15 inch culvert is adequate enough but it still fills with trash and debris. My nearest neighbor is three acers away and he does not have a ditch in front of his property because he is at the highest point of the road. When it rains and this trash is flowing the road becomes the waterway and all of that dumps at my first culvert and from there it backs up all the way down the line."

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated**, "I just want to say that I don't know your situation, it is not in my district, I have not had any conversation with Mr. Bellard or anyone else but I just feel that it is so sad and unfortunate that you did have to attend a meeting and had to leave less understood or appreciated than when you first got here. I am hoping in the future that can change. I don't know your whole situation and it is not in my district but I just think that it is so sad listening to you. You just feel so lost and I don't think that we should have to feel that we just don't know where to turn in this day and age."

**Mr. Gary Thompson stated**, "Thank you and let me just add, after all of this I called back to Mr. Bellard saying the problem is still here. Ms. Shawnee says there is no point in you calling this office any more, we consider this case closed."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "Hold on, what is not going to happen is you talking like this, that is not going to happen in here. Let me explain to you what the process is going to be. I told you before this meeting that you were wasting your time coming to a Committee Meeting. Dexter Brown should have not told you to come to a Committee Meeting because they can't do anything about your problem. There are a lot of problems over there on your road, it is not just your little driveway with the problem. The drainage board is correct, if they would dig out that canal it is going to cause a bigger problem down the line. I told you that in our meeting that we had. For you to say that you have been trying to reach me since January that is a lie."

**Mr. Gary Thompson stated**, "No it not a lie. Don't call me a liar sir."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "I have the floor and I am trying to explain it to you. I am going to go tomorrow afternoon and I am going to look at what you are saying. The 15 inch pipe works right there because you are on a hill. It is irrelevant what you are telling me about where you think you are and I am telling you what the people are telling me, the people that go out there and they run the laser and they make sure that everything is correct, okay. Whenever you are going to come up here and start lying on my staff."

**Mr. Gary Thompson stated**, "Please stop calling me a liar sir."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "I am calling you what you are saying right here is a lie. This is what we are going to do. You wasted you time here tonight. What, you want me to lie to you and say that you are going to get everything done."

**Mr. Gary Thompson stated**, "Why not, you have been lying to me all along."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "Have a good day."

**Mr. Gary Thompson stated**, "Yep."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "That is how it is going to be. Good luck. That is how you get something done."

**Mr. Gary Thompson stated**, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is what I have been dealing with."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "No, you have not been dealing with that."

**Mr. Gary Thompson stated**, "Have a good day which means he is not going to do anything."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Come to a meeting like that again and start making accusations about my staff and everything else.”

**Mr. Gary Thompson stated,** “She told me to not call anymore because the case is closed.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “They went out there more than three times to try and take care of your problem. They extended the culvert. It was not exactly like you wanted it, sorry but they did it and it did not cost you a dollar. Everything they did it did not cost you a dollar.”

**Mr. Gary Thompson stated,** “Nobody could tell me why my culverts were pulled out to begin with. Thank you. I am leaving. Thank you.”

**a. Kenny Boagni, III, P.E., P.L.S. - Morgan Goudeau & Associates, Inc. to speak on Ward One South Gravity Drainage District No.1.**

**Mr. Kenny Boagni, III addressed the council. He stated,** “Madam Chairwoman and Committee, here tonight on behalf of Ward One South Gravity Drainage District No. 1. I am here to talk about two matters. There are a couple of board members here, Mitch Wyble, Dale Vidrine and Randy Wagley over there, he is on the board as well. The first item: In 2014 the Drainage District came before the council and adopted their official drainage map. Part of the idea of that was to enforce the State Statue about the 50 foot either side that you could clean but we have not really done anything with that. Whenever we still do work we still go to people’s property and still get easements whenever possible. We have had a few that refused to give easements and that happens and you always irritate some one and you can never please everybody. I have a copy of what was done in 2014 by the council and I think that one simple thing that the board is asking is that we revised the map and when I say revised, it is not that we stretched the districts out it is just that we refined the definition of what the Laterals were in the district, we revised the lengths of the laterals. It is recorded in the court house in 2014 and we would like for the Parish Attorney to review it and see if it could be amended and we could record the new map. I have a copy of the new map and I can be in contact with the parish attorney to review the documents.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Garett did come and talk to me about it and he agrees that it is just a matter of putting it back into the Clerk of Court with the revisions. They are not adding anything they are just identifying.”

**Mr. Kenny Boagni, III stated,** “Correct, I have a copy of the map. It is 6 feet by 3 feet, it is pretty big. Ward 1 is basically 549 Corridor, they are east and west on each side of the corridor from 190 about 1 mile south from Judson Walsh. They cover some of the city and some of that development along I-49.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** “Was there a drastic change to this map? Can you give me a short definition?”

**Mr. Kenny Boagni III stated,** “Not at all Mr. Lejeune. We put the lengths of every lateral that was within the district. We refined those lengths based with a fine tooth comb. They use the lengths for spraying and to tell someone how far to spray so we refined those. We added lateral numbers just for work that we have done that was not shown on the map. Typically to define a lateral is anything over 36 to 48 inch pipe when you start to get to that size, it no longer a little ditch it becomes something of significant size. We added 3 laterals, one of them is a clarification on Country Ridge. I think that it was 100 feet which goes to Prairie Bass District. There was another one on Country Ridge Road where the board did some work by the back stop. There were no additions to the boundaries.”

**Councilman Ken Marks questioned,** “Your last statement is what I was going to ask. It has not changed the original statue as far as your boundaries? Has it? Same boundaries.”

**Mr. Kenny Boagni III stated,** “No that was set by DODT those have not changed.”

**Councilman Ken Marks stated,** “So you are just revising certain entities of it for laterals and things.”

**Mr. Kenny Boagni III stated,** “That is right.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jody White to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to authorize Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain to review the changes to Ward One South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 Map and file an updated copy it the Clerk of Court.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

**b. Any Member of Ward One South Gravity Drainage District No.1 to speak.**

**Mr. Kenny Boagni III stated,** “The second item is probably the bigger item that I think some of the board members can speak on if they need to. This will be an introduction to something that the boards wants to entertain and acting and we have been discussing it and refining it within the board for the last year or so and that is doing a drainage impact procedure for large residential and commercial subdivisions within the district. We have drafted and I have a draft here of the procedure for a lack of a better word is to introduce tonight because it is going to take some coronation with the parish president’s office looking over it and the parish attorney did review it somewhat and seeing how we enacted it because it involves somethings as how you define what size developments would be impacted and how does the board get the documents from someone when they apply for a permit to say you need to submit drainage impact analysis for that particular development and it involves the city. Some of their districts are in the city. Tonight I only have 10 copies.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I have a comment, I think there is a simple answer. We do it for the entire parish, it is needed for the entire parish. We have been talking about this for years. I think that if we are going to do it we do it for everybody, the whole parish because it effect the whole parish, I completely agree with what Kenny is saying. William and I have been talking about that for a while. To do it for one district, no, not for one district, do it for the whole parish at one time.”

**Public Work Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated,** “Do you have someone else that wants to speak?”

**Mr. Mitch Wyble addressed the council.** He stated, “I am Mitch Wyble. I live on Grant Road. I have been on the Drainage District for quite a few years. I was a City Engineer for Lafayette Consolidated Government for 27 years. I helped enact the Drainage Ordinance for Lafayette with retention that is necessary. This parish, in my opinion is long overdue for needing retention-detention. You have let it get built out to where all of the new developments are just exacerbating what is existing and what can be taken. Yes, Jessie I agree with you and I think that you do need a parish ordinance for the whole parish. We recognized a few years ago that our drainage district is one of the most popular and up growing districts in the parish. That corridor along I-49 as you can tell is growing rapidly. We figure if we did not something at this point and time we were going to be behind the 8 ball and things would get developed and retention-detention would not be considered. I do agree that you need a parish wide ordinance but I do think that we need to enact this ordinance for our district as soon as possible and let the parish do what they have to do and come back and either refine what is in our district or improve on it, it does not matter but I would like to see this ordinance adopted for our district until such time as it becomes parish wide and then it goes away and it becomes something for the entire parish.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The only problem with that and I am going to be honest, it is going to take forever just to do one district. I can see the writing on the wall. William is already working on something, we just have to get it done, period. We have been fighting this long enough and it needs to be parish wide, whether we do one district or do the whole parish but I am telling you it will be the same amount of time.”

**Mr. Mitch Wyble stated,** “So the ordinance and the rules and regulations that are presented tonight in my opinion as a retired engineer would suffice for the entire parish with some minor modifications. If you elect to file a suite on what we have prepared you are ahead of

the 8 ball. If you have to start from scratch it will be two years before we get to this point again.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We already have the engineers in the room. I think that we will be ahead of the 8 ball. I think that my suggestion is that we do it for the entire parish, modify what you have as long as it meets the legal hurdle. Every time we get a subdivision in this room the big topic is drainage, every one of them. I think if we put this in place, like we should have done a long time ago, I think that we will help to stop the problem so I agree 100%.”

**Mr. Mitch Wyble stated,** “Our board agrees with you also Jessie.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We can modify what you have. If it meets the legal guidelines for our procedures then the permit department can act on it and the zoning and everything else can be done at the same time.”

**Mr. Mitch Wyble stated,** “Good.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “That is in District 9 what they are trying to do and I agree with Mr. Bellard, I have seen a new development. Just like in Ms. Nancy’s area she takes some of the area that I have in District 9 and that drainage district, they built a pond in the back. That is the one on Country Ridge Road, that development. If you notice wherever a dollar store goes now, where they erect them in this parish they are putting some ponds. Like Mr. Bellard stated, we need to do it parish wide. With the engineers that are on that board and with Mr. Boagni’s group it is obvious that we in District 9, everything is going south. We need to start somewhere.”

**Public Works Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated,** “They just open up a subdivision on HWY 182 by me and they have 2 ponds back there.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I am just asking that we start tonight, bring it to the full council and start the process.”

**Mr. Mitch Wyble stated,** “It is nothing new if you develop along the state route and you are going to empty into the state route the state makes you do retention-detention. That is probably what you are seeing on HWY 182 and other places. This is nothing new and it is nothing that developers haven’t gotten used to but they are pretty much used to it but if you don’t have a requirement for them to do it they are going to take the easy road and they are not going to do it.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “I make a motion that we forward this information to the full council.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “If Kenny can have this modified for introduction at the full council, is that possible Kenny? To modify what you all have for Parish Wide.”

**Mr. Kenny Boagni, III stated,** “I think what we will have to do is see how it incorporates more into the existing parish ordinance. You get into defining what is a development? Like all commercial developments. Or if I am putting 2 houses on a piece of property is that required?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Our ordinance defines all of that already. I am just trying to figure out a way where we can implement this like at the full council meeting to introduce it and start the process then. Could you have that modified?”

**Mr. Kenny Boagni, III stated,** “I think that we can. I would like to. If you went that route I think it would take a full month. It might be October to see how we would marry those together.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “If that motion could read if they could have that modified in time for introduction at the full council meeting so we can get that ball rolling.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I am good with that.”*

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry for forward to Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to further discuss Retention-Detention Parish Wide and prepare an Ordinance for adoption for the October 2024 meeting.

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

*Motion forwarded.*

**4. Public Works Report:**

*Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director addressed the council. He stated, “In the month of August we:*

Boom Axed	10 Roads
Culvert Cleaned	09 Roads
Culvert Installation	20 Roads
Debris Removal	47 Roads
Ditching	14 Roads
Grading	115 Roads
Material Spreading	09 Roads
Patching	26 Roads
Shredding/Grass Cutting	57 Roads
Sign Installation	34 Roads
Tree Removal	14 Roads
Washout	03 Roads

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

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

*Motion carried.*

**5. Forward all applications received 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 Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024* all applications received 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, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune, and Jimmie Edwards **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

*Motion forwarded.*

**6. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 3. Mr. James Solar has resigned. (No Term Set).**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jody White to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024* to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 3. Mr. James Solar has resigned. (No Term Set)

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

*Motion forwarded.*

**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 Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting Held on *Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024* 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, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune, and Jimmie Edwards **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

**Motion forwarded.**

**8. Update on Bayou Mallet. (Councilman Timmy Lejeune).**

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** “Mr. Bellard, could you give us an update on what is going on with that? Have they bid out the project?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “So what we did is we are going to move that money to help just Ms. Mildred and her district.”

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “Yes, take care of my District, District 4 Mr. Lejeune, you heard that.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “That don’t fit well with me.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We did take in bids for that project. The last that I heard William was looking at whether I can accept the bids as they were put in place. I will find out more tomorrow. If we do have to rebid we can rebid immediately. So it is not a problem. It is ready to go finally.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “So we will have an update at the full council meeting?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes, I will have more information by then.”

**9. Discuss Trash on Miller and Montgomery Road. (Councilman Timmy Lejeune)**

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “The reason I have that on there is because I got a few complaints about a lot of trash on Miller Road and Montgomery Road. I don’t know who we get to come and pick up potato chip bags but I am not talking about trees exactly I am talking about trash, litter that is get thrown out of their vehicles. It is not just those two road but I just have those two listed but I can name a bunch of them as I ride through my district you can see that they have a chair and they have a recliner, we have to do something about this.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I am going to get with Sargent Stansberry with the Sheriff’s Office. He has the litter crew. We will tell him where we are having our problems at and then he will send a crew out there first. Once we know about it then we can tell him and they will go and take care of it. So we can knock that out tomorrow.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “Since we are talking about trash I know that it is really hard because we had that discussion before with the man in that other district. My question is this: Is it any way possible when a landlord is evicting a tenant and they put everything to the road and I drive a school bus all day and I am calling trying to get somebody to pick up trash that I see that is piled up on the side of the road. I am sure Morgan is doing a great job at what they can do with the bulky items but sometimes there are little things that are left that is not in a trash bag. Can we have the landlord held accountable to call sometimes? A lot of times Mr. LeBouef and his staff does not know that that is out there. They do pass once a week. How can we get some of this little trash picked up? Mr. Stansberry has a schedule that they send the inmates out to pick up in certain areas.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “That is a topic that we have been discussing lately. This is my take on it. Whenever a landlord have an eviction or whatever the case maybe, whatever is put to the road is considered trash. I don’t care why but if it is put to the road it is trash. If you don’t see it being picked up please notify us. Then I can promise you that we will pick it up and we will bring it to the landfill. Morgan and Morgan is picking up bulky waste and the definition of bulky waste in their eyes over there is not the same as what we would think. I am thinking if it is on the side of the road it needs to be picked up. Morgan and Morgan have to follow their contract and everything else. We as Parish Government have the same piece of equipment so we can go and pick it up and dispose of it and it happens a lot

in the parish, believe it or not. The landlord can only do so much and if it is trash it is trash we can just pick it up and be done with that. So that is not a problem. Whenever people call us that Grappler is sent out there and the trash is picked up and brought to the landfill.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated**, “On Emmett and I-49 there is a mattress.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “Mr. Bellard, I know it was discussed before with Solid Waste and the people that are picking up the garbage cans, those truck drives, don’t you think they would be responsible. They see the route that they are on every day. I see it in Park Vista and I see it on HWY 182. Are they calling in the stuff that they had to leave behind?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “I don’t know the answer to that question but that question was posed many times before. I don’t think they are and I don’t think that they are required to per their contract. I am not saying that they should not document something so that they will know.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “That is where I am going. We are fortunate. I called John Guidroz about three for four times a week. He picked us some stuff that I gave him yesterday morning a list of stuff, he picked it up today, someone picked it up but the thing about it is that truck driver that picks up that blue can should be able to call that in and that way they will have it documented.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “I agree. I am not sure what their contract reads and I don’t think that it is in their contract to do that. It is unfortunate because what happens is that people will call us and we have to call somebody like John or somebody. If they would just notify the right people at the right time we would not have to be getting the phone calls and making phone calls. If anybody have a problem with it just let us know and we will go and pick it up and help them any way that we can. We can find out with Richard and see if there is something in there contract.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated**, “I would like for the Council Clerk to look at the minutes when they introduced the new trash pickup company to the parish. I would like to see a copy of those minutes when they were introduced to us by Mr. Richard LeBouef. To my understanding those trucks have up to the minute where these trucks are at all times. They were going to report any excess waste to the proper channels to have it picked up. I would actually like to see the minutes of that so we can understand exactly what the responsibility of everyone here is. I would like to have that for the full council meeting please.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to provide a copy of the minutes from the introduction of the new trash pickup company to the parish that was introduced by Mr. Richard LeBouef.

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

**Motion forwarded.**

**Public Works Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated**, “Mr. John Trahan you wanted to speak?”

**Mr. John Trahan stated**, “I know that I am kind of late in the game but what Mr. Lejeune talked about I agree with. The question that I have is this: We have the same problem at my house and all over the parish. When was the last time that somebody got fined for littering? That is the question?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “You will be surprised. Our investigators do write tickets for littering. It is a criminal offense and it does go to the District Attorney’s office and Chad makes sure that they are taken care of. When it is reported and they can actually identify where it comes from we do have camera throughout this parish and believe it or not they are catching a lot of people with littering. It is so much of it. It is mostly like TV boxes and stuff like that that is just thrown on the side of the road. They have serial numbers and stuff on there so we track all that back to where it came from and that is how we identify who threw it out there. I can get a list of the citations that we have issued this year. The District



Attorney is prosecuting them. He is not letting them go. This is one of those things that he keeps close.”

**Mr. John Trahan stated,** “It reflects the whole parish. What he has on his road I have on my road and everybody else has to. It ends up to the drainage board and it stops up everything.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I agree but we do have camera set out and the investigators check the camera every day. Mainly right now it is tires. They go to these canals and dump tires and it is a mess. But the small bags of trash and stuff is becoming a major issue and when it rains it goes right back into the canals and it end up blocking drainage. It is just a mess across the whole parish. We are writing citations and I am very happy to say that the District Attorney is not taking them lightly.”

**Mr. John Trahan stated,** “I appreciate it if they could catch a lot more because it is bad everywhere.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “Mr. Bellard is there any way with the state you can find out if they have a litter abatement program? By the casino I have been getting a lot of complaints in my district that when the state cuts the grass then you get to see all of the debris. I tell people all of the time that it is not their job to get off of that tractor and start picking up trash. So do they have an abatement program with the state or will we be going to do that to?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “That area is done by CSLED. CSLED pays for that program to be in place. The tractors that you see cutting that grass, the state pays and they pay out the funds. It is a program thru CSLED. I am not sure if the contract states anything about picking up trash but I do see before the tractors come around they are picking up and I see them picking up trash. I am not exactly sure if there are any state programs but I know that I-49 basically where the district is they do pick up trash before they cut the grass but sometimes they may miss something.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “Mr. Bellard, I received a text message from Shawnee Hills Area. There was a fire out there and there was a fence with a dividing line between two subdivisions. I am not real sure what side the fire was on, either the left or the right but I do understand that the emergency response team possibly went on the opposite side of the fence and had to completely go around. There is only one entry in which means there is only one entry out. I don’t know how long it takes to go around. I am not going thru all of that but what I am asking you if there is any way possible that you could check with 911 to make sure that that system is set us and they are very much aware of the fact that you have to go into one entry or go into the other. There is something wrong with that.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Let me give you a little back ground. Being a fireman and retired a call comes in for a fire and you are used to going a certain route regardless. Now or days it is all GPS. So you know where you are going but you are following the GPS because that is where they train you for now. You knew they had a blockage there because you knew it. Now it is GPS. GPS did not recognized that fence so what happens is what happen right there. I did talk to the fire chief and ask him to please make sure that these guy know that you can not make if from that end. It is different roads. Sometimes you have the 100 blocks that makes the difference but the roads are different names so that is not an issue. It is an issue of the fireman knowing the routes that they use to take and also the GPS tells them where to go. It is just not a good mix. That is not the first time that that happened, he assured me that he would get with them. It is not so much 911 as it is the actual the fire department that just needs to know and let the people know that they need to go the other route to get on certain roads. It is tough. In the frame of mind that you are in whenever you get the call you just know where you are going and it is just a little difficult but it is a couple of minutes delay if you have to make that route around. Please don’t bring up that fence.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carrier stated,** “Ms. Viv, I know that you are ready to go home but I just want to make one comment, Mr. Lejeune, I don’t know if you realize I spoke to Mr. Bellard about it because I have a couple of friends that live out there in the Ranch Subdivision. I brought it up to him last month so maybe you can look into this. I don’t know if you are aware but there is not one Fire Hydrant in those neighborhoods. He did say that

they would have to get with the water people so I am just letting you know in case your constituents want to know because some of them had asked me because there are no fire hydrants in that area, so that is another delay because they have to pump the water in for those fires.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, “There are a lot of areas in our parish that does not have fire hydrants. I don’t have one by my house either.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Lewisburg Water System and whatever water system if they have the ability to supply the water source is the number one thing. Some of them just can’t supply that type which is why the trucks that they buy now days holds more than 2500 gallons of water at a time. So they have the water supply.”

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

No

**11. Adjourn.**

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry adjourn the Public Works Committee.

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

*Motion carried.*

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