

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

1. Chairman Harold Taylor called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Councilwoman Nancy Carriere led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.
3. **Roll Call:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. Ex-Officio Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** None.

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated*, “Mr. Chairman, I think that you have some announcements to make.”

*Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated*, “The clerk advised me that Ms. Pat Mason-Guillory came and she left everyone a notice about the Annual Wreath across St. Landry Parish in Conjunction with the Walmart Transportation Department. It will be Saturday held December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Veterans Memorial at 10:00 a.m. Each one of you have a notice on your desk and she ask that you sign it if you are planning to attend so she can make accommodations for the amount of Wreath’s that she may need. That is all that I have. Thank you Mr. Taylor.”

4. **Person to address the Committee.**  
None.

5. **Parish President & Finance Reports:**

- *Approval of "The Silos RV Resort" Section 4, Township 6&7, Range 4 East located on Hwy 31 Opelousas, La.*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “I don’t have anything.

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated*, “It has approval of the Silos RV Resort.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “It is put under the Parish President Report but I am not the one who requested to place it there. It should have been a line item on the agenda but however you all want to address it, it does not matter.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned*, “Did we get paper work on that?”

*Assistant Clerk Karen Barlow stated*, “Yes Sir we just passed the paperwork out to you all.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “So the recommendation from Morgan Goudeau and Associates regarding the Approval of the “Silos RV Resort says that they recommend the approval granted that it is contingent upon the above comments being appropriately addressed in the letter.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated*, “Okay, I guess we will deal with it. It is not on the agenda other than in your report.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “It is in the Parish President’s Report. However you all want to handle.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated**, “Do we have a motion to send this up to full council?”

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to authorize the Parish President to sign the approval of “The Silos RV Resort” Section 4, Township 6 & 7, Range 4 East located on HWY 31, Opelousas, La.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

**Motion forwarded.**

- **Preliminary and Final Approval of Anna Loise Benoit ET AL- Lots 7A-7M (13 lots), Benoit Road and Howard Venable Road Opelousas, La**

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated**, “Mr. President, do you want to make a comment on the Preliminary and Final Approval of Anna Louis Benoit.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “From what I am understanding we did get the report and everything else from the Engineers to accept it and to forward it to the full council for approval. You should have that in your packet, the letter should be in your packet.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “It was just given to us. Mr. Taylor you should have it right there. The young lady that is sitting right next to Mr. Bellard handed it out, Shawnee.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated**, “What is the pleasure of the committee? Do we have a motion?”

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024** to authorize the Parish President to sign the Preliminary and Final Approval of Anna Loise Benoit ET AL- Lots 7A-7M (13 lots), Benoit Road and Howard Venable Road Opelousas, La.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

**Motion forwarded.**

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “Mr. Chairman we have to accept the Parish President’s Report but before you accept it I have a couple of questions in the Parish President’s Report. I asked Mr. Bellard a while ago, Mr. Bellard, we were involved in that lawsuit with Kim Spray.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Correct.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “You advised us that we were going to court and we went to court what is the disposition on the Kim Spray Deal?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “They ruled on the Kim Spray and advised that they could do the work as prescribed.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “Is that on the two Bayou’s?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, “Correct.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “Okay, so how much did that lawsuit cost us? Did it cost us for Kim Spray’s Attorneys or just your representation or our representation?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated**, “The cost, I don’t know what the cost is. I did not get a bill.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, “Okay, are you going to give us the judgement on it?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “I had brought a copy of the Judge’s reasons for judgement here, I can bring it again on the December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting if you want.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned,** “What was the outcome?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “The ruling is that Kim Spray would get the job and would be performing the jobs on Bayou Mallet and Bayou Carron.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “I know that Mr. Bellard pointed to Mr. Garrett so did you represent us in that case? That is maybe why you don’t have the cost.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Paul Gibson had represented St. Landry Parish Government in that case.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “So you are going to bring us everything on it.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Yeah, I brought a copy of the reasons for judgement to the last meeting. I will bring it again for the next meeting if you want.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I just think that we were involved with it and we just need to know what the deal is and how much it cost.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “He provided that to you all at the last meeting.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “No, he never provided me with that. He said he brought it but evidently Ms. Sherell did not give it to us because I don’t have one and I don’t think any councilmember here can say that they had it.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I just want to make sure that we are clear that he did provide it.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Okay, the next question, what is the disposition on the Dumpsters at Hidden Hills? That is another lawsuit that we had.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Nothing.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Okay and Garrett represented us on that. Garrett do you want to explain where are we at on that?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “The next court hearing is January 2, 2025. Our Morgan Goudeau and Associates is supposed to get back with us as to an area, a right-of-way on the side of the road that would be a private area which would be by the Home Owners Association and not a Parish right-of-way. Once we get that information prior to January 2, 2025 then we would know if the Home Owners Association would move the Dumpsters on to their private right-of way and get it off of the Parish right-of-way.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Just for the record I was asked to grant permission for them to allow me to be there. I told them no because if we start with one we would have to do it for the rest of the parish. That was not done.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “So in other words they are going to stay where they are at right now.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Until a Judge rules or until a decision is made. As far as for staying on the Public right-of-way I did not agree to that at all.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Eventually they are going to be moved is what you are saying?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I will have to believe that that is what would happen, correct.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Okay, the last question I have is I went for a deposition today in Lafayette with Mr. Paul Gibson and the Attorney for Ms. Terry Courville. Mr. Paul Gibson is representing us. What is the price tag on that one?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “What I don’t understand is this. This is a case with litigations.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Yes Sir.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “This is a Public Meeting and you are going to ask me a question about that.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I just want to know.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I can tell you the answer right now Mr. Ardoin.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned,** “Where are we at on the price tag on it?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I am not giving you an answer.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Okay. Thank you.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Come on it is an Open Litigation Case. You have been on this council for about 30 years, you should know better than that.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “Yes Sir but my thing is this: We have not had that many lawsuits. Here we have had 3 that have come up.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “So we will start back from the tally from the Police Jury Days to now do you want to do that?”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “It don’t make me any difference.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “Point of order here, one at a time, one at a time. Mr. Chairman.”

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated,** “I am finished, I am finished.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “Mr. Bellard, do you have anything else to say?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I never had anything to say to start off with Mr. Chairman.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “Well Mr. Bellard I have a couple of questions. How are we doing with the Budget? Are you about ready to give it to us?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Mr. Lejeune is going to be submitting it on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “The 18<sup>th</sup>, of December okay, have you any information regarding the Bonded Commission Meeting on the \$3,000,000.00 Line of Credit?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes, we went yesterday to Baton Rouge and it is not \$3,000,000.00 it is \$2,000,000.00 and it is structured differently. I don’t know how it got to that point of an 8 year bond but it is not even that. It will be a line of credit like we had before when I got here, a year to year line of credit and not a five year, not a three year and not an eight year.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned,** “So how do we pay that off in one year?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “It is a line of credit that goes into place and then every year it can be renewed if needed. It is the same structure as what we had before.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “Okay, help me to understand this. We had a \$7,000,000.00 Dollar Budget, \$7,400,000.00 is what we anticipated in revenue for the General Fund correct, last year. We only received \$6,400,000.00 so far as of October 31<sup>st</sup> is that correct? We got a \$911,000.00 deficit as of October 31<sup>st</sup> in the General Fund, is that correct?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I mean I can look at the numbers and tell you tomorrow.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “That is the handout that we have on our desk.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “If you are talking about the handout then yes.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “So let’s just say that it is somewhere between \$6,400,000.00 and \$7,000,000.00 is what it is going to end up being but we are borrowing \$2,000,000.00 and not \$3,000,000.00 now.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We are not borrowing any money unless we need it. It is a line of credit if needed and we will find out.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned,** “So how do we make up for the \$3,000,000.00 we over spent?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We did not overspend \$3,000,000.00. That is what I am trying to make everybody understand.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “I am really confused.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I am confused with you all because the way that it was structured by the attorney’s was structured wrong. They put it into a loan for 8 years when it was not even needed. We are going to know better by next week as far as exactly what we are going to need but it is not going to be even a draw of the whole amount. It is a line of credit up to \$2,000,000.00 dollars. I did not find out how it was structured until I got to the Bond Commission yesterday and they were looking at me like this is not what you need. I said no I do not need this. So that is why we are re-negotiating and redoing everything so next Thursday I will go back to the Bond Commission and finalize everything.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “For \$2,000,000.00 and not \$3,000,000.00.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Correct, Yes Sir. A line of Credit up to \$2,000,000.00”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned,** “How did you come up with the number of \$3,000,000.00 short, overspend?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Oh I did not come up with the \$3,000,000.00 Dollars overspend.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned,** “Who came up with it?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “So the attorney that is representing us on this right here drew the numbers up and put it in there and it went up too that amount but it was not that amount that we needed and they did it on a 8 year payment plan which we did

not want that and we did not understand why it was structured that way. I think what happen the Asphalt Overlay and the equipment is all 8 year projects so I think they just combined it and made it an 8 year project as well on the line of credit so it was structured wrong from the beginning, so it is fixed now.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “So help me understand. You are so much short on the Prisoner Deal? How much did you say that was?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We spent \$774,000.00 over budgeted on inmates this year.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “Okay, then you had.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “\$250,000.00 somewhat dollars on the Coroner. Then we had close to \$1,000,000.00 Dollars on the Debris Removal from the storms but since then the Governor has agreed to pay 75% of the total amount and we are getting those numbers in now. He had agreed to do 75% but not of the total amount that was actually spent but now that we have the total amount he agreed to do it.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned,** “We haven’t gotten the 75% and we may not get it for Fiscal Year 2024 am I correct?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We have not gotten the money yet. We were told that it is a possibility we will get it but I am not waiting on it for this year. Anyhow if it comes in January or February it is still going to be accounted back to 2024.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “Thank you, does anyone else have any questions?”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “I just want to know Mr. Bellard, how are we doing with Walmart?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Actually Walmart agreed to everything that was put on the table. I was very pleased with the negotiations with Walmart because Walmart since day one wanted to be a tax payer of this parish. I can’t wait until the negotiations, actually it is in the lawyer’s hands now to put it on paper and I can’t wait for people to see the difference between where we were going until the Tax Assessor and I got involved to where we are not. Walmart has always sent e-mails wanting to be tax payers and have that whole complex put underneath their name since their 20 year time has up. It is changing and over the next 12 years it is estimated about \$17,000,000.00 of more money coming to the Parish of St. Landry other than just \$200,000.00 a year what was going to get done.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned,** “So what is Parish Government going to get out of the \$17,000,000.00?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “So there is three phases to the deal. The first phase is Ad Valorem Taxes period. They get on the tax roll.

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned,** “What is that amount? Do you know?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “It is around \$500,000.00 Dollars a year. A little over \$500,000.00. The second part of it is the actual project that is actually coming around where they are going to be do some investments into the incentive that they have now and that investment is going to be to the \$400,000,000.00 Dollar range. The Pilot Program for that is going to be 65-35 where they get a 65% tax cut and 35% for the next 12 years. We have until 2039. It don’t start until 2026, 2027 and 2028 but by the time it is all said and done it is about a 12 year plan. The final version, the final leg of it is the sales tax that they agreed to pay up \$8,900,000.00 to the parish in lieu of not paying state sales tax. So basically they are getting a 50% cut on State Tax by doing this Pilot Program.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned,** “So of these three Phases a net for St. Landry Parish Government is what?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Not for the Parish Government it goes to SLED.

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned,** “I am just interested in what does this organization gets out of all of this? You said \$500,000.00. Is it more than \$500,000.00?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Well \$500,000.00 is what they are going to be paying Ad Valorem Taxes for the bill. It is like any other business. We get 11.24% of that on our normal allocation every year on Ad Valorem Taxes.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “I am confused. The \$500,000.00 isn’t coming to St. Landry Parish Government?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “It is coming to the tax collectors.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “All of the entities so I am interested in what this organization is going to get out of it.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “So out of the \$500,000.00, 11.24% of that comes to Parish Government.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “So 10%, \$50,000.00 roughly.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Roughly, yeah. That was not done before and on the other part of it on the second part of the plan which is going to be the project itself and it goes into 2 phases but the end result is \$400,000,000.00 Dollars and I forgot the exact number on that one but it is 65-35 percent and the final part is the sales tax. It goes to SLED and they are going to disburse the money out to the agencies.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “Ms. Nancy you had a question.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “Is there any updates with Mr. Jagneaux?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Nothing as of this morning. The only thing I had was something from his attorney stating a couple of options. Option one is to pay the lease of where he is storing files now which would be about \$50,000.00 a year. Option 2 was that he was going to give us the building and he has a long term lease. We just made it clear to get more information on giving us the building but what. The \$1,200,000.00 Dollars that he has spent on there is what he wants to re-coup but we are not going to do that.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “If you can just keep us updated. I did not know what was going on if we had settled or not.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We will just get more verification on what those options are and what they really mean.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “The Director of Community Action, have you replace that person?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes I have.”

**Councilman Faltery Jolivette questioned,** “Mr. Jessie, of the \$8,900,000.00 Sales Tax, how long is that in years?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “That is a onetime payment. That is not going to be like a 12 year payout plan. That will be a onetime payment and from there SLED will disburse it. That will be the big question because it is not a tax at that point. It is a Pilot

Payment. It can be distributed in all kinds of different ways. I am hoping and praying that they do it in a way where the Sales Tax Structure that is in place now, they follow that.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned,** “Who is going to make that decision on how it is going to be done?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “SLED.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “I have one more question. Maybe Garrett can answer that one. With the Insulin, did you hear anything?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I can answer that question. I met with them a couple of weeks ago. We are not part of that. We don’t even qualify.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “I know that he had been doing it and I was suppose to get on a conference call the other day but we had joined that lawsuit.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We joined the lawsuit but we are not qualified to join the lawsuit.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned,** “Why?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Well we don’t have enough employees to join the lawsuit.”

**Councilman Faltery Jolivette questioned,** “Was that one of the stipulations?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes. That was one of the main things that we got right away on the conference call was that. We don’t have enough employees to qualify to go towards anything. Even if we did you have to track all of the Insulin that they were taking throughout a period of time back to 2014 I believe, so we are not in the lawsuit.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown questioned,** “You say that we don’t have enough employees with St. Landry Parish Government?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Correct. With Parish Government, correct.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “But wasn’t that lawsuit for the guidelines of the constituents in the parish?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “No Sir. That was my impression until I got on the conference call. The first thing that they asked is how many employees we have. I told them and they said they don’t know why we are joining the lawsuit. I said I was asked to be on this call. They asked me some questions. It was all about employees and basically employees that we pay if they need insulin and we pay for the insulin. Not our insurance company but if we directly pay or if the employee directly paid for insulin.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “To my understanding it was the individuals in the parish who paid for insulin. That is when I initially brought it to the table. That is what the guy at the NACO Conference had stated.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “The five attorney’s on that Zoom Call were like me, they did not understand why we were involved.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “Thank you Sir.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “Mr. Brown, do you still have the attorney’s names? Would you please call them and ask them to explain that to you one more time. I understood very well that it was for the constituents of our parish and it did not matter who you worked for. So if you would could you please reach out to him and make sure that he is giving out the proper information. If we do qualify for our people of this parish we do whatever we have to do to make sure that we understand.”



**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “It was Ms. Laruby May, a law firm that came. If you don’t mind just for a second could Garrett elaborate more? I had spoken to Garrett and we agreed to participate. I want him to explain a little more because he had been on all of the calls. I was suppose to be on the calls but I was working.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “All Class Action Lawsuits are different. You have different qualifications. The Insulin Class Action Lawsuit of course would have been a good opportunity if we qualified for it but if you don’t qualify for it we can’t participate in it. That is different from the OPIOID Class Action Lawsuit where we not only qualify for it but you had other agencies such as the Sheriff and the hospital that qualified for it and so we were able to participate in that. Once you go into a class action lawsuit and whatever legal counsel is representing you at some point they are going to know if you qualify for it or not and in this case apparently we don’t. If we had qualified for it then it would have been a great opportunity but apparently we don’t. That is how it is with Class Action Lawsuits. We were fortunate with the OPIOID Lawsuit. We still have the Environmental Lawsuit in the Cankton area that is still going on. Unfortunately some delays were in it so I will talk to him to see where it is. Some lawsuits are successful and some are not, some you qualify, some you don’t, so that is where we are at.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “Mr. Taylor, I think that I still have the floor. I would like to ask Mr. Garrett a question. Mr. Garrett you were never with the understanding that it was for the people of the parish and not just the people who were employed by different agencies in the parish? You were very much with that understanding when the presentation was made? That is a ‘yes’ or a ‘no’ answer. That is all that I need. I just want to know.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “No.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “You believe that it was intended for the people of the parish but then in this conversation on the phone and the questionnaire the parish had nothing to do with it, is that correct?”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “Yes, it was for the constituents, the residents.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Their Legal Counsel came here and spoke to the council. When they were speaking to the council you are asking me if I recall that she said it was for the people of the parish and not for the employees of Parish Government. I don’t recall her saying either way.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “I would ask that we have the clerk, not at this moment but have it ready for the full council if you could pull the minutes of that meeting for us please so we can look back. If you all know that attorney that you all spoke to over at NACO. I just want to make sure that we are on the right page. That is not what they told us. I want to understand that, that is it. I am not saying that our President is wrong I just want to understand why this guy said all of that. I have no further questions, thank you.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “All of our stuff is live so we can go back and play the actual Facebook Post and see exactly what they said. When it came on one of the first questions that they asked me is how many employees we have. When I told them they said you don’t qualify. The meeting may have lasted five minutes. I don’t remember what month that was when they came but I can get it to play back to here exactly what they said because I am kind of curious now.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “I just find that it does not make any sense.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “I agree.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “It only touches the people that are employed by Government and not the public.”

**Councilman Ken Marks stated,** “Point of clarity, either we have or we do not have documentation of such when that was presented to us is that correct?”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “Yes sir. The information that I had I gave it to Mr. Duplechain.

**Councilman Ken Marks stated,** “So Mr. Duplechain should have a copy.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “Yes, he should.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “The information was given to me by Mr. Brown so I called. They were a law firm in Texas representing Police Jury.”

**Councilman Ken Marks questioned,** “Excuse me, do you have a copy of the documentation? If you do what does it say?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “The documentation?”

**Councilman Ken Marks stated,** “Which is what we are talking about right?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Of the Law Firm in Texas. I called them multiple times and left messages and they did not return my phone call. Shortly after that Nancy came forward with a Law Firm in Washington DC who was representing the exact same Class Action Law Suit that Mr. Brown brought to us. Because they were reaching out to us we went with the Law Firm in Washington DC, the May Jung Law Firm. They were going to represent us in their Class Action Law Suit. It turned out we did not qualify if the represented from the Law Firm who was here addressing the council had perhaps inquired significantly into our situation maybe we would have found that out during the meeting that we did not meet the qualifications for that Insulin Class Action Lawsuit. We found that out on the conference call because it was later when this Law Firm found out what our qualifications were. It is the same, the exact same Insulin Class Action Lawsuit that Mr. Brown brought to us. We are not going to find one law firm that is going to squeeze us in and the other law firm is not going to happen like that.”

**Councilman Ken Marks stated,** “On what Mr. Timmy had requested from a video or from the minutes meeting documentation I would like to also have that documentation of the lawsuit to be included with that as well.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “I have been wrong many of times in my 55 years of life. With that lawsuit, that Insulin Lawsuit I know 100% I am not wrong. That was for the constituents of the parish. Whenever we will go back in our minutes we are going to find out that it is for the constituents of the parish that was on insulin that were overcharged. I believe someone gave Mr. Bellard some wrong information. He said it was that attorney’s and I am not bucking that because I was not on the call. I can put Dexter Quinn Brown’s name on the line because I am fighting just like we all are fighting for our constituents every day. That was for the constituents of the parish, Thank you.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “Alright we are moving on. I do have one question for you Mr. Bellard while we are still on this. We got a text from you about not filing anything in the Clerk of Court’s Office unless we had someone from finance attending, had that been resolved, the issue?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes, that is how it is.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated,** “What was the issue?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “So the issue was that people go upstairs and file stuff and the invoices don’t get to Finance. From now on people need to go to Finance and Finance is going to go with them to file whatever paper work. But while we are on that subject I think that we need to seriously look at what we are filing upstairs.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated*, “Sure and we spoke to the Counselor to research it and see what we have file. If we don’t have to file every word of the minute.

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “It is \$110.00 a page when we go and file upstairs for a Resolution or something.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated*, “He will do some research on it and get back to us.”

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, “There is a section in the Home Rule Charter which does not say you have to file Resolutions and Ordinances with the Recorder of Mortgage Recorded Conveyances St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court. It says recorded by Clerk and our Clerk Sherell would record in her office.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated*, “My point is this: Do the research, write it and put it in writing exactly what we need to do. You take some time to take a look at it okay.”

*Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, “Mr. Ardoin and I had discussed it earlier and it doesn’t say that we have to record it with Clerk of Court. It is just that our Council Clerk records it in there. The statue and ordinances says that things have to be recorded in the Clerk of Court and sometimes they do like our dilapidated building ordinances has to be recorded with the recorded mortgages.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated*, “Exactly, we just want to see exactly what your research says, okay, thank you.”

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

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown, and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

*Motion carried.*

**6. Authorize the ratification of three appointments to the St. Landry Parish Communications District E-911 for a four-year term.**

*Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “On Mr. Mark Guidry with the Opelousas Police Department he is now the Assistant Chief and not Captain any more. He is the Assistant Chief Mark Guidry.”

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024* to approve the ratification of three appointments to the St. Landry Parish Communications District E-911 for a four-year term.

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

*Motion forwarded.*

**7. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for seven appointments to St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission for a three-year term. (02-19-2025 – 02-19-2028)**

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024* to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for seven appointments to St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission for a three-year term. (02-19-2025 – 02-19-2028).

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

*Motion forwarded.*

**8. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 2 (Rural) for a four year term. (01-01-2025 – 01-01-2029).**

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024* to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 2 (Rural) for a four year term. (01-01-2025 – 01-01-2029).

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

*Motion forwarded.*

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

None

**10. Adjourn.**

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

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. **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**