

AGENDA
ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION (Councilman Jody White)**
- III. ROLL CALL**
- IV. APPOINT LEGAL ADVISOR, GARETT DUPLECHAIN, AS TEMPORARY PRESIDING OFFICER TO HOLD THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**
- V. CONDOLENCES**
- VI. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**
- VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - **Regular Meeting: December 18th, 2024**
- VIII. PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
- IX. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - *Items passed through committee.
 - 1. Vote to appoint Fire Chief Ervin Menard and Fire Chief Matt Rabalais to the St. Landry Parish Communications District E-911 Board for a four-year term. (01-04-2025 – 01-04-2029).
 - 2. Discuss whether the Assistant Chief Mark Guidry can be appointed to the St. Landry Parish Communications District E-911 Board for a four-year term. (01-04-2025 – 01-04-2029).
 - 3. Vote to appoint John Slaughter, Mary Johnson-Doucet, Yvonne Normand, Sylvia Guidry-Brown and Stephanie Tompkins to the St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission for a three-year term. (02-19-2025 – 02-19-2028).
 - 4. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission for a three-year term. Angela Guillory and Delita Rubin has resigned. (02-19-2022 – 02-19-2025).
 - 5. Vote to appoint Francis X. Henry to the St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 2 (Rural) for a four-year term. (01-18-2025 – 01-18-2029).
 - 6. Vote to appoint Brandon Guillot to the St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority for a five year term. William J. Bill Fontenot has resigned. (01-18-2025 – 01-18-2030).
 - 7. Vote to appoint Charles Lafleur to the Public Works Commission District Six for a four year term. (02-19-2025 - 02-19-2029).
 - 8. Vote to appoint Randy Richard to Bellevue & Coulee Crouche Gravity Drainage District No.20 for a four-year term. (02-15-2025 – 02-15-2029).
 - 9. Discuss changing the speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph on Compress Road near the School Zone.

10. Authorize Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Ward 3 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for the remainder of a four-year term. James Keith Richard has resigned. (12-21-2024-12-21-2028)

11. Authorize the sale of the adjudicated properties that were awarded on January 8, 2025.

X. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-001

AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE THE PAYMENT IN FULL OF ANY AND ALL ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT LIENS ON ADJUDICATED PROERTY WHEN THE TAX DEBTOR IS MAKING PAYMENT TO THE TAX COLLECTOR TO REDEEM THEIR PROPERTY

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-002

AN ORDINANCE TO SELL PROPERTIES THAT HAVE BEEN ADJUDICATED TO ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT

XI. ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-050

(Sponsored By: Councilman Jimmie Edwards)

AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE THAT ALL ORDINANCES THAT ARE ENACTED BY THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL SHALL BE RECORDED WITH THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CLERK OF COURT AFTER THE ORDINANCES ARE ENACTED BY THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT all Ordinances that are enacted by the St. Landry Parish Council shall be recorded with the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court after the Ordinances are enacted by the St. Landry Parish Council;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT the funds estimated to be required to record the enacted Ordinances with the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court shall be appropriated and included in the annual budget for the St. Landry Parish Council.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-051

(Sponsored By: Councilman Jody White)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 44-3 TO DESIGNATE A SPEED LIMIT OF 30 MPH FOR SCHOOL ROAD

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances Section 44-3 will be amended to designate a speed limit of 30 mph for School Road;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT all other provisions of St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances Section 44-3 shall remain unchanged and have the full effect of law.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-052

(Sponsored By: Councilwoman Nancy Carriere)

An Ordinance to set regular meeting dates for the St. Landry Parish Council Meetings for the year 2025 on the third **Wednesday** of each month at six o'clock p.m. and for the Public Works and Administrative/Finance Committees to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at **six o'clock p.m.** with the exception of January 1, 2025 in reserve of New Year's Day.

Dates for upcoming Council Meetings in 2025 are listed below:

TENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2025

(Third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.)

January 15, 2025
February 19, 2025
March 19, 2025
April 16, 2025
May 21, 2025
June 18, 2025
July 16, 2025
August 20, 2025
September 17, 2025
October 15, 2025
November 19, 2025
December 17, 2025

TENTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2025

(First Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.)

January 2, 2025
February 5, 2025
March 5, 2025
April 2, 2025
May 7, 2025
June 4, 2025
July 2, 2025
August 6, 2025
September 3, 2025
October 1, 2025
November 5, 2025
December 3, 2025

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-053

(Sponsored By: Councilman Ernest Blanchard)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2024-040 WHICH WAS ENACTED BY THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 20, 2024, AND WHICH IS AN ORDINANCE TO ABOLISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1 IN ST. LANDRY PARISH, AND TO REPEAL SECTION 20-27, SECTION 20-28, AND SECTION 20-29 IN CHAPTER 20 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES IN ORDER TO ABOLISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1, AND THIS AMENDMENT IS TO LIST FURTHER HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT PROPERTY THAT WILL BE CONVEYED, TRANSFERRED, AND VESTED IN ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT.

WHEREAS , Section 20-27, Section 20-28, and Section 20-29 in the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances created Hospital Service District No. 1, which is located in that part of the City of Eunice which is inside St. Landry Parish.

WHEREAS, with the authority granted to parish governing authorities by Article VI, Section 15, of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and La. R.S. 33:1415, Hospital Service District No 1 in St. Landry Parish shall be abolished and the St. Landry Parish Council shall repeal Section 20-27, Section 20-28, and Section 20-29 in the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinances in order to abolish Hospital Service District No. 1, which is located in that part of the City of Eunice which is inside St. Landry Parish.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that Section 20-27, Section 20-28, and Section 20-29 in Chapter 20 in the St. Landry Parish Code of Ordinance are hereby repealed and Hospital Service District No. 1 in St. Landry Parish is hereby abolished.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that the ownership and title to funds, assets, immovable property, and movable property owned by Hospital Service District No. 1, including the following parcels of immovable property owned by

Hospital Service District No. 1, shall hereby be conveyed, transferred, and vested in St. Landry Parish Government, to-wit:

1. 11.896 acres in Section 29, Township 6 South (T-6-S), Range 1 East (R-1-E), St. Landry Parish, Louisiana.
Parcel Number 0601643000A.
2. One (1) Lot measuring 435 feet by 300 feet in the Southeast Quarter (1/4) of Section 30, Township 6 South (T-6-S), Range 1 east (R-1-E), St. Landry Parish, Louisiana.
Parcel Number 0601094300.
3. One (1) Lot containing 0.822 of an acre, and bounded, now or formerly, North by Fruge Street; South formerly by Hospital Service District No. 1, and now by St. Landry Parish Government; East by an unnamed street; and West by Moosa Boulevard. Said parcel of land being in Section 30, Township 6 South (T-6-S), Range 1 East (R-1-E), St. Landry Parish, Louisiana.
Parcel Number 0632767769.
4. One strip of property measuring 10 feet by 261 feet, and said property is an abandoned alley, in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana.
Parcel Number 0601094320.
5. One Lot being 331.4 feet by 127 feet, and being bounded, now or formerly, North by alley; South by Fruge Street; East by Moosa; and West by Moosa. Said lot being located in Section 30, Township 6 South (T-6-S), Range 1 East (R-1-E).
Parcel Number 0601094310.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-054
(Sponsored By: Councilman Ken Marks)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE RULES AND THE REGULATIONS THAT GOVERN BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS IN ST. LANDRY PARISH.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT all Boards and Commissions that are in St. Landry Parish shall be responsible for following all laws and Ordinances that govern the Board and Commissions for St. Landry Parish;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT the following are the Rules, the Laws, and the Ordinances that Govern Boards and Commissions in St. Landry Parish and they are hereby codified in this Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-055
(Sponsored By: Timmy Lejeune)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2024 OPERATING BUDGET

WHEREAS, the 2025 St. Landry Parish Operating Budget, herein attached, is hereby adopted to reflect the detailed estimate of revenues and expenses for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, being the same is hereby adopted to serve as the operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Parish of St. Landry during the said period.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT:

Section 1. The attached, detailed estimates of revenues for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, is hereby adopted to serve as the operating Budget of Revenues for the Parish of St. Landry during the said period.

Section 2. The attached estimates of expenditures by department for fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, is hereby adopted to serve as an operating Budget of Expenditures for the Parish of St. Landry during the said period.

Section 3. The adoption of the Operating Budget of Expenditures being the same is hereby declared to operate as an appropriation of the amount therein set forth within the terms of the budget classification.

Section 4. Amounts are available for expenditures only to the extent included within the 2025 Budget.

Section 5. All power to alter this Budget is reserved by the St. Landry Parish Council.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-056
(Sponsored By: Timmy Lejeune)**

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE 2025 OPERATING BUDGET

WHEREAS, the 2025 St. Landry Parish Operating Budget, herein attached, is hereby adopted to reflect the detailed estimate of revenues and expenses for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, being the same is hereby adopted to serve as the operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Parish of St. Landry during the said period.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT:

Section 1. The attached, detailed estimates of revenues for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, is hereby adopted to serve as the operating Budget of Revenues for the Parish of St. Landry during the said period.

Section 2. The attached estimates of expenditures by department for fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, is hereby adopted to serve as an operating Budget of Expenditures for the Parish of St. Landry during the said period.

Section 3. The adoption of the Operating Budget of Expenditures being the same is hereby declared to operate as an appropriation of the amount therein set forth within the terms of the budget classification.

Section 4. Amounts are available for expenditures only to the extent included within the 2025 Budget.

Section 5. All power to alter this Budget is reserved by the St. Landry Parish Council.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-057
(Sponsored By: Timmy Lejeune)**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000,000 REVENUE NOTES, SERIES 2025, OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT, STATE OF LOUISIANA; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF; ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF INTEREST THEREON; PROVIDING FOR A PLEDGE AND DEDICATION OF REVENUES FOR SECURITY AND PAYMENT THEREOF IN PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST; AND OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "Issuer") is a home rule charter government and a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana (the "State") pursuant to Article VI, Section 5 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974; and

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Council (the "Governing Authority") as the governing authority of the Issuer pursuant to Section 1430 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority (collectively, the "Act"), desires to authorize the incurring of debt and borrowing of an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, secured by revenues to accrue to the Issuer's General Fund (11) (the "Revenues"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Act and other constitutional and statutory authority, the Parish desires to incur debt and issue its Revenue Anticipation Note, Series 2025, in a principal amount

not exceeding Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) (the "Note"), to pay current expenses for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, and paying costs of issuance, in anticipation of the revenues of the Parish for the current fiscal year ending December 31, 2025;

WHEREAS, this Governing Authority has found and determined that it is necessary and desirable to approve the sale of the Note with terms and conditions within the parameters set forth in this Bond Resolution and authorize the Parish's authorized representatives to execute a term sheet with the purchaser (the "**Term Sheet**") within the parameters set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Authority further desires to proceed with the issuance, sale and delivery of the note to the Purchaser and authorize and obligate the Parish's Authorized Representatives to take action and execute documents as may be necessary to accomplish the issuance, sale and delivery of Note.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Parish Council for the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "**Parish Council**"), acting as the governing authority of Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "**Parish**"), that:

SECTION 1. Authorization of Revenue Anticipation Note. Pursuant to the Act and other constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto, the Parish is hereby authorized to incur debt for the purpose of paying current expenses for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, and paying costs of issuance in anticipation of the revenues of the Parish for the current fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, and to represent said indebtedness, the Parish shall issue its Revenue Anticipation Note, Series 2025, in an amount not to exceed Two Million and No/100 Dollars (\$2,000,000) (the "Note"). The Note shall mature not later than October 1, 2025, and shall bear interest at a fixed or variable rate to be negotiated by the President of the Parish of St. Landry with the Parish's fiscal agent, provided that such interest rate shall not exceed six percent (6.00%) per annum. Interest on the Note shall be computed based on a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months and shall be payable upon the maturity of the Note. The Note shall be issued in the form of a single fully registered note, dated the date of delivery thereof to the initial purchaser and numbered R-1. The principal of the Note shall be subject to prepayment at any time, in whole or in part at the option of the Parish, at a price of par plus accrued interest on the amount so prepaid to the date of prepayment. The purchase price of the Note shall be paid to the Parish by the purchaser in installments (often time referred to as a draw down loan) on an "as-needed" basis, and the date and amount of each installment of the purchase price shall be noted on the Note and interest shall accrue only on the amount of principal which shall have been borrowed by the Parish.

The Note is hereby awarded to the Parish's fiscal agent, Washington State Bank, in Parish of St. Landry, Louisiana, pursuant to its commitment to purchase the Note, a copy of which shall be filed with this governing authority.

SECTION 2. Form and Execution of Note. The Note shall be in substantially the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, and the Chairman and the Clerk to the Parish Council are authorized and directed on behalf of the Issuer to execute, seal, and deliver the Note to the purchaser.

SECTION 3. Security for Note. The Note will be secured by and payable from the revenues of the general fund (11) for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, until the Note is paid in full in accordance with its terms, all in accordance with the provisions of the Act and other constitutional and statutory authority.

SECTION 4. Irrevocable Pledge. The note shall be secured by and payable in principal, premium, if any, and interest solely from an irrevocable pledge and dedication of the general fund (11). The Pledged Revenues are hereby irrevocably and irrepealably pledged and dedicated in an amount sufficient for the payment of the Note in principal, premium, if any, and interest as they shall respectively become due and payable, and for the other purposes hereinafter set forth in this Ordinance. The General Fund shall be and remain pledged for the security and payment of the Note in principal, premium if any, and interest and for all other payments provided for in this Bond Ordinance until the Note has been fully paid and discharged.

SECTION 5. Authorization of Officers. The President of the Parish of St. Landry and the Chairman of the Council and the Council Clerk is individually or collectively, are hereby empowered, authorized and directed to execute and deliver or cause to be executed and delivered all documents required to be executed on behalf of the Parish or deemed by, either, in their sole

discretion, necessary or advisable to implement this Bond Ordinance or facilitate the sale of the Note including the execution of the term sheet.

SECTION 6. Note is "Bank-Qualified". In the event that the Note is issued as a tax-exempt note for federal income tax purposes, the Note shall be designated as a "qualified tax-exempt obligation" within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). In making this designation, the Parish finds and determines that:

- a. the Note is not a "private activity bond" within the meaning of the Code; and
- b. the reasonably anticipated amount of qualified tax-exempt obligations which will be issued by the Parish and all subordinate entities in calendar year 2025 does not exceed \$10,000,000.

SECTION 7. Financial Statements. The Parish covenants and agrees that it will furnish the owner of the Note as soon as available, but in no event later than 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, its balance sheet, and income statement for the year-end, audited by a certified public accountant. All financial reports required hereunder shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, applied on a consistent basis, and shall be in a form and substance acceptable to the owner of the Note. Failure to comply with this provision shall constitute a default hereunder and shall entitle the owner of the Note to exercise all remedies provided hereunder.

SECTION 8. Severability. In case any one or more of the provisions of this Ordinance or of the Note shall for any reason be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provisions of this Ordinance or of the Note, but this Ordinance and the Note shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provisions had not been contained therein. Any constitutional or statutory provisions enacted after the date of this Ordinance that validate or make legal any provision of the Ordinance and/or the Note that would not otherwise be valid or legal shall be deemed to apply to this Ordinance and to the Note.

SECTION 9. Publication; Peremption. A copy of this Ordinance shall be published immediately after its adoption in one issue of the official journal of the Parish. For thirty (30) days from the date of such publication, any person in interest shall have the right to contest the legality of this Ordinance or the Note and the provisions securing the Note. After the expiration of said thirty (30) days, no one shall have any right of action to contest the validity of the Note or the provisions of this Ordinance, and the Note shall be conclusively presumed to be legal, and no court shall thereafter have authority to inquire into such matters.

SECTION 10. Continuing Disclosure Exemption. It is recognized that the Issuer will not be required to comply with the continuing disclosure requirements described in Rule 15c-2-12(b) of the Securities and Exchange Commission [17 CFR §140.15c2-12(b)], because the Note is not being purchased by a broker, dealer, or municipal securities dealer acting as an underwriter in a primary offering of municipal securities, and the Note is being sold to only one financial institution (i.e. no more than thirty-five persons), which (i) have such knowledge and experience in financial business matter that they are capable of evaluating the merits and risks of the prospective investment in the Note and (ii) are not purchasing the Note for more than one account or with a view to distributing the Bond. The Issuer shall nonetheless covenant to provide the purchaser or its assigns the information provided for in Section 7 so long as the Note remains outstanding.

SECTION 11. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

XII. RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:
NONE.

XIII. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2025
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Councilman Jody White led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.
3. **Roll Call:** Nancy Carriere, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Ernest Blanchard. Ex-Officio Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** Faltery Jolivet.

4. **Person to address the Committee.**

Attorney Elbert Lee Guillory addressed the council. He stated, “Mr. Chairman, members, ladies and gentleman first let me say that I approach you all this evening as an elder in our community. I have seen a lot in my 80 years of living. Back in the 1950’s there was a problem in Shreveport when some officers rode into a church with guns and horses and chased the people out who were worshipping. I thought that America had buried those days, I thought that this was behind us, sadly this is not the case. This past Sunday an officer went into a church with a gun on his hip, hand on his gun and chased the people out who had come there to worship. They were just setting up, the musician and the pastor and he chased them out. There may be some questions, not in my mind about whether they were there appropriately or not. If they were not there appropriately, my God they were there to worship our Lord. There was no reason, no need to, no appropriateness in the gun in the sanctuary and chasing the people out. The next day when the Pastor went to retrieve some of the holy items from his sanctuary and you know that in every church there are some holy things, special things, when he went to get them he was prevented from doing that. There is a document that says that the property was sold on the 23rd of December, I believe it was and the people who sold the property, the church members and the church had 30 days to get their things out, to vacate and still all of this happened just a few days after that document was signed. I wanted you all to be aware of it, I wanted you all to understand the pain inflicted upon those people who were trying to worship God and were chased out of the sanctuary with a man with a gun on his hip and his hand on his gun. I ask you only one thing, please do all that we can to bury those old days where men could go armed into a sanctuary and chase people out of a place of worship. Thank you so much for letting me be here with you tonight.”

Ms. Angela D. Angello addressed the council. She stated, “My name is Angela Angello. I live at 315 S. Court Street, Opelousas, LA. Thank you all for letting me address you. I am a member and the Associate Pastor of Opelousas Live Church. I was also handling the deal for the church with Parish Government, just overseeing it. I am a Real-estate Broker and I have been for the last 19 years. Like Attorney Elbert Guillory said, we passed the sale on the 23rd of December and we were given a letter right here from President Jessie Bellard saying that we had 30 days to vacate the premises. I have done several deals where there were sellers that had remain on the property until they had somewhere else to go. We get a document signed and there is no problem once the time is up and we get our things and we leave and we were not given that and I had two meetings with Jessie asking him when we had to leave. He told me that it would be no problem for us to stay. We had an event center there where I would rent out buildings for special events like Baby Showers. I ask Jessie when we need to be out because I don’t want to schedule an event and take these people money and we have to leave. He was there with Kiara, she was there in the meeting and he told me that it would be no problem and there was no rush. After the documents were signed for the sale he came to the church like tyrant and asked us to leave when we had this document signed saying that we had 30 days to stay. This is my concern because we are still within our time period and he won’t let us on the premises without calling his office and that was not the agreement at the table. The agreement at the table was that we had 30 days to vacate and that is our body and our items that are in there. This is what transpired. That is all that I have to say.”

Pastor Kerney Thomas Jr. addressed the council. He stated, “I am Pastor Kerney Thomas, 107 Barnette Court, Lafayette, LA. 70507. Ladies and gentlemen of the St. Landry Parish Committee I come before you tonight with great regret in my heart. As a Pastor but as a voice of my congregation and community. A community that have been subjected to gross injustice, intimidation and harassment by Mr. Jessie Bellard. His action

not only undermined the mission of Opelousas Life Church but also created significant liability for this parish. Three plus years ago Opelousas Life Church stepped out on faith to purchase 103 acers with a vision to build a space for worship service and transformation. From the start we faced obstacles largely due to the unethical attempts by Mr. Bellard to derail our purpose. Despite his efforts to influence realtors, financial institutions against us we press forward and succeeded. Unfortunately our success only intensified his hostility over the past three plus years and his harassment has escalated. Most recently his actions forced the sale of our property to St. Landry Parish under duress on December 20, 2024. This was not a peaceful transaction but one marked by coercion and intimidation. On December 29, 2024 Mr. Bellard trespassed the property with his hand on his fire arm verbally abusing and threatening me. He called me a crook and he told me he wanted me off of the property immediately. I asked him why would you call me a crook and he said because you are a crook. We did vacate the property blatantly disregarding the official 30 days agreed upon and signed notice by Mr. Jessie Bellard himself. The following day while we attempted to enter the building he returned again armed, continued to flex and intimidation to attorney Elbert Guillory. Let me emphasize, Mr. Bellard has openly stated that his actions reflect the wishes of this Parish Government. If that is true then this body bears responsibility for his behavior. By failing to address his conduct St. Landry Parish becomes complicit in his actions assuming liability for the harm done to Opelousas Life Church. Let me be clear, should our church be forced to pursue further legal actions, the financial and emotional reputation caused to this parish will be immense. This is not just an ethical or moral abuse it is a matter of legal accountability. We demand immediate action to address the following: No. 1. A full investigation. I want an immediate and transparent inquiry into Mr. Bellard's actions both personally and as a Parish Representative. No. 2. Accountability. Acknowledge the parish responsibility for enabling these actions and take the necessary steps to rectify this injustice, protection of our congregation. No. 3. Guarantee that Opelousas Life Church and its members are protected from any further harassment or intimidation as we transition over the property. No. 4. He has possession of all of our property. They are going through our property, they have moved property from one location on the property to another location on the property. There is some property that has been misplaced that we have been informed that is no longer on the property. This is not just about Opelousas Life Church, this is about whether those in position of power in St. Landry Parish can act with impunity disregarding the right, safety and dignity of the people that are suppose to serve. Let me be clear, Opelousas Life Church seeks a resolution, not retribution but let there be no misunderstanding if the parish fails to act we will pursue justice through every legal avenue available to us. I implore this community to act decisively to correct this grave injustice and protect the integrity of this parish and restore trust in this government. I want to thank you today for your attention and may God guide your decision as you seek to do what is right, just and honorable in the sight of God and in the sight of man. Thank you for your time."

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "Mr. Duplechain, you have heard his request, what is your legal opinion on this? Advise us on how we need to handle this."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Well the council can take no action this evening."

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "I am asking you if we need to take action tonight or can we legally do it."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "You cannot take any action tonight."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Mr. Duplechain, I know you said that we can't take any action tonight but the pastor mentioned two words, Resolution and Retribution. Is there any resolution to this situation? We cannot take any action either here or there tonight but I am thinking that is what Mr. Taylor wanted to know, where do we go from here as councilmembers? Do we try to rectify this and come up with a solution-resolution?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I understand what you are asking. If there is any concerns, opinions, ideas or feelings about the transition from the seller to the buyer then their attorney Mr. Guillory and I would be glad to discuss that, he apparently is the attorney representing the church. That is where this lies for right now if there is anything to this. The church has their attorney here and of course I have known Mr. Guillory for many years and I will be glad to discuss anything with him that he has to discuss and that would be the next step.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Then you can come back to the council and let us know if you all came up with a resolution?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “I will be glad to inform the council of anything that comes up.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Mr. Guillory, did you hear this. Mr. Duplechain is willing to meet with you and possibly with Mr. Bellard, but if not then with our council on the parish behalf on trying to resolve this situation.”

Attorney Elbert Lee Guillory stated, “I will contact him tomorrow.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “Mr. Guillory, being that you are their attorney I will direct my question to you sir. To your knowledge, was a formal complaint made to the St. Landry Parish Sheriff’s Office in reference to this?” I just expect a yes or a no answer.”

Attorney Elbert Lee Guillory stated, “We did discussed the matter with the Sheriff’s Office. They felt that this is a Civil Matter and not a Criminal Matter. There are some possible criminal charges but I have advised my client not to pursue criminal charges. There is no need to make this a bigger thing than it is.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “So to this point a formal complaint hasn’t been logged.”

Attorney Elbert Lee Guillory stated, “That is correct.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “Okay, question number two, was there any video surveillance that was present at the time that this matter happened?”

Attorney Elbert Lee Guillory stated, “Not to our knowledge.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “Okay, that is what I wanted to know.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So it is a simple thing. This is a government building under my authority so those actions are taken by me as Parish President. The council has nothing to do with this transition. It was done legally and we are following the law to the letter. It is going to be handled through my office like it started and it is going to continue there. It is a government building so it will be taken care of.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “I understand but we are being addressed as having an issue.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I understand but it is an investigation. The council cannot do an investigation on the Parish President’s office. It has to be done through a third party which would be like the Sheriff’s Office or somebody else. At the end of the day this is a Government Building and they would be allowed to get their items like they were instructed to do on Sunday Morning. They should contact my office for an appointment and we will do it, no big deal.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “There is no obligation or anything mandatory that the council do anything on this. Mr. Guillory believes that there is an issue then he and I can discuss it but the council need not take any action at this time.”

Attorney Elbert Lee Guillory stated, “I do agree with your attorney. This is Opelousas. This is St. Landry Parish. There is no need for this kind of hostility, anger, threats,

displays of guns and all. I will contact your attorney and see if we can common sense and come to a resolution of this.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Chairman, just for the record, as soon as Mr. Duplechain is contacted he and I will discuss the outcome and make sure that we follow the way that we had it planned.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Okay. We are moving on.”

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

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “You have a copy of the Finances in front of you and I don’t have anything further.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “I have a question on that. It says as of October 31st

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

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “We got the October 31st, one month and one half ago. Has it changed? Is this a new document?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Is should have been November for this one. We will reprint and get you a November one for the council meeting.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “You will give us a new one.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will give you a full one. Tomorrow we can e-mail it to you all.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Is there anything else Mr. Bellard?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No Sir.”

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, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown, and Ernest Blanchard. NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Faltery Jolivette. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion carried.

6. **Forward all applications received from the ratifications to appoint Assistant Chief Mark Guidry, Chief Ervin Menard and Chief Matt Rabalais to the St. Landry Parish Communications District E-911 Board for a four-year term. (01-04-2025 – 01-04-2029).**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Chairman I have a question. I did not think that an Assistant Chief could be on the board. I thought that the bylaws had prohibited the Assistant Chief for the Police Department to be on a board at that rank. I remember whenever Paul Janouseau was Assistant Chief he had to step down because of it. I just want some clarity on it.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The bylaws of the board may state that about the Assistant Chief. I noticed that there are some Chiefs of here, Chief Rabalais, Chief Menard but when it comes to an Assistant Chief and the bylaws I don’t know if it prohibits and Assist Chief.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I remember when Paul Jeanouseau was there he had to set down as an Assistant Chief and that was the reason that was given to us before so I don’t remember.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “I know Chief Ervin Menard and Chief Rabalais, are those two Fire Chief’s?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Our Assistant Chief is with the Opelousas Police Department, Assistance Chief Mark Guidry, would that make a difference because he is a police officer?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “There is a difference between a Fire Chief and an Assistant Chief, Police Officer. The bylaws may make that distinction. I don’t have the bylaws with me.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Okay, if you get in contact with Assistant Chief Guidry and he can’t serve on the board the he could nominate an officer.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We should contact the board to find out the bylaws.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “He had already served a term. We had appointed him and he already served a term and we did not catch this before.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “He was a Major then he got promoted. He was a Major when he was appointed and since then he has been an Assistant Chief. I think during his term is whenever he became an Assistant Chief.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Garrett you said something that was a little puzzling. You said that Chief Rabalis, Chief Menard.

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “They are Firemen.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Please look into the Bylaws. I think the Assistant Chief have done a real good job. I would hate to lose him. Lets just see what you find out.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “As we all know all of our Boards and Commission have laws and bylaws to govern themselves. We can belittle this all we want but we need to know what those bylaws say and to what degree as far as Assistant, Non Assistant, Chief, No Chief, whatever. It should be written and we should abide by whatever that law is written. Is that what you are planning to provide to us as far as the documentation of such?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Yes.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “I request we follow with that procedure.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “We will withdraw agenda item No. 6 and submit it next month once we have more information.

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 15th, 2025** to withdraw Assistant Chief Mark Guidry and forward two applications received from the ratifications to appoint Chief Ervin Menard and Chief Matt Rabalais to the St. Landry Parish Communications District E-911 Board for a four-year term. (01-04-2025 – 01-04-2029).

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

7. **Forward all applications received for five appointments to the St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission for a three-year term. (02-19-2025 – 02-19-2028).**

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 15th, 2025** to forward all applications received for five appointments to the St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission for a three-year term. (2-19-2025 – 02-19-2028).

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

Motion forwarded.

8. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission for a three-year term. Angelia Guillory and Delita Rubin has resigned. (02-19-2022—02-19-2025).**

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 15th, 2025** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to the St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission for a three-year term. Delita Rubin and Angelia Guillory has resigned. (2-19-2025 – 02-19-2028).

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

Motion forwarded.

9. **Forward all applications received for one appointment to the 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 Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 15th, 2025** to forward all application received for one appointment to the 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, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown, and Ernest Blanchard **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Faltery Jolivette. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

10. **Forward all applications received for one appointment to the St. Landry Parish Agricultural Arena Authority for a five-year term. (01-18-2025 – 01-18-2030).**

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 15th, 2025** to forward all application received for one appointment to the St. Landry Parish Agricultural Arena Authority for a five-year term. (01-18-2025 – 01-18-2029).

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

Motion forwarded.

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

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “It is kind of late on the agenda now but I wanted to do this at the beginning of the meeting. I wanted to take a moment of silence for the victims and their families for the tragedy that happened in New Orleans for New Years.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We just got a text that there is shooting going on right now at the Acadiana Mall in Lafayette. Somebody is in there with an AK-47.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Mr. Bellard, have you and Mr. Jagneaux worked things out? Can you give us a little status on that?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We have come to the point of leasing that section that is housing his records. They are getting the fair market value of the lease. Once I can get that I will bring it to the council. They offered for us to buy everything over there and pay everything but we don’t need another building like that. I offered to lease the area where he stores his records so that is what we are working on right now.”

12. **Adjourn.**

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

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

Motion carried.

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 2nd, 2025
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Public Works Chairwoman Vivian Olivier called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Jody White, Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, and Jimmie Edwards. Ex-Officio Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** Timmy Lejeune.
3. **Person to address the Committee:**
None.
4. **Public Works Report:**

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

Boom Axed	4	Roads
Culvert Cleaned	7	Roads
Culvert Installation	15	Roads
Debris Removal	40	Roads
Ditching	10	Roads
Grading	30	Roads
Material Spreading	6	Roads
Patching	28	Roads
Sign Installation	26	Roads
Tree Removal	4	Roads
Washout	10	Roads

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

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

Motion carried.

5. **Discuss changing the speed limit on Compress Road near the school zone. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I would like to have this forwarded to the full council for discussion. A request was made that the Speed Limit be changed within the school zone. The speed limit is 30 miles per hour now but they are requesting that within the school zone that it is changed to 20 miles per hour, not the entire road, just within the school zone. I would like to have this forwarded to the full council for discussion."

A motion was made by Councilman Jody White, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, January 15th, 2025* to further discuss changing the speed limit from 30 mph to 20 mph on Compress Road near the school zone.

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

Motion forwarded.

6. Forward all applications received for one appointment to the Public Works Commission District Six for a four-year term. (2-19-2025 – 02-19-2029).

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, January 15th, 2025* all applications received for one appointment to the Public Works Commission District Six for a four-year term. (02-19-2025 – 02-19-2029).

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

Motion forwarded.

7. Forward all applications received for one appointment to Bellevue & Coulee Crouche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 for a four-year term. (02-15-2025 – 02-15-2029).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, January 15th, 2025* all applications received for one appointment to Bellevue & Coulee Crouche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 for a four-year term. (02-15-2025 – 02-15-2029).

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

Motion forwarded.

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

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I have board member that is going to resign Jessie does he need a letter?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes he can state something to you or if you want to put it as part of the record but if he has a letter that would be great.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “We are going to need to vote on that tonight to start advertising for two weeks right? I brought one application in.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I would put is as part of the record for your meeting tonight and that way we can start the process.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, “Do we need to vote on that?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I would.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I would like to make a motion that we bring that to the full council.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, January 15th, 2025* to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Ward 3 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for the remainder of a 4 year term. (12-21-2024 – 12-21-2028).

James Keith Richard has resigned.

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

Motion forwarded.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Mr. Bellard, I just wanted to ask, I know I saw the news about two people resigning from the St. Landry Parish Housing Authority Board. Have you replace everybody yet?”

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

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere started, “So everybody have been replace?”

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

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I wanted to see who was on the list. Do you have a couple of names you can give to me later? Ms. Shawnee. Thank you. The reason why I ask, are you all taking any more applications?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes Ma’am, we have already replaced them.”

9. Adjourn.

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

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

Motion forwarded.

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

XIV. ADJOURN