

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2nd, 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.
Public Works Chairwoman Vivian Olivier asked that everyone silence their cell phones.
2. **Councilman Faltery Jolivette said the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.**
3. **Roll Call:** Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Timmy Lejeune and Jimmie Edwards. Ex-Officio Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** None.
4. **Person to address the Committee:**

Ms. Janice Simien addressed the council. She stated, “My name is Janice Simien and I come to speak for my father, Charles Simien. They live at 878 Jim Guillory Road. They have been there for over 40 years. Our concern is that road has been graveled for over 40 years. We have addressed it and we have heard that we are going to get to it, we are going to put you on the list and we don’t have the funds but we need answers, we need answers. The property across from him is Jim Guillory Property. Jim Guillory is deceased but his children do own the property. We have contacted them and they said they were going to cut the grass but it has been over 5 to 6 years. The chicken trees is growing on that property and it is just not comfortable for my parents to live there. That is our concerns and we hope that you all can do something about it and that is all that I have.”

Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, “Mr. Bellard will you answer that?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I have been talking to Mr. White and to Mr. Miller in reference to this and we are going to get to it. I cannot promise you an exact date because there is no way to tell you that. We are not going to do the whole road we are only doing up to a certain point on that road.”

Ms. Janice Simien stated, “I understand that. I am not asking for a definite date but again like I said over 40 years is a long time, a very long time.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard started, “Yes Ma’am.”

Ms. Janice Simien stated, “Thank you.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “This would be to Ms. Cynthia. In regards of the statement that you made concerning the long grass across the street from your house.”

Ms. Janice Simien stated, “We have addressed her as well. I don’t know but she keeps saying that she is going to send a letter. I don’t know if the letter has been sent out. This is not recently, this has been years that she was going to send a letter out and we have not heard anything and the grass has not been cut for a long time.”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot stated, “Good evening. In reference to that property it is on the agenda tonight for us to get authorization for the council clerk to send notice out. I have been in communication over this past year with Attorney Robert Bordelon. They had a major session lawsuit going on between the families. I have addressed him and I keep in touch with him and I spoke to him recently, a matter of fact, a couple of weeks ago. I have been trying to work with you all but the residents in that area are complaining and I understand their complaint. I told him that we were going to move forward and that is why I have placed it on the agenda to come before the council and it is on the agenda tonight.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Thank you very much.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “I was just going to say what she just said. She has been keeping me abreast on what has been happening in reference to that when the Simien’s first came to me with the complaint. So that is what I was going to say.”

Public Works Chairwoman stated, “The next person to address the council is Cynthia LeDee.”

Ms. Cynthia LeDee-Davis addressed the council. She stated, “My name is Cynthia Davis. I am here to find out when you all will blacktop my road? I have been living where I live at for 52 years.”

Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, “Can you give us your address.”

Ms. Cynthia LeDee-Davis stated, “147 Frilot Cove, I am sorry 423 Gallow Road. They did put some Asphalt down but it is black dust. I have cameras in my yard and I can’t see because I have to keep going to clean them because of the black stuff. I want to know how you all choose what roads you all are going to do the blacktop on. How is that chosen?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is me. What we do especially off of a gravel road if it is going to cost us more money to maintain a gravel road like for 5 years if we are going to spend just as much money as an overlay then we try and get that done with. But not all gravel roads have that type of maintenance. We have a lot of roads that we don’t have to do much too at all because not much traffic is on it. Basically when it comes to a gravel road it has to cost us enough money to where it warrant us to put blacktop to save the parish money.”

Ms. Cynthia LeDee-Davis stated, “Well mine is like up and down the crawfish ponds and things. There is a road called Peak Road. It is blacktopped and they have the speed bumps, they have signs and it is right off Gallow Road. So why did they have so much pleasure to have that done to their road and we can’t have ours even blacktopped? Why did we receive the pieces of other roads that you all were taking apart and not limestone at least? I am living on a dirt road. I asked you all to do the culverts on the side of my house and they said that I had to pay that myself. I did and I did put 4 drainage things on it and I put limestone on it. You know what is happening? The people that is passing by there is mud or there is too much dust they are passing on what I paid for and it cost me over \$5,000.00 to fix that. It is not a public road, it is mine and I paved this. What am I suppose to do? Why are they allowed to pass on my road because they don’t have any limestone or anything? The limestone is what I paid for.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I can’t talk on what people do as far as driving on your part of the property. That is something between you and them.”

Ms. Cynthia LeDee-Davis stated, “Okay that is understandable but if the road had limestone or was blacktopped they would have no reason to pass there because there is mud, there is dust and everything. If you can’t give me a black top road now until then why can’t I get limestone on that road?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Most people want the Black Gold. They don’t want limestone.”

Ms. Cynthia LeDee-Davis stated, “Well it is a mess for us. When the grader pass he pushes it all to the ditch and not to the middle. So now we don’t have anything on it.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We will go and check it out tomorrow and see what is happening with that.”

Ms. Cynthia LeDee-Davis stated, “I appreciate it.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Hello, how are you doing? Hey listen, I think that if they can put you enough Black Gold, take it from your neighbor, I believe you will be a whole lot happier than with limestone. Limestone creates more dust than the Black Gold will. If

they want to put you some Black Gold I will tell you that I would think that would be your best.”

Ms. Cynthia LeDee-Davis stated, “Whatever it takes.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “To control the dust.”

Ms. Cynthia LeDee-Davis stated, “Yes because like I said I spent money on cameras and I can’t see. I am an old lady trying to get up there and clean the thing, you know. It is like we are living a miserable life and you know where I live at and you know what I spent to fix it. I would appreciate some kind of help and hope pretty soon you all will do our black top because when they did the bridge they had said in 5 years and that 5 years is gone. Either way it goes we need help.”

Chairwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “Next we have Mr. Mike Mech.”

Mr. Mike Meche addressed the council. He stated, “Good evening, thank you and thank you for giving me the time. I appreciate everybody time and patience here. I have an issue that concerns me and it is has dwelled on my health for quite some time. I am here concerning an issue that have been with my family. I come upon the board tonight to ask what needs to be done right to do the right thing which is what I tried to do. This is concerning item #10 on the agenda which is the dumpsters by the Hidden Hills Property. I am one of part of some landowners that have property right there and those dumpsters have been a lot of issue as far as not only the trash being put on the side but I have gotten blocked out of my own driveway to come out because people using it to turn around. I have asked and tried for several years and it has taken a toll on my health. Have the dumpsters put where they belong inside of that community, that is where it comes from and that is where it needs to go to like everybody else in the parish, you have your own dumpster nobody wants trash in their front yard. It is devaluing the property. My cousin lives along side that road and I recently went as far as and I am doing this for my dad to which actually help to start that community, we gave them use of two lots for 50 years for the community and we paid all of the taxes on that during this whole time. Now I am fighting the issue of trying to get it to look decent and stuff plus that dumpster there is an eyesore, the trash, the smell and all of that stuff. People are turning around in my driveway not being able to get a lot of it but it has been an ongoing task. I believe my father which had a fifth grade education would have not given and been so generous had he known the fight that I am fighting today to try to get the right thing done and the dumpster put inside of the community where they belong plus they stick out on the road and to me that is a liability part. To begin with our family use to own that total section of road and the community was to be maintained as a private road and they never held up to that. Once the parish started putting gravel and taking it over they now assumed it so we have no right or anything to it and it would have had to been done within a period of time. I mean I felt and done some stuff and I even recently asked the community with my cousins and family to take back once the landowners agreement ended we would take back the use of the lot that they would use had they not had the dumpster moved from our property. That did not happen so I spent a whole bunch of money and stuff and I did the legal way and cut them out of that and I am still stuck with the dumpsters but I did make them and try to do the right thing to move the dumpsters where they belong inside of their community. I can’t keep going on. I would like my councilmember to add on to this.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I put that on the agenda. How wide is that Right-of-Way Jessie?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We went and look at it today. The dumpsters are on the Right-of-Way, on the Parish Right-of-Way. However I know most of the councilmembers are going to remember this, Hackberry Road where the guy sued us in 2018 whenever we had forced him to remove stuff off of the Right-of-Way and the judge ruled in favor of the parish that they could not have things on the Right-of-Way. So this is going to be an issue as for as having dumpsters on the Right-of-Way of the parish.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly question, “So what happens with this?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I mean I am going to have to look at Garrett over there and ask Garrett. Since the court case is out there and it is saying that you can’t have things on a Right-of-Way I am pretty sure they have to move the dumpsters.”

Mr. Mike Meche stated, “Okay I have a suggestion. I will have to clear it since there are several of us that are landowners. I have Mr. Steve Taylor that would like to speak. We would probably allow the use of our first lot which is the first one you enter the community and it is big enough because I talked to Mr. Richard, I have talked to Mr. Richard several times, I have talked to Mr. John Guidroz to use that like we did before, let them use our property to use and house their dumpsters and keep their trash there to help situate this problem. We have been paying taxes. It is like six of us that own the deal. It was a suggestion. It came up from the gentlemen that I meet with at the time that came by and no one can see why those dumpsters are not placed inside of their community, that is their trash, that is their deal. They have wanted for 50 years and they don’t want that and they don’t want the truck in there but yet they are going to build million dollar homes or whatever the size of the truck that is going in there and as many as they get to haul dirt where is the deal? That is more time than then a dumpster truck would have done in a period of time.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain questioned, “Who owns the dumpsters?”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “Bayou State?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “So it is Bayou State who determines where the Dumpster go?”

Mr. Mike Meche stated, “No Sir.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Who are the Dumpsters for? Who are using them?”

Mr. Mike Meche stated, “May I ask a question? I do not live in the parish but I have been paying for some time some property taxes. I do have property on the hill and inside of the community. So even on my residence I pay property taxes and from what I am hearing and I have a confession or whatever is this service provided to the community being paid for by tax payer’s money? St. Landry Parish Tax Payer’s Money. In reality anybody regards to who they are can use those dumpsters that are paying St. Landry Property Taxes is what I am doing, am I correct? I don’t want to overstep my time or deal. I know you are very busy.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I have a question for Mr. Bellard and Mr. LeBouef. Is there any way possible because of the outside people that is everywhere in the parish that they go and they dump the trash in other people’s dumpsters but is there any way possible that you can do a lock system or a gate or some kind of fencing?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Are you asking me or Mr. LeBouef?”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Whichever one that wants to answer, Mr. LeBouef, because I mean that way only the residence that live there may be able to dump because they would be able just have that access.”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Executive Director, Solid Waste stated, “I was speaking to the Parish President just a minute ago. When it is going to be on that Right-of-Way they ask questions as well. We don’t own those dumpsters, we pay for the service and they are paid for by the sales tax. The issue with that is we don’t have a designation of where to put them if there is any kind of struggle or any kind of property or anything. As far as I can go to the Commission and ask that we take and we do that but again is that going to solve Mr. Meche’s problem I don’t know. Again if they move on the inside again I don’t know how the HOA reads we will take care of getting all of the things set for a turn-a-round. I think that Mr. Meche mentioned to Mr. Guidroz that if it persisted he would take and eliminate the turn-a-round by using this deal, no problem, we go ahead and we will take a look for another solution. We will take the route that we have put and we will try and work out something with another landowner if that is a solution. We are open, whatever you guys decide we will do.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I have a couple of questions. So what is it that you want us to decide? Is it up to the council to decide where these dumpsters go?”

Mr. Mike Meche stated, “That is what I was told.”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Executive Director, Solid Waste stated, “Certainly not Solid Waste, certainly not Solid Waste.”

Mr. Mike Meche stated, “That is what I was told.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So Garrett, you were fixing to give us your opinion.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “That is Hackberry Road. There was a case in the past where we used the Junk Ordinance for a property owner who had junk items in his front yard and they had delayed it in court for a long time but eventually the judge ruled that he had to remove it and put a fence around the rest and that was done. That is a private land owner who has junk items in his front yard and they used our junk ordinance. Generally a lawsuit would not be filed we would just send out the notice and we would remove it ourselves and the parish would send them the bill. This is not a private landowner who have got refrigerators and washing machines in his front yard these are just dumpsters. I think they are maintained by your waste. I think they are on the parish right-of-way. I think perhaps they could be relocated to a place that would be more convenient for everyone, is that what I am hearing?”

Mr. Mike Meche stated, “The question has never been answered to me. Why these dumpsters cannot be place at their origin, inside of the community? They have property that they own and everything in there. Like I mentioned before we have a lot that is right there when you first come in so the trucks are not going to be going all around this deal to every driveway they will have a central location, they will control who uses those dumpsters in that place and it will take care of the situation, that is my suggestion. I appreciate you all time and you all see my concerns. I am here asking for the right thing to be done and my health.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, “What will we do with that Jessie?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will tell you my opinion and it is not going to be like by many people in this room. Anytime something is brought to my attention and it is a liability on the parish we have to move them, it is just that simple. We can’t have dumpsters on the parish right-of-way, especially on the side of a road where it could potentially come to where a wreck happens and everybody will get sued but mainly the Parish, Solid Waste and Bayou State. Hidden Hills won’t get sued because they have no ownership and no claim to anything on the side of that road. Now that is has been brought to my attention my position on this is to move the dumpsters.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “Mr. LeBouef said something this afternoon. Maybe one container, like one of those long containers. That would not be better than three or four dumpsters?”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Executive Director, Solid Waste stated, “What we had talked about Mr. Alvin is that in addition to that because we are having a lot of Bulky Waste. We are having a lot of stuff that does not belong in that dumpster being put on the side or behind it. Not only and certainly not from the people in Hidden Hills it is a secluded area and people are coming out there and just dumping everything. What we had talked about I think Ms. Chris and I and some of the other residence is if we would put a smaller 12 or 14 yard dumpster there for removal once a week if that would help.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “It would still be on the right-of-way.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It would still be on the right-of-way and you know we have other private subdivisions and they bring the trash cans to the end of the road and we have nothing but mess. It would be better to have a dumpster but it would be on the right-of-way and we don’t allow them to do that. So we are back to the same thing. I rather see the

dumpsters than have trash cans because it makes more of a mess but we can't have them on the right-of-way to just stay there. That is why the ordinance says that you have to remove your trash can at the end of the next day."

Councilman Jody White stated, "I think that Mr. LeBouef said something that maybe the people of Hidden Hills need to look into. What is written in your HOA Agreement? Why can't the dumpsters be place within the community of your area? That is what needs to be looked at. The people of Hidden Hills are using the dumpsters and it needs to be placed somewhere within Hidden Hills, the HOA Agreement, they are going to have to look at it."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "Mr. Barry, within this Hidden Hills Subdivision is a private road how far do we go into Hidden Hills on that road?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Mr. Brown, we looked at it this afternoon. The Surveyor was not in the office today for the Tax Assessor's Office but looking at the map the Subdivision and what they call the Red Line in the Subdivision the gate is not even in the Subdivision according to the maps. So we are going to get with the guy tomorrow and he is going to be able to tell us more about what needs to be done and what is assessed in there. None of the road are even assessed as being property in the parish, not even taxed. So it will be up to the Assessor's Office to let us know what is what as far as property lines and stuff."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "What I was thinking about and I don't know if each individual house hold has a trash container."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No, it is a private road inside of the subdivision."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "So they don't have a Bayou State Container at their house?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "No."

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Executive Director, Solid Waste stated, "On the outside of their house there are three 8 yard containers outside."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "My question is just an idea that I am throwing out there. Whereas Bayou State have not the larger trucks but they have like the medium size trucks with the little arm on it, if the Hidden Hills HOA would sign some sort of agreement like a Home Agreement whereas that truck can go in and pick up those trash cans individually."

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Executive Director, Solid Waste stated, "The smallest truck that they have would have problems because the roads are not very wide. Again I am not an engineer and I don't want to profess that at all. If one resident or one property owner does not sign the servitude to passage this truck cannot go there at all. If one person opposes for the entire subdivision the truck cannot go in there at all. One of the lightest truck you are looking at is somewhere around 45 to 50 thousand pounds unloaded."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "One of the things that I noticed today on that Plat is when you click on the road it is not owned by anybody. Most of the time in private subdivisions the landowner owns to the middle of the road. That one does not show that at all. So that is why I want to get with the Assessor tomorrow so we can see exactly who owns the road itself because according to the description it does not show that the owner of the road is even listed."

Mr. Steve Taylor, Hidden Hills Subdivision stated, "If I may answer your question Jessie, the property was developed by Mr. Woodacur, he created a Plat. A servitude was created from the dip, I don't know if you know where that is right pass this nice house they built back there. From there to the gate was a Servitude. On the Western Side of the road 25 feet was given by the Meche family and 25 feet by the Breaux Family and that goes for approximately 300 years to the gate. From there that was supposed to be maintained as a private road but the parish has been doing it. They have been putting gravel on there and they blacktopped it. From the gate forward they to have servitude. The Meche Family had a Servitude of road that was carved out from the plat and the Breaux Family had theirs and there were some other families,

Kaliste Saloom and other people were in there. All of those roads the underlying portion of the road is still owned by the heirs of the Meche and the Breaux or whoever. A servitude continues inside of the community from us for their use.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That is going to be an issue because again the Assessor is going to have to give us their opinion and make sure that this is laid out. If it is owned by somebody else other than Hidden Hills then it is a private road but it is a private road owned by different people not each individual landowner.”

Mr. Steve Taylor, Hidden Hills Subdivision stated, “Right, the actual road is not owned by them but they do have a servitude, they have a rite of passage.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Right, whenever Mr. LeBouef is talking about the person to give permission to get on their road it would be each individual landowner it would be the person who owns the road. Again that is looking at the map so we would have to get with the Assessor’s Office and make sure that what they are Assessing the property and make sure everybody is right as far as that is concerned.”

Mr. Steve Taylor, Hidden Hills Subdivision stated, “Jody I think you hit the spot as far as what needs to be done. Everyone of us in this place have a house or a camp or something and we all have trash and we have to take care of it. You bring your trash can out to the road, whoever puts it out there the garbage truck comes and pick it up or you bring it somewhere or whatever you are responsible for your trash, I am not responsible for your trash. You would be highly insulted and you would have me arrested if I would go and put a dumpster in front of your property. Well that is what we are living with. I have the property next door but Sandy’s cousin has it right in front of her. You have the crawfish peelings and you name it. It is just a horrible thing and it seems there are some responsibilities that needs to be taken by the people who put the trash there. If you simply say okay you are responsible, this is your trash, you deal with it and if they want to deal with the parish I am sure the land owners, the Breaux’s and us can work with you guys to get the stuff picked up. We even have a lock that is available that Mike talked about. Maybe we can do some sort of a Lease Agreement if we can get everybody to agree. We just want to do something that is decent, that is common sense and that we would all do and say okay that is right. Let’s just do the right thing.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If you don’t mind let us get with the Assessor tomorrow so we can find out where the lines are and make sure that what we are saying or what we are seeing on the map is correct. Then that will answer a lot of questions as far as who owns the road. That is going to be the big discussion, who owns the road.”

Mr. Steve Taylor, Hidden Hills Subdivision stated, “I was a land man for 40 years and I did the research on it. I have been involved with it. I know how it came about.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “If they rented their own dumpster can Bayou State go on that property? So, if an individual rents a dumpster, I want one on my property and I rent it they are not coming to put it on my land if I rent it?”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Executive Director, Solid Waste stated, “If you rent it from them absolutely.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “That is correct. If that Hidden Hills Bunch of people want to rent a dumpster to put on that private property they have and they pay \$12.00 per month or \$3.00 a month to keep all that trash from their front yard they have to go and put that dumpster on that property is that correct? That is what I am asking you. Yes or No.”

Mr. Richard LeBouef, Executive Director, Solid Waste stated, “You are talking about Mr. Meche’s Property? If he gets him a lease and he pays us he don’t have to do that. Solid Waste will pay for it and build a turn-a-round there. We just can’t place a dumpster where we don’t have no place.”

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills addressed the council. She stated, “My name is Chris Vildibill and I am president of our HOA, I am the HOA Person. Mr. Bellard thank you for having us here. Richard thanks for going to bat for us and I have never met Mr. Stelly but I

have been on the phone with him before. I do appreciate you all letting us be here to discuss this today. There are a couple of issues that we have with what have been said. First of all these dumpsters have been there. I have lived at Hidden Hills for 39 plus years and the dumpsters have always been there. They have been moved a little bit more towards our gate because there was an issue of blocking one of the entrances to the property that I think that this gentleman has, not Mr. Meche, in the back so they were moved further up. They are not in the road, one time they were in the road and one of our community members hit it and if I am not mistaken Ms. Robin, it got moved because it was proved that they had dropped it into the road, the dumpster company, not us had dumped it into the road. So that has happen but it is not us that put it in the road. As far as a right-of-way Mr. Bellard I hear you and I understand and I have had my own company so I am afraid of lawsuits so you have to be careful and I understand that. I want you to know the area that you are talking about, the only people that come back there are Hidden Hills. That part of the road where the dumpsters are right outside of our gate. So the public does not come down that road unless we have visitors or Fed Ex or whatever needs to come in. So that is that situation. As far as trash being on the ground we don't like it either. I got to be president in April and I have been working very hard with our community to make thing right. Mr. LeBouef can talk about that because I have talked to him about how we can make this cleaner and nobody has yet to talk about what will we do with old toilets? We can bring it to the dumpster but Morgan and Morgan has been picking up our debris and all of that, so all of that is going to stay there so that is that issue. As far as using the property inside the gate that belongs to Mr. Meche we have had several, several, several dealing with Mr. Meche trying to buy the boat launch that was his property when the lease ended in 2021 and we never could come to an agreement. Recently somebody else tried to buy the lot that he is talking about and it never went through. Somebody very recently have tried to buy that lot and they could never come to an agreement on buying it. He has had several opportunities to sell us property and we have tried to buy it and we have not been able to do that. We are all voters here in this parish. Mr. Meche does not live in this parish and yes he pays taxes but we all pay taxes but our added advantage is we also vote. Hidden Hills has been around forever, we have at least 80 homes, so how many people are they affecting? I will say this if the decision is made that they stay there we will do everything in our power to do a better job of it not looking terrible and things being on the ground. As I have told Mr. Meche before a lot of times it is because those dumping people and the trucks come and they empty the dumpsters and things fall to the ground and they leave it, we pick it up and put it back into the dumpsters. Now that maybe a day or two later but we end up cleaning up and fixing the mess. So on behalf of probably about 150 people who lives within Hidden Hill I am asking that you consider this and take a look and understand that that right-of-way that we are talking about is really not in anybody normal path of transportation and it has been there for over 39 years because it has been there since I have been there, the dumpsters, thank you."

Councilman Woman Nancy Carriere stated, "I am just a little confused now. Is it a problem or is it not a problem."

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, "We don't think that it is a problem. Now Mr. Meche's property it is because our dumpsters are in front of his property. It is in front of Mr. Meche's property and also that property has not been maintained at all. We have pictures of it and it is all over grown, that property has not been maintained."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Ma'am you are the President of the HOA. What are your membership says about the dumpsters?"

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, "Our membership would prefer that the dumpsters stay outside."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "Thank you very much."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "So just to kind of address the issue. The Hidden Hills Subdivision has no claim to the dumpsters or the property right there."

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, "No Sir."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So the problem that I have to look out for the people or look out for the parish of St. Landry is the Right-of-Way and there is a dumpster on the Right-of-Way. Nobody has ever filed a complaint with us on that so it is not an issue but now we have a complaint filed so it is an issue and even if none of the public passes right there you know and every attorney in here knows that it could be one of the people who lives in Hidden Hills hits the dumpster and wants to sue the parish because we allowed it to be there and Bayou State. I have to look out for the parish and that is the position that I am going to take if those dumpsters are on the Right-of-Way they are going to have to move them. Tomorrow we will deal with the lines and everything else. I know you have 150 people I still have to look at it from the Parish standpoint and Hidden Hills Subdivision Landowners have no claim to the dumpsters and they don’t pay no fees for the dumpsters, it is not their property. They use the dumpsters like they always have but there is no liability on them at all.”

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, “I hear you. One more point, the Meche’s don’t own all of the road, they only own a portion of one road.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard questioned, “Which road is that?”

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, “When you come into the gate to the right.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Okay, so when you go in there is?”

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, “The mail boxes you take a right.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Okay so right there.

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, “It goes a ways Mr. Bellard. There are other people that own another portion and I think that we own the rest. We have been in the process Mr. Bellard at trying to figure all of that out.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, “So the Breaux’s own to the left? The road to the left.”

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, “Did I say left Mr. Bellard?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “You said it right.”

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills, “I could have said left, it is the other left.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So it is on the right side by the mailboxes is what you said, right?”

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills, “Yes sir you take a right.”

Councilman Jimmie Edwards questioned, “Do you have a Cul-De-Sac?”

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, “No. We don’t have a Cul-De-Sac. That is the other issue. Every road is a dead end.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “There are no turn-a-rounds for no trucks to turn.”

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, “You all can talk about that until you all are blue in the face. As a parish and we pay the taxes I would hope that we get some kind of dumpster service. I mean that is an obligation that the parish has to use since we pay the taxes.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, I don’t believe that that is an obligation for Solid Waste to pay for a dumpster.”

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, “It is an obligation to pick up our trash.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “You live on a private road. I guess there is some type of obligation but I don’t see where an obligation for the parish to pay for a dumpster for a community. If that would be the case you know how many dumpsters we would have on the

side of the road in our parish? We opened up a big can of worms on that.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “So to wrap up the conversation here the road is a private road.”

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, “Yes sir. Inside of the gate.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Inside of the gate.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “It is on the public right-of- way.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct on the outside.”

Ms. Chris Vildibill of Hidden Hills stated, “Correct.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Ms. Chris, Tomorrow I will give you a call once I get with the Assessor.”

Mr. Joseph Abraham addressed the council. He stated, “How are you guy. I am Dr. Joe Abraham. I live in Hidden Hills. I am a proud member of St. Landry Parish. This is an interesting case. I do recognize the comment that it is a potential liability, a potential lawsuit. Everything in this room, everything the parish owns is a potential liability. I for one would like to know what is the liability, what risk does it bring? This is not a speedy area. You are right there at the gate. The only reason the community is gated is because people come in and fish and I can respect that but we have to kind of keep that out. Nobody is speeding through there because you can’t, it is right by the gate. There is also the question of Mr. Meche mentioning property values. All of the property values back there have just zoomed because there are 80 homes with 150 people back there. The parish build a black top road and that boosted the property value. Right now Fiber is being ran and that bust property value. We had been a great benefit to the parish and to that area and to all the landowners on it, their property have appreciated nicely over the decades. It has already been mentioned that I am confused as to why he is complaining about the dumpsters when the property behind it is overgrown to say the least, it is not kept up. If this was in front someone’s home I would be with them in a moment. This is a piece of property that is not being used and why is this a problem all of a sudden? There are any number of things wrong with this, again if there is a risk involved I would like to know what is the risk because there is a potential risk we can’t outlaw anything. Every wreck center you have is a potential risk, what is the risk? What is the benefit? It is always a risk benefit ration. We have looked at this for years, those dumpsters as the HOA President pointed out had been there for decades. Where they are at right now, moving them there aren’t any real good or easy solutions. The property behind it is not being kept up. I don’t understand why? We have had repeated interactions with Mr. Meche, repeated complaints that we have tried to deal with and we have tried to resolve in different ways and we have always failed. I don’t understand all of that and I have not been involved but the dumpsters are where they are and there is no good workable solution otherwise that I know of. Thank you for letting me speak.”

Mr. Terry Fitzgerald, Resident of Hidden Hills addressed the council. He stated, “Good evening ladies and gentleman, I am Terry Fitzgerald. I am one of the residence of Hidden Hills. Four months, one reason I bought in Hidden Hills was because of the way it was set up with the trash collection, it is outside of the community. I would not have brought my property had I known this was a problem. The other part of it is that you have two issues here. Your lawsuit does not talk about detrimental reliance. I am relying on that being there, that whole community is and it is creating a health hazard if you take them away, where are we going to put our trash? So you are buying yourself trouble.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No not at all. So the parish is responsible for certain things and the right-of-way is the parishes and the parish responsibility. We get calls all the time for people putting things on our right-of-ways and we have to get them moved okay. So the case that we talked about on Hackberry Road is case and point. We made him move his stuff and he filed suite against us and we won in court saying that you cannot put stuff on our right-of-way if we tell you to move it. Again, you all don’t own the dumpsters or the property where it is at so you all don’t have the liability, you all are good.”

Mr. Terry Fitzgerald stated, “I did not find out about the right-of-way until after I bought the property. The title was clean but the Meche’s and the other families developed that property that way so they can keep the Mineral Rights because it would have expired after 10 years if they would have just kept them normally. They made a mistake, they did not develop that property right.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I should get some answers tomorrow with the Assessor’s Office as far as where the lines are and who owns the road and stuff. That will be a question that has to be answered. Most of the time on a private subdivision the owner of the lot owns half of the road in front of their lot. On this particular one and it might be like that but it does not show on the map. So that will be an issue by itself as far as inside the subdivision.”

Ms. Vicki Robin, Resident of Hidden Hills Subdivision addressed the council. She stated, “Good evening I am Vick Robin and I am one of the community members in Hidden Hills and I have lived there about 9 years. Although Mr. Meche says that he will be very cooperative about allowing the community to use one of his lots the fact is the community has a long history of problems with Mr. Meche and he essentially would be a hostile landlord. So what do I mean by that? About 8 years ago there was a tentative agreement with the then president to purchase that lot and the Boat Launch Lot but that fell through because they did not want to sell. About 7 years ago because there had been complaints about the way that it looks the board approached him about putting a fence to block it and he would not allow us to do that. We approached him about buying that section where the dumpsters are and he had no interest in doing that. As I said he would basically be a hostile landlord. Are there any questions?”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Do we need a motion for the Parish President to report back to us the findings from the Assessor’ Office regarding the Dumpsters at the Hidden Hills Subdivision?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “For the Regular Meeting I will report the findings regarding the Dumpsters at the Hidden Hills Subdivision.”

Mr. Robert Atkins addressed the council regarding his application with Water District #3. He stated, “Good evening. I am not from Hidden Hills. I just want to fill the vacant position on the board of Water District No. 3. That is why I am here.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “Mr. Robert, I have a question for you. I would like to know exactly where do you live?”

Mr. Robert Atkins stated, “I live right next to where you use to live on 3 Mile Lake.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “On that water district that you would like to serve on where does that water district cover?”

Mr. Robert Atkins stated, “I have seen a description of it but I have not seen a map. I am not familiar with all of the landmarks on the description so I could not tell you exactly where. I know 3 mile lake is included in it.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “District 3 was started years ago when supplied water poured into Port Barre and that finalized the aspect of the board, other than 10 Mile Lake and other entities as well. The board has been functional about 20 years and we are always looking for good quality people to serve on these boards. I think this gentleman would make us a good candidate for Water District 3.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “Thank you for coming Mr. Atkins. Have you served on this board prior to or is this a re-apply?”

Mr. Robert Atkins stated, “No Sir I have not.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “I see your qualifications and your background in government and public affairs. I think you would make a good candidate. Thank you.”

Mr. Lastie Cormier addressed the Council. He stated, “I am Lastie Cormier and I am here for re-appointment to the Fire District 7 Board.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “There are no questions. Thank you for coming. We require you to come one time.”

Mr. Sandy Coleman Addressed the council. He stated, “I am Sandy Coleman and I am here to re-apply for Fire District 7 Board.”

Mr. Hals Beard Addressed The council. He stated, “Good afternoon, I am Hals Beard. I am applying for the appointment to Fire District 7 Board. I am not currently on the board. I was on the board when we established Fire District No. 7 and then I got off for a period of 8 years. With an opening coming up I am interested in getting back on. I currently serve as a Volunteer Fireman with that department so I am very active in that area and I live in that district.”

5. Public Works Report:

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

Boom Axed	13	Roads
Culvert Cleaned	10	Roads
Culvert Installation	23	Roads
Debris Removal	57	Roads
Ditching	16	Roads
Grading	127	Roads
Material Spreading	12	Roads
Patching	26	Roads
Shredding/Grass Cutting	59	Roads
Sign Installation	34	Roads
Tree Removal	8	Roads
Washout	5	Roads

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to accept the Public Works Report.

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

Motion carried.

6. Forward all applications received for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 3. Mr. James Solar has resigned. (No Term Set)

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jody White to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 16th, 2024** all applications received 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. Forward all applications received for five appointments to Fire District No. 7 for a one-year and a two-year term. (11-18-2024- 11-18-2025) and (11-18-2024 – 11-18-2026)

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Excuse me Madam Chair. On this one we will be forwarding for only 3 applications. We received 3 applications and we will re-advertise for 2 applications. It was suppose to be for 5 applications. We were suppose to receive 5 applications and we only received 3 applications. We will re-advertise for 2 applications.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 16th, 2024** all

applications received to Fire District No. 7 for a one-year and a two-year term and re-advertise to fill the other two spots. (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. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to Ward 3 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four- year term. (12-21-2024 - 12-21-2028).

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Jody White to forward to Regular Meeting Held on *Wednesday, October 16th, 2024* to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to Ward 3 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four- year term. (12-21-2024 - 12-21-2028)

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

Motion forwarded.

9. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to St. Landry Parish Economic Development (SLED) for a three- year term. (01-01-2025 – 01-01-2028)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting Held on *Wednesday, October 16th, 2024* to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to St. Landry Parish Economic Development (SLED) for a three- year term. (01-01-2025 – 01-01-2028).

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

Motion forwarded.

10. Discuss dumpsters by Hidden Hills. (Councilman Alvin Stelly).

Item discussed earlier in the meeting.

11. Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to CBD LEASING INC. advising to come and address the council regarding the clean-up/demolition of their property located at 1485 HWY 10 WASHINGTON, LA. 70589 Parcel #0500328001

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting Held on *Wednesday, October 16th, 2024* to authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to CBD LEASING INC. advising to come and address the council regarding the clean-up/demolition of their property located at 1485 HWY 10 WASHINGTON, LA. 70589 Parcel #0500328001.

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

Motion forwarded.

12. Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to CAROLYN ROSE DARBONNE advising to come and address the council regarding the condemnation/demolition of her property located at 116 KENNERSON ROAD, OPELOUSAS, LA. 70570 Parcel #0500929100.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jody White to forward to Regular Meeting Held on *Wednesday, October 16th, 2024* to authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to CAROLYN ROSE DARBONNE advising to come and address the council regarding the condemnation/demolition of her property located at 116 KENNERSON ROAD, OPELOUSAS, LA. 70570 Parcel #0500929100

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

Motion forwarded.

13. Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to VISION ACQUISITION LLC advising to come and address the council regarding the condemnation/demolition of their property located at 111 SHERRY STREET, OPELOUSAS, LA. 70570 Parcel #0103774710.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting Held on **Wednesday, October 16th, 2024** to authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to VISION ACQUISITION LLC advising to come and address the council regarding the condemnation/demolition of their property located at 111 SHERRY STREET, OPELOUSAS, LA. 70570 Parcel #0103774710.

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

Motion forwarded.

- 14. Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to LINDA GAIL NAQUIN CASTILLE advising to come and address the council regarding demolition and debris removal of her property located at 151 RICHARD KOLDER LANE, OPELOUSAS, LA. 70570 Parcel #0104119800.**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting Held on **Wednesday, October 16th, 2024** to authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to LINDA GAIL NAQUIN CASTILLE advising to come and address the council regarding demolition and debris removal of her property located at 151 RICHARD KOLDER LANE, OPELOUSAS, LA. 70570 Parcel #0104119800.

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

Motion forwarded.

- 15. Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to JAMES WAYNE GUILLORY ETALS advising to come and address the council regarding the demolition and debris removal of his property located at ACADIANA ROAD, OPELOUSAS, LA. 70570 Parcel #0603153000.**

A motion was made by Councilman Jody White, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting Held on **Wednesday, October 16th, 2024** to authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to JAMES WAYNE GUILLORY ETALS advising to come and address the council regarding the demolition and debris removal of his property located at ACADIANA ROAD, OPELOUSAS, LA. 70570 Parcel #0603153000

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

Motion forwarded.

- 16. Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to LUCIUS JONES JR advising to come and address the council regarding the demolition and debris removal of his property located at 214 GORDON, OPELOUSAS, LA. 70570 Parcel # 0603301000.**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Jody White to forward to Regular Meeting Held on **Wednesday, October 16th, 2024** to authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to LUCIUS JONES JR advising to come and address the council regarding the demolition and debris removal of his property located at 214 GORDON, OPELOUSAS, LA. 70570 Parcel # 0603301000.

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

Motion forwarded.

- 17. Authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to ALMA DAVENPORT advising to come and address the council regarding the demolition and debris removal of her property located at HWY 10 MELVILLE LA 71353 Parcel # 0401499500.**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting Held on **Wednesday, October 16th, 2024** to authorize the Council Clerk to send a certified letter to ALMA DAVENPORT advising to come and address the council regarding the demolition and debris removal of her property located at HWY 10 MELVILLE LA 71353 Parcel # 0401499500.

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

Motion forwarded.

18. Update on Broadband. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry)

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Mr. Bellard, if you don’t mind would you please give us an update for the benefit of the public in regards to Broadband and where are we?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Broadband is happening throughout the Parish. We don’t have control over it, they are doing it and they are doing it through several different grants. Everybody should be seeing Broadband, they should be seeing Fiber in their area. If they are not seeing it they need to contract their service provider. Every area of our parish for the most part has some type of Broadband Coverage or in the process of getting coverage.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “As recent as last week I received a call that they had gone on one of the major roads and one of the little roads they had bypassed it and they are wondering why?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “What happens is this: Keep in mind that a grant is going to pay for service. Part of that grant says you have to do everything back there. If Charter Communication goes down there that is not part of the grant that is on their own dime, they are not required to go to all of the areas. What that is telling me is that you have people who are getting service from another provider which is not part of the grant program. Whenever the person or the company is going to come through the grant they are going to have to go the same route and then go to the last road. Everybody will get service but if you see somebody getting service on a main road that company is probably not in the grant program so they are not required to do everything back there. So that is where a lot of confusion comes from where they see them and they leave, they do it on their own dime.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned, “So is it possible that some of these smaller roads or roads that are off of main roads will they every get service?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They will get service. They will get service through the GUMBO Plan and the NTIA Grant and the GUMBO Plan has a Phase 3 coming out. The goal is for everybody to have access to High Speed Internet at a low cost.”

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Okay, thank you.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “I would love to have that Fiber Optic as well, call my provider as you indicated. They indicated to me that they had no time frame of when I can get it so I called up Allen which is another provider, my provider is AT&T. Allen said we do not have access where I live, my resident for Fiber Optic yet, we still have regular Cable Coax. I am not willing to pay for Coax Cable when Fiber Optic is the way to go and they could not tell me when I could expect it. Is there any timeframe or any windows or any clue?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “They don’t tell us. This money comes from the Feds and the State. I can tell you that Mr. Vaniese at the State Level, we can contact him and we can ask him some questions. His resources are at his fingertips but it is a whole state that he sees about. He is telling us that the process is working and we figured it would take a while. We can contact him tomorrow and we can have some answers on the roll out of the GUMBO 3 and what is their time frame. Every since this came out a lot of these cable providers got in and hurried up and start running. Down my road I never had Charter before and all of a sudden I have Charter down my road and they are not part of the program but they wanted to get a head of the game where before they did not want to come down my road. So competition is good and it makes people go out and work.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “No doubt about it. If I may close with this: It is not just from a residence it is a standpoint of post office lack of utilization, grocery stores or businesses in town do not have the access to that for credit card use and things of that nature. It is a problem, it is a problem. Thank you.”

19. Discuss Cleaning of Culverts. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry)

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Mr. Barry, is the Culvert Cleaning Machine repaired now?"

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, "Yes Ma'am."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Some of those culverts that I had called in do I have to recall them back in?"

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, "They are on the list but we probably have 80 or more places to go and we have just one culvert cleaner. It just takes time but we are getting there."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Okay, thank you."

20. Update on Removal of Debris. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry)

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Are we still removing debris? I have some areas where there is debris and the grass is starting to grow in it."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Did you call it in?"

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Earlier, not recently."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have our grappler truck that goes around and pick up debris. We don't have a regular schedule where we have a truck just for debris."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Some of this is not really in my area. I was just observing this."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We can get on it."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Okay, thank you."

21. Discuss Smooth Ride Home. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry)

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Can you give the public an update of where we are. I have been hearing conversations about this especially those still with the gravel roads. I have a lot of those in the district that I represent. There are some concerns before this come to an end will the possibly see some pavement on their roads?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I can't promise anything when it comes to these roads because we don't know how everything is going to lay out. The priority list is basically on going because most of these roads have a lot of houses being built on them and that is a big factor. It comes back to the cost of how much it is going to take to keep gravel or limestone and how much maintenance it takes. In a period of 5 years if we can black-top the road and do it and save that money and not have to do the gravel and limestone that is what we look at. So each individual road has its own preference and its own dealings."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I would appreciate it to the highest if you all would take another look at some of the ones in the district that I represent. They are connected to some of the major roads and they are still gravel roads."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have a bunch of them."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I know I have a bunch too."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have a bunch of them in the parish and we are taking them as we can. Again we are paying off the bonds, Thank God we have everything going in that direction but we don't have a lot left over after the bonds are paid. So we have to save up to make that happen."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “I wanted the public to be aware of this as well. I pretty much knew the answer but I wanted them to hear it. Thank you.”

**22. Discuss donating Adjudicated Property to a Nonprofit Committee Garden.
(Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).**

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Thank you Ms. Viv for recognizing. Mr. Bellard, I spoke to you about this a couple of months ago and it is not donating per-say to give it away but I spoke to you about it, it was just to discuss this. I spoke to someone from Southwest Primary. He was interested in a no cost to the parish, everything would be donated back to the public a community garden. So some of the land could be utilized instead of just sitting there for something that was adjudicated, so it was just a discussion. It is not to give it away because we cannot give property away.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “If it is a benefit to the community and it is adjudicated property we can do something on it. The only problem is if somebody come and pay their taxes it will revert back to the property owner. Garrett can explain more.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “According to the Statue on Adjudicated Property if there is Adjudicated Property then if it has been over 3 years since the landowner lost the property because they did not pay their property taxes and it was adjudicated over 3 years ago Parish Government can make a constriction on it and they can establish a right-of-way. If they ever get their property back the constriction stays and the right-of-way stays. Three years is the time frame to keep in mind with it comes to Adjudicated Property. That is whenever the parish does anything with Adjudicated Property, dig a ditch, clean it up, put a constriction on it or put a right-of-way on it, it has to be 3 years after the property owner lost it for non-payment of taxes. So three years is really the time period to keep in mind when it comes to Adjudicated Property.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Again, this is only a discussion. We don’t know what property, he would get with you to see what is available, maybe it is something that the parish owns already and it has been adjudicated back to the parish and we can make that decision. It would be a Community Garden it would be a Non Profit. We can discuss it more but I just wanted to bring it up tonight because I told the young man I would talk to you all about it.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, October 16th, 2024** to further discuss donating Adjudicated Property to a Nonprofit Committee Garden.

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

Motion forwarded.

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

Councilman Jody White stated, “Let’s go back and reference to Item No. 15 on the agenda. This is in my district so I am familiar with this area. I think what we need to do is this: This property is off of Acadian Road but it also entails Jim Guillory Road. We want to be specific in reference to the letter sent and the property area. How do you want to word that Ms. Cynthia?”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “I just want to make note that the property, the main address was on Acadian but it covers some property on Jim Guillory Road also. All of the parcels belong to this Succession that is involved in what we are going to bring before the council. I spoke with Ms. Semien and I got her contact information so when this will be scheduled I will notify her to come in.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So the Parcel # doesn’t include all of that?”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “It does, that is what I am saying. It includes everything. I just wanted to make it clear because it says Acadian Road but it includes Jim Guillory also.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “So the Parcel Number that is on this paper it includes all of property?”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “Yes Sir.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “It is basically re-wording it a little to add Jim Guillory Road to it.”

A question was asked by a Constituent in the audience: I need confirmation about when the road could be paved. If you can confirm: Are we on the list? Are we waiting for funds? What is the hold up?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So everybody is on the list. I can tell you that much. I cannot tell you exactly when. As far as the funds, the funds come in every month. Until we do another Bond Issue which we won’t have the lump sum of money to come in. Unfortunately when this was sold to the people comments were made that everybody’s road would get done, not nearly enough money to do everybody’s road.”

A question was asked by a Constituent in the audience, “So how far are we on the list?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I can’t answer that question. I don’t want to lie to you. I can tell you like other people said, we are going to do your road and I would be lying to you. I will look at the list tomorrow and we can see where we are on it. I don’t want to lie to you. I can give you a call.”

A question was asked by a Constituent in the audience, “There was a comment that said that you all don’t do any work on private roads. When these people were talking they said that the parish did their private road that they have.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The road that he is talking about is the road up to the gate. That is the parish road.”

A question was asked by a Constituent in the audience, “That is the road that they were saying that the parish did. It was not inside of the gate.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, Ma’am. I was not here when that road was done but I can assure you that we did not go inside of a private subdivision and do a road. The road that he is speaking of is up to the gate where the road stops for parish.”

A question was asked by a Constituent in the audience, “It would really sound like each one was saying it was done on a private road because they said that the parish done it.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We can find out tomorrow.”

A question was asked by a Constituent in the audience, “I was just wondering. When it came to me I did what I wanted done. I am listening to those people say in that subdivision it is all private roads and each one kept insisting that the parish had did their road.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is my understanding that they went up to the gate. Again, I was not here at the time and I doubt very seriously that the previous administration would have went inside a private subdivision. We can get the records tomorrow and find out.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. President, I represented that area until we just had re-apportionment and now it belongs to Mr. Alvin. That road was done under the Bill Fontenot Administration and it was done up to the gate. It has always been a paved road. I use to go in that subdivision. You would have to have a code to get into the gate. It was always a paved road.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We will look into it tomorrow and get some records.”

24. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards 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**