

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19th, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a regular session on this 19th, day of February, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

- I. Chairman Jody White called the meeting of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
- II. Councilman Faltery Jolivette led the Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **ABSENT:** None.

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to amend the agenda to add **Resolution No. 004-2025** for approval.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN TO BE PRESENTED TO COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 28TH, 2025.

IV. **CONDOLENCES:**

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere: Amos Jones.

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry: Shirley Sylvester, Ezola Clark Washington, Elder Adam Lamb, Michael Wayne Gallien, John Hubbard Jr., Cynthia Green, Many Ethel Huguette Landreneau, Nakeisha Davette Amos Pitre, Ernest Jones Jr., Jennifer Marie Williams, Brander Gail Jackson Augustine, Barbara Ann White, Jeanette Marie Jolivette, Patrick Thomas, Ella Pearl Jackson Williams, Donald James White.

Councilman Ken Marks: Belinda Wallace, Jeigha Lee Stelly.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin: Carroll James Domengeaux, Gary Vincent Smith, Barbara 'Bob' Ann White, A.J. "Jay" Credeur, Keith Stoute, Shirley Sylvester, Walterine Duplichen Cannatella, James Clinton Andrus Sr., Neysa Evelyn Savoy.

Councilman Dexter Brown: Theresa Leday Thibodeaux, Goldman Thibodeaux, Cynthia Green.

Councilman Ernest Blanchard: Lucy Wooten Credeur, Anward Joseph Mayeaux, Jr., Cecil Brown, Junette Hebert Manuel, Rufus Joseph Richard Jr., Derrick Shane Miller, Luther Bertrand Benoit, Anna Jane Vige Duplechin, Joseph 'Kurt' Vezinat, John Paul Mahaffey, Auther 'AB' Berchman J. Richard, Michael Leon Felder, Anthony Fontenot Sr., Terry Wayne Babineaux Sr., Keith Anthony Heinen, Rutha 'Ruth' Frame, Levence Dies, Sr., Dorothy 'Dottie' Oliver Brickley Cardana, Patrick Wayne Fontenot, Rose Mary Fontenot Miller, Christine Adele Brown, Clarence Darrow Ardoin, Yvonne Miller, Kenneth 'Louie' John Veillon, Relis Guillory, James Moise Vidrine, Beverly Miller Longman, Velva Stanford, Lucille Dupre McGee, Charles Boone, Chester John Miller.

**Chairman Jody White called for a moment of silence for the families that lost their loved ones.*

V. PERSON TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:

Ms. Kimberly Culotta addressed the council. She stated, “My name is Kimberly Culotta. I live at 513 Maddison Street, Lafayette, LA 70501. I am with the Atchafalaya Basin Keeper. Thank you all very much for making the time on the agenda tonight. I know you all have a thick agenda so I appreciate it. I wanted to let you all know and you all will see there are two documents, one is a Management Plan that our organization Atchafalaya Basin Keeper, is a non-profit who have been working to protect the Atchafalaya Basin for the last 20 years. Our first campaign was to protect the basin from Cyprus logging, they were actually creating mulch with the Cyprus forest. That was why we started our organization to try to stop that. As you can imagine there are a lot of issues in the basin. Right now we are concerned about sedimentation, the Atchafalaya Basin is actually filling in. It is important for us culturally and it is important because we identify at South Louisiana having swamps and fishing and all of the crawfish and everything that comes from it but it is important for flood protection. The Morganza Spillway is one of two outlets in a Mississippi River Flood. Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans there are 150 miles of industry. If the Mississippi River is going to flood they are going to divert more into the basin but we have been losing flood capacity. We have lost 75% of the Atchafalaya Basin Eco System that can protect us from floods. I am here tonight to explain that CPRA, the state agency is going to be spending billions of dollars to protect the coast. CPRA is Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. They will be having a master plan for the next four years and they will be designing it and then they are going to spend a lot of money at Coastal Restoration. This is our opportunity as a community who are affected and who live in the Basin and love the Basin and are protected by the Basin so we can continue living in South Louisiana. This is our opportunity to propose to them a project. We are approaching our Parish Governments and our Parish Communities. We had two public meetings on the west side and the east side of the basin where we invited the communities to help influence this management plan that you have on your desk. They are the ones who made recommendations and helped us design. I will summarize the plan in three quick concepts. We need to keep all of the sedimentation that is coming from the Mississippi River in the Atchafalaya River, we can't let it get into the swamps and bayous. So simple Sediment traps we dump it back in the river and let it go south. Now south, Morgan City, they are having to dredge their port to maintain it. We can us all of that sedimentation in Terrebonne County and in the Coastal Areas that are losing their land lost. What we propose it the is the sedimentation that gets to the bottom of the basin is a sediment pipeline, a long term solution, great investment for years and years to come. They will have that sedimentation to rebuild Terrebonne Parish. The second element is the leaky levees. We are on the wrong side of the levees when we have a big rain event here. The levees are meant to protect and let the water fill up more inside of the basin. By the end of the summer the water is low and that is when we get our heavy rain. If we had a few gates then the water that comes outside of the basin could drain in. So the third element of the proposal is gates syphons and pumps. Some of them could be passive, they could be in combination. You will see the specifics there. The Resolution Support that we are asking for is just to say that you believe the basin is worth protecting. The plan that we are proposing is just a proposal and they are going to spend 4 years reworking it and figuring out exactly what to do. But if we could unit south Louisiana community to this state agency that is about to spend billions of our dollars to repair the coast this is important to us and we are all united. So that is what I am here to tell you all what you are voting on and it will be included in our proposal which his being submitted before February 28 which is why I had to ask for the expedited meeting and I appreciate your time and consideration. Thank you.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “Thank you ma'am, do we have any comments or concerns from the council?”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Ms. Kimberly, thank you for coming. In the diverting aspects of sand from the basin transported by whatever means to Terrebonne Parish how is that going to work? How is it going to be done?”

Ms. Kimberly Culotta stated, “It would be a sediment pipeline. This is something that actually have a pretty proven track record although it is a new concept. Terrebonne Parish is

actually working on another pipeline and their start point is not coming from inside of the basin. We are proposing an additional pipeline that can build and rebuild land twice as fast and that way there is almost an infinite supply of sedimentation in the basin right now. It would be fixed in one pathway and have lateral elements that would be mobile so they could be turned on and off and they could essentially for 6 months let the sedimentation go here. Eventually they could also modular build it out gradually and get further east. We have an engineering firm that we have been working with that has installed them and has designed them. We are confident that it is a good solution and I think most of South Louisiana is at this point too from an engineering prospective.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “You mention something about a couple of meetings that you guys have already had. I assumed that we did not have a seat at the table and when is your next scheduled meeting?”

Ms. Kimberly Culotta stated, “Thank you for asking. We will have a meeting going forward to address the annual plan. This is our only opportunity to address the master plan. I apologize that we did not reach out. We are a small organization with limited resources. We targeted the handful that are immediately around the basin near us but per request from some craw fishermen they said that we should reach out to you all and we did. Thank you for the felicitation of everyone rushing things and giving us this opportunity to be on board.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Thank you.”

Ms. Tracey Antee addressed the council. She stated, “Hi, I am Tracey Antee. My address is 2031 Edwards Street, Opelousas, LA. I am here this evening to be considered to serve on the St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission. This is something that I have wanted to do for a very long time and I have talked to Herman about several times. We are not from here as many of you know we transplanted 11 years ago in April. I can’t say that I am new anymore, my husband will forever be a true Los Angeles guy. Many moons ago my mother Jeanette Colson started and ran the Creole Heritage Center that was located at Northwestern State University. This was started in the early 1990s back when there was money and we were actually part of the state budget and things like that don’t happen anymore but it was really great. She had the opportunity because of that to serve on the Tourist Commission for Natchitoches Parish. I had the opportunity to accompany her to many of those meetings. Many of those meetings were a part of the master plan and at that point was my involvement and interest in Tourism and Cultural Tourism that is when it really started to grow. As a non-profit kid that did over 20 years of work and Cultural Preservation, Historic Preservation and then moving here to be a part of this community is something that I feel that I have a lot of experience in and I would like to serve in that capacity.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “Ms. Tracey thank you for your interest in wanting to serve. It appears that you have a true sincere want to do it and we just want to say thank you. I don’t have to ask you about your qualification because I think that you did a real great job explaining that. I just want to say thank you.”

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to approve **the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 15th, 2025** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to approve **the Special Meeting Minutes from February 5th, 2025** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

VII. PARISH PRESIDENT REPORT:

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The only thing that I have to say is that we opened up the warming shelter this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. at the Old County Club. It will be open until Friday hopefully around noon because of the weather that is going to be happening in the next couple of days.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I want to thank your staff and Ms. Cynthia in reference to cleaning up that Mayflower Street address in Royal Gardens. It has been a long time coming. I want to say thank you all very much. How much money did we have invested in that Ms. Cynthia?”

Ms. Cynthia Joubert, Code Enforcement stated, “\$2,700.00.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Are the people going to pay Parish Government back?”

Ms. Cynthia Joubert, Code Enforcement stated, “They already reimbursed the parish.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Okay, thank you.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “Does that conclude your report?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to accept the Parish President’s Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

***Items passed through committee.**

1. **Authorize the Preliminary and final approval for a Proposed Residential Subdivision of a 28.859 tract of land being portioned as lots 1-25 located in Section 52, Township 8 South, Range 4 East off Begneaud and T-Joe Road, Opelousas, LA, St. Landry Parish.**

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize the Preliminary and final approval for a Proposed Residential Subdivision of a 28.859 tract of land being portioned as lots 1-25 located in Section 52, Township 8 South, Range 4 East off Begneaud and T-Joe Road, Opelousas, LA, St. Landry Parish.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

Chairman Jody White questioned? “Do you have anything in reference to this item?”

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, “No, I am here if you all have any questions.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “We did pass it but I did read that it was contingent.”

Mr. Jacob Jarrell stated, “I am in a drainage plan. I am actually sizing some culverts and I have to fix some road side drainage on Begneaud to make the drainage for the subdivision work. I just have to get that plan in. I am not signing a final plat or submitting anything until Nick approves my drainage plan for the subdivision. I will submit that to the parish before moving forward with anything.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Thank you.”

2. **Authorize the approval of a 255' SST Cellular Tower and install AT&T Ground Equipment WUC and Cellular Antennas located at 222 Elzay Road, Arnaudville, LA 70512.**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize the approval of a 255' SST Cellular Tower and install AT&T Ground Equipment WUC and Cellular Antennas located at 222 Elzay Road, Arnaudville, LA 70512.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

3. **Vote to appoint Tracey Antee for one appointment to the 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 Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to appoint Tracey Antee to the 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, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointments to the 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, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

5. **Authorize the Parish President to sign the Lease with Acadian Ambulance for the lease of a building that is owned by Parish Government for the amount of \$250.00 per month. (Item withdrawn from the agenda).**

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It is not a building it is just the ground. The Building is owned by Acadian Ambulance. All we are leasing to them is the actual ground that it sits on. That \$250.00 came from the appraised value."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, "I am just curious, where is this located?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "In Eunice by the old hospital."

Chairman Jody White stated, "We need to make sure that it is worded that way."

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, "Yes Mr. Chairman I was about to say that we need to make sure legally that it says land."

Chairman Jody White stated, "Right, the lease of the land."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "The next item on the agenda, Item No. 6, if you look at it would be the right one to do. Item No 5 should be taken completely off if you do it that way. They put two items on there."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "We can withdraw Item No. 5 if I am in order and add the price of \$250.00 per month on item No. 6."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Right."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "Are you offering that as a motion Mr. Brown?"

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to withdraw Item No. 5 on the agenda and add the price of \$250.00 to item No. 6 on the agenda

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

Chairman Jody White stated, “So moving to Item No. 6 on the agenda to be clear it should read: We will authorize the Parish President to sign the Lease of Immovable Property by St. Landry Parish Government to Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. for the amount of \$250.00 per month.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct. That is right.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “That is right, so now Garrett, we will have to have a motion to make sure that it is worded that way first and then vote on it.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Item No. 6 is worded correctly. It is to lease immovable property. So there is a motion and a second so now they can vote to pass item No. 6.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “Right with the addition of the term \$250.00 per month. That is what we are adding in. Are there any other questions? We have a move and a second.”

6. Authorize the Parish President to sign the Lease of Immovable Property by St. Landry Parish Government to Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. in the amount of \$250.00 per month.

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to authorize the Parish President to sign the Lease of Immovable Property by St. Landry Parish Government to Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. in the amount of \$250.00 per month.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

7. Authorize the Parish President to sign the Lease of Immovable Property by St. Landry Parish Government to Allegiance Health Management, Inc. dba Acadian Medical Center.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Chairman, for the next item it is a building that is on the property that Allegiance Health Care, the Hospital in Eunice has stuff inside of it. We got the appraisal to go out there and do an appraisal and we have not received the numbers back. The council can say based on the appraisal or just wait for the appraisal to come back, it does not matter but we don’t have the numbers from the appraisal yet. So whatever the council wants.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Chairman, if I am in order, I am going to ask that it be put back to next month’s committee meeting.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I will meet you with a second.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “We have a motion and a second to wait until next month’s meeting when we have the appraisal numbers

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward the further discussion of the appraisal of the Lease of Immovable Property to St. Landry Parish Government to Allegiance Health Management, Inc. dba Acadian Medical Center to the next Committee Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 5th, 2025.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor,

Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

8. **Clerk of Court Request.**

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Chairman, if I am in order I am going to ask for a motion that Our Clerk of Court come to the next Finance Meeting and make his request unless he has someone representing him here tonight. I see someone coming to the podium.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court addressed the council. He stated, “Good afternoon, I am Jeff Corel and I am here on behalf of the Clerk’s Office.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Great, I will withdraw my motion.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “It is my understanding that the council was somewhat familiar with their request. There was a request by the clerk for reimbursement of some of the statutory fees that the parish is obligated to pay the clerk. We have been in discussions with some of the parish leadership about the best way to address that issue. What we presented as an option which we would ask the council to consider for approval would be that the parish enter into a lease with the clerk’s office. Pursue it to which the parish would only rent from the clerk the exact square footage it needs to store the parish’s records. As you all know and I don’t mean to bore you if you know this and I don’t need to re-educate you but the clerk’s office was moved. A lot of the historical records were moved out of the courthouse following some of the renovations. The clerk now uses the old DCG building to store a lot of those records. It is physical records and it is really heavy. The clerk is renovating it and we were unable to reach an agreement on the cost for the renovations and things of that nature. We thought the rental idea was a fair proposal, it sets a fixed budgetary expense for the council and for the parish going forward. At President’s Bellard’s request we had a broker confirm the fair market value to store records using a good comparable from Iberia, Lafayette and local. What we are proposing is a 20 year lease at \$6.50 a square foot. That would be a gross lease, I did misstate that in my e-mail with Mr. Bellard’s Attorney. A gross lease meaning that the parish has no other expenses other than the rent. It would be including utilities, insurance, maintenance and all of the things of that nature. The clerk would reserve the right to seek reimbursement for its equipment expenses under the statute, it can ask for equipment. I am sure everyone here is aware, as a lawyer I am acutely aware but the Legislature has mandated that all filings be electronic effective January 1, 2026. We expect to see a little bit of an increase in cost for technology because everything is going electronic. The main proposal asked for today would be similar to the prior motions that the council have approved and it would be to authorize the President to enter into a lease with the clerk pursuant to the terms that I have described and I would be glad to discuss any specifics with you all.”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard questioned, “What does that total amount come out to be?”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “\$58,500.00 per year.”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “\$58,500.00 per year.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “That is correct.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “I have a question for you Mr. Bellard, are you satisfied with this?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “With the Lease, yes. The options that was on the table was to purchase the building from them with the renovations and we don’t need another building like that. We asked them to lease us the space that is used which is what we are doing here. When we ask for the fair market value the only one that can give that to us is somebody who is certified so we did get that. I am comfortable with the lease part of it. Not the other part of it and the stack of bills that was given to us was utilities. I am not in favor of the utilities because we are renting the space. I agree with the lease by itself but when you get to the bills I will disagree with bills when it comes to utilities.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “I just want to clarify for everyone’s benefit. We did submit a stack of bills to President Bellard. Those were request reimbursement for expenses in 2024. Those are not intended to be perspective. The lease would cover everything going forward. The clerk did not receive any funds in 2024 so the submission was to ask for some form of reimbursement for 2024.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Do we act on each request or will we do all the request at once?”

Chairman Jody White stated, “I was getting to that question as well.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I would think that we would do the Lease by itself because that is one by itself for 20 years if I am not mistaken. Then the funding for the supplies and whatever else would be another request.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “Mr. Taylor if I could just add because I want to be completely transparent, what I had proposed and of course these can always be changed, I had proposed a 20 year lease with a 10 year option with two 10 year renewal options but the rent be adjusted based on the fair market value at the time. I think the Parish is entitled to have the rent re-evaluated on whether or not \$6.50 is still a fair price at that point, maybe lower. You may not need 9000 square feet at that point either. One think that you all may not realize and I just litigated the creation of Miller’s Lake. St. Landry Parish formally comprised 3 parishes. You are very unique in the sense that when we trace back records in Evangeline Parish before 1900 they all come here. I think it is pre 1918 St. Landry Parish houses all of the property records for Evangeline, St. Landry and some of Acadia. You have a bigger foot print than most parishes do. That is why you have more square footage.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I understand that you said the market may change the rental but what is the cap? You said right now you are at \$6.50. If it changes and we know that things are going up, it could go up to \$10.00 so what is the cap?”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “We did not propose a cap because I assumed fair market value would be like a public bid process. It would be whatever the fair market value is at the time. If the council is interested in a cap I would recommend to the clerk that \$10.00 would be fair. It would really surprise me if record storage exceeded a price per square foot of that. If you all want to add that as a copy I would certainly recommend that would be a term.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The only thing is this and trust me I don’t want to give more money than we can give but the fair market value is the fair market value and we are required to pay it. If we put a cap it does not mean anything because the law says that we have to pay it.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “That is fine, the other question is this: As far as the climate control, I know that you said that everything is going digital so we won’t have to worry about that, correct?”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “What is being stored in the old building is going to be the really old records. It is climate controlled and it has security and all of that. It is being reinforced and the technology is going to be what you are going to face in the future, not necessarily for these records. Maybe the President knows, I am not sure but I know that there have been a big push to try to digitize a lot of old records, to scan them and shred them and get rid of them. It is just a very laboring intensive process. In a perfect world in 20 years from now you all may not even need this anymore. It may be just a bunch of servers in the cloud whatever that means I don’t even know but everything may be electronic in 20 years anyway.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Mr. Corel, 9,000 square feet is all that you all will want to lease?”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “That is correct.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “How much square footage is in that building to start with?”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “My understanding Mr. Ardoin and I am not 100% sure but my understanding is about 20,000 square feet.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “20,000 square feet. So the 9,000 square feet we will pay for the rent on that.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “That is correct. It is approximately 25% of the building.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “He can rent the rest of the building to whomever he wants.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “I guess theoretically Mr. Ardoin he could but my understanding from speaking with the clerk is that his intentions are to develop an election center there to train the individuals who man the election post. He is going to utilize the rest of the building for the election aspect.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “So we are responsible for the 9,000 square feet.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “That is correct.”

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, “You mentioned Training Center, is that going to be available for other entities of the parish to use as well or maybe Parish Government?”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “I would hope so.”

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, “The amount of mandated expenditures, the building in larger than what we are taking over so how is that going to be done for charges going forward?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So the mandates are not necessarily for that building as it is for the offices and the courthouse and operations.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “So they don’t apply.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It kind of apply over there because that is part of his operations but we are not worried about the other 11,000 or so many square feet. They will submit a bill and we will pay it based off of the bill. They are saying that they need certain things and they provide the invoices for it so it is kind of up to them to tell us what they need.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “Mr. Marks, I had a direct conversation with one of our Legislatures recently. The statue specifically as President Bellard correctly pointed out it specifically articulates offices, furniture and equipment. So as a Lawyer the word equipment is great, that means everything, right? I think that the compromise we reached was offices which is what is really important to the clerk as this point is the demure to have a safe spot to keep those records. If those records get damaged and we have seen some pretty serious litigations and you cannot recreate them. It could cause a lot of turmoil, a lot of problems for titles in the parish. We are really focused on offices. The other statue talks about illumination and heating. That one must have been written around 1918 and it was never updated. I think that we have really tried to work together and I can proudly say that every official that I have worked with have been super cooperative in this. It has been great.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “Mr. Jeff, thank you. I understand that just moving forward for 2025 we will not be requesting any funding for the submittals that you submitted for 2024?”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “We are, that would be the second part of our ask for tonight. So part one would be the Lease at the fixed expense of \$58,500.00 and the second

part would be some reimbursement for the 2024 expenses. We were asking for \$100,000.00 but we are going to work within the budget, we understand.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I will yield my question until we get to part 2 because I think that we will do the lease first. Thank you.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “Are you going to do a motion on the lease?”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I do, I will make a motion that we sign the lease.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “Okay, if I am reading this correct what we are doing now is that we need a motion and a second to vote on Parish Government fulfilling a request for a Mandated Expense by accepting the Clerk of Court’s offer for the Parish Government to lease 9000 square feet in the building at 306 Landry Street for \$6.50 per square foot which is market value which is an annual payment by Parish Government to the Clerk of Court for \$58,500.00. The Clerk of Court will continue to own the building at 306 Landry Street which gives them benefit of being able to lease the rest of the building.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “Can I ask would the two 10 year renewal options be acceptable?”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “What were your terms? The first year and then two 10 year renewals?”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “A 20 year and two 10 year renewals with the rent on the 10 year renewal being based on the fair market value. Just so you all will know I am going to draft the lease subject to obviously the Council, the Parish President, the Attorney’s approval and we are going to bear the expenses associated with drafting it.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Let him talk and I need to come back with a question.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “You mentioned the possibility of the records being damaged. Now the security of the records, I don’t know the layout of the building but do they have like a wall, a barrier or whatever? They will also have training over there so the people who will be doing the training will not have access to the record is that correct?”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “That is my understanding. But I will make that a condition for sure. We will ensure that is the case.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Okay, thank you sir.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I just want to make sure that we are voting only on the Lease. We are not voting on any expenditures or anything else. The lease only. That is my motion.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “Right, what I read was in reference to the Lease only at \$6.50 per square feet.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, second by Councilwoman Nancy Carriere to authorize the Parish Government to fulfill a request for a Mandated Expense by accepting the Clerk of Court’s offer for the Parish Government to lease 9000 square feet in the building at 306 Landry Street for \$6.50 per square foot which is market value which is an annual payment by Parish Government to the Clerk of Court for \$58,500.00. The Clerk of Court will continue to own the building at 306 Landry Street which gives them benefit of being able to lease the rest of the building.”

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Alvin Stelly. **ABSTAINED:** Jimmie Edwards.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Chairman, Mr. Jimmie if you are abstaining you need to state the reason why so we can have it for the record.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “You don’t have to do that.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “Let me say this. Mr. President we have documentation right here that says: A rule against explanation by members during voting. A member has no right to explain his vote during voting which would be the same as a debate at such time.”
Garrett, didn’t that come from the home rule charter?”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I just want to say something because I wanted to read that too and you did so very good and everybody has it for the record. I went to the conference last week and I asked a question. If Mr. Jimmie chooses to explain because he is in employment with the Clerk’s Office, if he chooses to he can state why but he does not have to explain.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So where is that coming from because last meeting our attorney had advised us that you had to so I am just trying to get the clarification.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “What this part of Robert’s Rule of Order pertains to is this: During the voting a member has no right to explain why he is voting yes or why he is voting no. There is no mention in Robert’s Rule of Order as to having to explain why you are abstaining, there is no mention in it. What this section of Robert’s Rule of Order pertains to is during the voting a member has no right to debate, discuss or explain why he is voting yes or why he is voting no. As far as explaining why you are abstaining it makes no mention of it in Robert’s Rule of Order. This morning I did find an on line discussion with Parliamentarian Authorities which stated that after the debate and the discussion is over and the voting starts the explained why you are voting is over. Councilmember can vote but the explaining and the discussion while they are voting is over. So the time for discussion and the debate as to a yes or a not or abstaining is during the discussion and during the debate. Once voting starts you just vote. I found that on line this morning with the discussion among Parliamentarian Authorities because I knew this would probably come up. In Robert’s Rule of Order there is no passage which says to explain or don’t explain why you are abstaining, it merely says when you are voting, while the voting is going on they can’t explain, discuss or debate their vote as to why you are voting yes or no.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “My question is this: Where does Abstaining come from? What does it mean?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It means that a councilman is choosing not to vote and so if transparency is important than one would think that they would be explaining why they are abstaining.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “An Abstaining of a vote means what? It is no vote at all, so it is not a no and it is not a yes.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It is no vote at all. It can affect the outcome which is explaining the discussion of Robert’s Rule of Order but it is no vote. It is not a yes and it is not a no. Perhaps the reason that the people wrote Robert’s Rule of Order did not include in there explaining is because it never had the idea that someone would Abstain and try to conceal why they are Abstaining.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Okay, I will get and opinion from the AG’s Office.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “With that being said I think that we are going to move on because to abstain is just like a councilmember was not here to vote in a certain sense. I am going to ask Mr. Edwards do you want to explain why you are Abstaining. If you don’t want to then we are moving on.”

Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated, “Not necessarily. Let’s move on.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Mr. Chairman, I think if you go back on the minutes Ms. Nancy explained why he was abstaining.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “Ms. Nancy explained when asked but we did not have any clarification at that time. Now we have a little bit more of clarification and with that little bit we are going to move forward, let’s move on. We have an abstain from Mr. Edwards so we are moving on Ms. Karen.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will get the right answer, I can promise you all that.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “When that right answer comes you can present it to us.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will get the right answer. If you can abstain from voting and I am not talking about Jimmie I am talking in general like last meeting when Ms. Carriere wanted to abstain from voting, why? She said, well I am just going to vote no. So the whole thing is this, we have to figure why you want to abstain from voting? People need to know why? That is the question but I will get the answer, I will get the answer.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Mr. Chairman, we adopt the Robert’s Rule of Order as a council bible. It says we do not have to explain. End of discussion. Let’s move on.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It does not mention abstaining inside there.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “That is what I am plan to do, we are moving on at this point.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We have to finish the second part of his request.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “I am going to reluctantly go back to my request from money after that discussion. I was trying to bring up this spread sheet as I previously indicated the clerk did not receive any type of reimbursement in 2024. They did submit a budget in 2023 and I think they ask was \$100,000.00. Candidly it is a little tricky to figure to what to submit reimbursement wise. We included all of the printing cost so a lot of folks come in and need things re-printed and stamped. They have computers if anybody have filed anything recently it all get scanned and saved so we have included technology expenses. I am going to exclude the renovations because I think the lease is going to take care of that and the clerk is just going to have to deal with it. We had about \$200,000.00 between technology and printing and things like that. Our ask is \$100,000.00 and we respectfully understand that may not be possible but that is the ask and I will be glad to answer any questions associated with that.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “Before we start, Mr. President what is the total number we are talking about on this part 2 right here?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is different numbers and that is part of it. That is why I gave everybody a copy of it so you all could look at. The only thing that I am disputing is the utilities. That building does not belong to Parish Government and I don’t think we should pay the utilities on it because we are not required to, so that is my dispute. Other than that the other stuff from what I am being told by the attorneys is mandated cost that we have to pay for and I am okay with those. I looked at every one of those bills and the utilities is the only thing that sticks out for me.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Back to the utilities, what are you saying about that again?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So under the utilities they submitted was for the new building that he bought. I am against paying the utilities on the building that we don’t own but as far as the other stuff.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Let me ask you this Mr. Corel. We are only leasing 9000 square feet of that building according to your publication you own 27,000 square feet. We should not be paying the 1/3 of the utilities to start with.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “This is 24. This is prior to us approving a lease.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “But it is still 9,000 square feet of 27,000 square feet. That is 1/3 of the costs. The utilities, what is that total number for utilities?”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “I will say this. I think President Bellard makes a fair point. I am not going to argue about that okay. If we just look at the cost for the printing and the technology that is about \$230,000.00 by itself. So the clerk’s ask is on ½ of that.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “So your total ask is \$100,000.00.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “That is correct.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “If we took 1/3 of the utilities it is \$92,000.00.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “That does not include utilities.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I did not get all of the request but it was over \$200,000.00 according to the attorneys. They only submitted up to \$100,000.00. If we take out utilities, which is fine, they could just submit another \$13,000.00”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “We were trying to be fair. We could have submitted \$250,000.00 but we were trying to do about 50% of it.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “I know we want to rent some space from you. I have no problem with that. I have a question paying the utilities of a building that we don’t own. Mr. Duplechain, is it legal for us to pay utilities for a building that we don’t own?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The statute list the mandated expenses for the Clerk of Court’s Office. Offices, office furniture, equipment. Equipment is defined by the Attorney General’ Office as computers, adding machines, calculators, printers and copy machines and record books. It does not list utilities as a mandated expense. Any office that is inside of the court house or another building that is owned by Parish Government their utilities are paid for when the utility bill comes in to Parish Government and Parish Government pays it. In this situation you have a building that is owned by the elected official’s office and that utility is not listed in the statute which is the law as a mandated expense.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “I just did not want to get Parish Government into a crossfire whereas we will be paying the utilities on a building that we don’t own.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It is not a mandated expense not according to the statute and case law. I have one question for Mr. Corel that I am just curious about. Your list of utilities that you sent in and I see here for electric, gas, water and the internet is it only pertaining to your satellite office in Eunice at the City Hall?”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “I am not familiar at that detail with the invoice.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “So what you submitted was the gas, the electricity and the water at the building at 306 West Landry Street. The fourth one is for internet, it looks like it is just for your satellite according to your invoice, your satellite office in Eunice that is the Eunice City Hall. The only reason that I ask is because generally when you have a satellite office in the Eunice City Hall they pay the utilities. I was just curious about it because your internet is 300 Second Street, Eunice which is the City Hall and they have satellite offices in there, District Attorneys, Tax Assessor and Clerk of Court so I was just wondering why your internet bill did not go to the Eunice City Hall instead of going to the Clerk of Court.”

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “I can look into that. I just want to reiterate, we are not going to ask for utilities, I stipulate to that. That is off the table. We are not going to ask for reimbursement of utilities. I think it is a fair call out. It is not expressing the statute. I am good with that. The expenses that we submitted again the \$230,000.00 are just for printing and computers, no utilities. We are still asking for 50% of the hard equipment cost.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “Mr. Bellard, are you fine with the \$100,000.00?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “What he is requesting is nearly 50% less of his expenditures.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I am going to make a motion that we accept the responsibility of meeting last year’s expenditures of \$100,000.00.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I second that motion. I ask for question and they said \$100,000.00 and I second his motion. Let’s go, that is what we gave him before. If that is what you are satisfied with Mr. Corel then let’s go with it.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to pay Clerk of Court \$100,000.00 for the rental fee of 9000 square feet for the lease of the building at 306 Landry Street.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** Jimmie Edwards. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

Mr. Jeff Corel, Clerk of Court stated, “I just want to tell everybody thank you. I appreciate your time.”

9. Authorize Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain to create an Ordinance to donate Parish Adjudicated Property at the corner of Pernie Bailey Road and HWY 190 to District 6 Public Works Commission.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “I just want to know if all of that property have been cleared?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, not yet.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Are we going to be responsible for anything after the donation is done?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard started, “This is what I want to make sure that we are clear on. I think that this is like maybe the second or third step in the process of donating. We have to acquire it legally right Mr. Duplechain? This is just a first step. We don’t want to acquire that property until those liens are released from DEQ. I think everything is pending on what DEQ is going to say. It is like \$6,000,000.00 or something I believe that affects liens. They had a lot of work out there to do.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “We are still moving forward with this.”

Councilman Garrett Duplechain stated, “Whenever we donated the property on Bernice Street in Opelousas to the City of Opelousas so they can put a sewage treatment plant there it was adjudicated property and we had to gain full ownership of it because the City of Opelousas would not accept it any other way. This is a different matter, by Statue you can donate Adjudicated Property while it is still Adjudicated Property. It is a shorter process. If the council votes to go forward with it there will be a notice placed in the Eunice News giving the tax debtor who lost it 60 days to redeem it. There will be a letter sent to the tax debtor who lost it giving them 60 days to redeem it. It will be a non-warranty donation. It has to be a non-warrant donation by a statue, by law. The only thing that we warn you is that they won’t lose it after they get it because of something that we did. We have an intergovernmental agreement wherever it is agreed to but it has to be for a public purpose. Just like we donated the property on Bernice Street to the City of Opelousas so they could put a Sewage Treatment Plant there this donation has to be for a public purpose and it is of course for a public purpose which would be stated in the ordinance and the intergovernmental

agreement. It does allow you to donate adjudicated property for a public purpose and if the agreement also is going to include Parish Government removing some buildings on it before it is donated then I need to know about that also so that can be in the agreement.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette questioned, “Mr. Garrett I think that it would probably be both you and Mr. Bellard. Should we move forward if there is an issue with DEQ?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We did send a request to get those liens removed and explain to them why because the person who own the property is not coming back to redeem it, not with those liens. It is adjudicated to the parish and it is an eye sore at this point. District 6 would like to have it and it is a perfect location for them and it works out good for us but without the lien. I think everything is subject to the liens.

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “They are going to adopt the liens as well.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I would not if I was them. That is why I wanted to get those liens taken off before we even donate it to them. That could be part of the motion. We could donate it once that it is cleared or however you all want to word it, it does not matter.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “The motion I made was basically to make sure that all of the process had been taken care of and the liens had been removed and there is no guarantee what Garrett said as far as the parish is involved. I am okay with all of that.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So let’s say that the DEQ does not release. What I am thinking if they don’t release the liens and it stays on the property once we clean up that property and take that building off we can enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with District 6 and let them just use that property as it is there’s. This is in case if the liens can’t be removed. That way they can still use the property and the liens can stay because we are never going to pay those liens. I am just thinking out loud. Mr. FJ and I were just talking about that.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “The building have been un-occupied for a number of years. It is an eyesore but it is more than that. It is trying to get property back into use where things can be done the way they are usually done. So yes moving forward with that I would like to get that done.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “What I will do is this: Once we get an answer from DEQ and see if they give us too much trouble I will come back to the council where we can get an Intergovernmental Agreement with District 6.”

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain to create an Ordinance to donate Parish Adjudicated Property at the corner of Pernie Bailey Road and HWY 190 to District 6 Public Works Commission.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

10. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to the St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 5 for a three-year term. (04-21-2025 - 04-21-2028).**

A motion was made by Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to the St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 5 for a three-year term. (04-21-2025 - 04-21-2028).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

11. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Ward Two Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four-year term. (04-19-2025 – 04-19-2028).**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Ward Two Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four-year term. (04-19-2025 – 04-19-2029).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

12. **Vote to appoint Michael Kidder for one appointment to Ward 3 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for the remainder of a four-year term. (12-21-2024 – 12-21-2028).**

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to appoint Michael Kidder for one appointment to Ward 3 Consolidated Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for the remainder of a four-year term. (12-21-2024 – 12-21-2028).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Mildred Thierry. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

13. **Authorize the Council Clerk to send a Certified Letter to Joseph Hayes III and Elizabeth Jones advising them to come and address the council regarding debris removal on the property located at 190 Veterans Drive Opelousas, LA 70570. Parcel No. 0105083000.**

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to authorize the Council Clerk to send a Certified Letter to Joseph Hayes III and Elizabeth Jones advising them to come and address the council regarding debris removal on the property located at 190 Veterans Drive Opelousas, LA 70570. Parcel No. 0105083000.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Mildred Thierry. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

14. **Authorize the Council Clerk to send a Certified Letter to Johnny Johnson and Audria Johnson advising them to come and address the council regarding debris removal on the property located at 154 Tesson Street, Opelousas, LA 70570. Parcel No. 0104946000.**

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to authorize the Council Clerk to send a Certified Letter to Johnny Johnson and Audria Johnson advising them to come and address the council regarding debris removal on the property located at 154 Tesson Street, Opelousas, LA 70570. Parcel No. 0104946000.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

IX. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 004
Sponsored by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry)**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES SECTION 44-3 TO HAVE A SPEED LIMIT OF 20 MPH FOR COMPRESS ROAD IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL, AND THE SPEED LIMIT OF 20 MPH SHALL ALSO BE IMPOSED FOR FIVE HUNDRED FEET FROM THE PROPERTY LINE OF THE SCHOOL IN BOTH DIRECTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-005
(Sponsored by Councilman Wayne Ardoin)

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 26-47 IN ARTICLE III
JUNKED MOTOR VEHICLES OR ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES,
IN CHAPTER 26 OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES
TO INCLUDE OLD AND NEW TIRES IN THE DEFINITION OF JUNKED
ITEMS.**

X. ORDINANCE TO BE ADOPTED:

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to **Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-001**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

WHEREUPON, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-001
Sponsored by Councilman Wayne Ardoin)

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

Chairman Jody White stated, “Are there any questions comments or concerns from the council or anyone from the public? We will give this matter 15 minutes.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I ask that this ordinance be brought up. What happens is when people go and pay the lien on their property and Parish Government has done any grass cutting or any improvements on that property that needed to be done we get our money up front also?.”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “I just want to comment on that, Thank you Mr. Ardoin. What happens is when they redeem their property we are stuck out for the work that we have done and we can’t collect. If this ordinance is approved what would happen before they would notify the Sheriff’s Department and the Tax Department before they can redeem it and they have to come and get a certificate that is issued by St. Landry Parish Government. I would issue them a certificate saying that all Governmental Liens are cleared.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “Thank you Ma’am.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Mr. Ardoin, in your request here for the ordinance did you have anything stated about documentation of such that it was done.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Like Ms. Cynthia explained. Once they pay what they have to pay at the Sheriff’s Sale they also have to get a clearance that Parish Government got paid also. That is what she explained a while ago. It is just that Parish government does not want to be left out. Parish Government gets left out if we do and do some work over there. Ms. Cynthia can explain to you what they have experienced.”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “A lot of times they redeem and I have been working closely with the tax department. We are implementing e-mail back and forth before they let someone redeem. This would secure us that they cannot redeem unless they come and get a Clearance Certificate from Parish Government then they can go and redeem their property because we are losing out on money. It protect us and we are losing out because some of these properties we get to it cost us a lot.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Thank you.”

Chairman Jody White stated, “Ms. Cynthia, I think inquiring minds want to know without naming a name of any particular piece of property can you give me an idea what cost actually goes with some of the work that is done at some properties? It is just something off of the top of your head.”

Ms. Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, "Okay, lets' take a property for instance. It took about 9 dumpsters. If we do the work ourselves we have to include the fuel cost. Those different things have to be implemented into the cost for reimbursement back to the parish. If we have to get a contractor then we would have to pay whatever cost and I have had a building that was \$20,000.00 to clean. We are having trouble on four properties in particular and I have placed it on sale four times to try and sell it and recoup our money but these properties have to get cleaned. Sometimes if we can do it the cost is a little lower because we will include the dumpster cost, the fuel cost and whatever else we may need at that site and it may run us \$3,000.00 or \$4,000.00 dollars compared to a contractor in the amount of \$12,000.00. We have been trying to keep the cost down and we do it with Public Works and sometimes we do it during the week and sometimes we have to do it on a Saturday."

Chairman Jody White stated, "Thank you Ma'am. I just wanted a basic idea."

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-001
(Sponsored by Councilman Wayne Ardoin)**

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

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Code Sections 2-289, 2-290, and 2-291 provide for the redemption of adjudicated properties.

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute Section 47:2243 provides, "Redemptions shall be made through the tax collector of the appropriate political subdivision.... Payment shall include all statutory impositions accruing before the date of payment with five percent penalty and simple interest accruing at one percent per month, as well as all other sums required to be paid pursuant to this Subpart;"

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute Section 47:2244 provides, "Payment also shall include the actual costs incurred by the political subdivision for preparation and filing of redemption certificates, the cost of mail, notice, publication of notice, personal service of notice, appraisal, and costs associated with the determination of tax sale parties and their notification. However, the actual cost of preparation and filing of redemption certificates shall not exceed two hundred dollars. The political subdivision may also require the payment of all amounts accrued under other governmental liens as of the date of payment;"

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government has incurred and continues to incur costs related to adjudicated properties, for which governmental liens are filed and recorded on the property;

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish properties have been redeemed, and redemption certificates have been issued, without amounts being paid to satisfy the recorded governmental liens; and,

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government wishes to ensure and mandate that adjudicated properties in St. Landry Parish can only be redeemed, and redemption certificates can only be issued, after St. Landry Parish Government certifies that a sufficient amount has been paid to satisfy its governmental liens.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT the following Ordinance mandates and requires that adjudicated properties in St. Landry Parish only be redeemed, and redemption certificates only be issued, after the St. Landry Parish Government certifies that a sufficient amount has been paid to satisfy any governmental liens the St. Landry Parish Government has filed and recorded on the property.

1. In accordance with La. R.S. 47:2244, before any adjudicated property may be redeemed or a redemption certificate be issued, the St. Landry Parish Government requires the payment and satisfaction of all amounts accrued under liens filed by the St. Landry Parish Government on the adjudicated property.
2. The Tax Collector for St. Landry Parish shall not redeem any adjudicated property and shall not issue any redemption certificate unless a St. Landry Parish Government Lien Satisfaction Certificate is

submitted with the payment of redemption costs.

3. The St. Landry Parish Government Lien Satisfaction Certificate must identify the adjudicated property being redeemed, and must have a date of issuance within fourteen (14) days of redemption of the adjudicated property.

4. Payment for the St. Landry Parish Government Lien Satisfaction Certificate shall include the costs incurred by the St. Landry Parish Government preparing, filing, and cancelling the lien, as well as an administrative cost of no more than one hundred dollars.

5. The St. Landry Parish Government Lien Satisfaction Certificate shall certify only that liens of the St. Landry Parish Government have been satisfied, and shall not be used as a certification that liens filed by any other individual or entity have been satisfied, or that the property is free and clear of liens.

- A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Mildred Thierry to **Adopt Ordinance No. 2025-002**
On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-002
(Sponsored by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry)

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

Chairman Jody White stated, “Moving on to Ordinance 2025-002 sponsored by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry. Do we have any questions, comments or concerns from the public or any Councilmember? We have 15 minutes to discuss this matter.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “In reference to the ordinance 2025-002 do we have a date when these Adjudicated Properties will be up for sale?”

Cynthia Fontenot, Code Enforcement stated, “Yes Sir, it is on April 3rd, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. here in the council chambers. It can be watched Facebook Live and anyone is welcome to attend. All bids have to be submitted by 2:00 p.m. at the Parish Government.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “Thank you.”

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-002
(Sponsored by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry)

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

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statutes 47:2201, 47:2202, 47:2203 and 47:2204 provide that a political subdivision may provide by ordinance for the sale of adjudicated property at a public sale.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government shall offer for sale the following adjudicated properties with a minimum bid of \$500.00 and/or any specified amount due to St. Landry Parish Government in reference to any liens, judgments, mortgages, and/or encumbrances that may be on each adjudicated property as follows.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that the following adjudicated properties shall be offered for sale at public sale and there shall be a minimum bid of \$500.00 and/or any specified amount due to St. Landry Parish Government in reference to any liens, judgments, mortgages, and/or encumbrances that may be on each of the following adjudicated properties:

PARCEL #	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	PROPERTY OWNER
01	0104312450 HWY 3043 / DARJEAN ST 1 LOT (5.911 AC) TRACT 4 N DARGIN SUBDIV S SONNIER & LEGER E SONNIER W DAVE IN SEC 7 T-6S R-4E 826503 (T-36-884)	ROY DAVE
02	8600006500 620 PEARL STREET 1 LOT BEING 1/2 ARPENT SW CORNER OF LOT 2 (FRONTING 105' ON PEARL ST) BLK B GOURNAY PARK ADD 223290 1125431	MR & MRS W J ACHTEN
03	8600512600 430 ACADIA STREET 1 LOT BEING PART OF LOT 4 (50X100) BLK 8 PIER ADD 971388 (O-42-731)	MARGIE DAVIS
04	8600819500 BACCIOCHI STREET 1 LOT (100X150) FRONTING 100' ON BACCI ST 584466 (O-19-797) 888969 (E-39-254) 989358 (J-43-499)	CLARENCE FRANK SR
05	8600830800 351 E. MAPLE AVE 1 LOT 6 (50X140) BLK 1 MC MANUS ADD FRONTING 50' ON MAPLE AVE 799613 (O-35-790) 1035709	MITCHELL DAIRE
06	8602492365 240 S CANE STREET 1 LOT 35 (40X110) PACIFIC SUB DIV 710828-A (D-28-329) 857552 (TAX 12-893)	(EUNICE) ORELIA GREEN
07	8105228050 121 BOUDREAUX RD 1 LOT N 100' 82 (50X100) BOUDREAUX SUB DIV 581663 (K-19-571) 926849 (L-40-163)	LINEST DOUCET
08	8176075875 LEO STREET 1 LOT (75X140) N LEO ST S E W CHACHERE FRONTING 75' ON LEO ST IN SEC 85 T-6S R-4E 884935 (A-39-934) 947218 (J-41-133)	CANDACE CHACHERE EDWARDS
09	8101749600 723 S OAK STREET 1 LOT (58X105) N ANSLEM S DUNBAR E LYONS W OAK ST FRONTING 58' ON OAK ST 909390 (DON 72-670) 1025293	JUDE MARTIN JONES ETALS
10	8105499800 CHEVIS RD 1 LOT (58X105) N ANSLEM S DUNBAR E LYONS W OAK ST FRONTING 58' ON OAK ST 909390 (DON 72-670) 1025293	CLARENCE JOSEPH MANUEL
11	8105676300 AUDREY STREET 1 LOT 53 (50X105) PRESTON STELLY SUB DIV N LOT 52 S LOT 54 E VENDOR W STELLEY ST 834674 (DON 63-850)	LINDA BELLARD MYERS
12	8600511800 350 MILL STREET	JACKIE DICKEY

	1 LOT BEING E/2 OF S/2 OF LOT 2 (50X100) BLK 10 PIERROTTI ADD FRONTING 50' ON MILL ST 1044499	
13	8601225100 360 MILL STREET	MELVIN & EMILY ALFRED HENRY
	1 LOT BEING W/2 OF THE S/2 OF LOT 2 (50X100) BLK 10 PIERROTTI ADDITION FRONTING 50' ON MILL ST N N/2 OF LOT 2 S MILL ST E DAVILLE W LOT 1 1087540	
14	8400204000 1ST STREET (MELVILLE)	WILLIAM MCNEIL JR
	2 LOTS 9 & 10 (48X120 EACH) BLK 47 KROTZ ADD 656243 (N-23-453) 1158792	
15	8500436500 AVE A (EVANGELINE SUB)	CLEOTIS & CLARA MALVEAUX DAVIS
	2 LOTS 237 & 238 (75X120 EACH) EVANGELINE SUB DIV 1 IN SEC 54 T-5S R-4E 720012 (U-29-206)	
16	8401136000 CHARLES ST (PALMETTO)	GUS THOMAS JR
	1 LOT 59 (120X100) HATFIELD ADD 618122 (L-21-327) 1001335	
17	8604062800AD ST PATRICK AVE	ERNEST BUFFORD JR
	1 LOT 25 (100 X 255) (0.585AC) WESTGATE VILLAGE SUBDIV FRONTING 100' ON ST PATICK AVE	
	IN SEC 15 & 16 T-6S R-3E 1062102	
18	8400130515 167 MOREAU STREET	JOHN HARRINGTON
	1 LOT (150X400) N MURRAY S SANDERS E RIVER ROAD W LEVEE FRONTING 150' ON WEST SIDE OF RIVER ROAD (MOREAU ST) 942393 (D-41-232) 1037633 1053644	
19	8300823000F PRIVATE ROAD/ARNAUDVILLE FELIX	JOHN ALLEN
	1 LOT (.573 AC) FRONTING 90' ON RIGHT OF PASSAGE IN SEC 30 T-7S R-6E 1070777 PLAT 1125026 1142342	
20	8301167500 NORTHWOOD ROAD	MELVIN MAXWELL
	2 LOTS 54 55 (108X179 EACH) NORTHWOOD ACRES SUB DIV 581102 (K-19-15) 1001335	
21	8300847000 NORTHWOOD ROAD	W PAUL HAWLEY
	2 LOTS 52 (110.86X169) & 53 (109.96X169) NORTHWOOD ACRES SUB DIV 581459 (K-19-405) 1071865	
22	8201697000F SLEEPYHOLLOW LANE	DANNY LEE BROUSSARD
	1 LOT 46 (88.78X223.89) (.582 AC) COLLINS ROAD SUBDIV N SLEEPY HOLLOW RD S BOUDREAUX E LOT 45 W LOT 47	
	IN SEC SEC 27 T-7S R-3E 1001812 1090981 (MH 16X80)	
23	8200444400 LASTRAPES STREET	LESTER CHARLOT
	1 LOT 2 (50X150) SMITH SUB DIV N MITCHELL S WOODS E SMITH W ALLEY	
	795392 (J-35-311) 1090981	

24	0200064200 236 E MARTIN LUTHER KING PRUDHOMME 1 LOT 7 (50X150) N BELLEVUE ST S BERNARD E JOHNSON W LOT #9 BERNARD SUB DIV 1152513 1174394	MICHELLE LANDRY
25	8106015400 FREDDIE TAYLOR LANE ETALS 1 LOT 4 PLAT B (222.46X327.80) N LOT 5 S LOT 3 E LOT 9 W WILSON SEC 12 T-7S R-3E 756492 (G-33-184) 1001335	PRESTON RICHARD JR,
26	8103740170 OFF THOMAS AVE/PRIVATE RD 1 LOT 3-B STEPNEY PLAT (1 AC) IN SEC 45 & 46 T-5S R-3E 795392 (J-35-311)	LEATRICE CRETIEN
27	8101062340 CLAUDE STREET 1 LOT 64 (50X100) J C DONATO SUB DIV 397715 (J-11-389) 874617 (TAX 13-1656)	VIVIAN NED BROWN
28	0101249400 631 W BERTHEAUD AVE 2 LOTS BEING THE W 1' LOT 9 (1X150) ALL LOT 10 (51X150) & E PART LOT 11 (13X150) BLK 3 OAK PARK ADD N BERTHEAUD AVE S DUNBAR E LOT 9 W LOT 11 FRONTING 65' ON BERTHEAUD AVE 1019271	CRYSTAL FRANK
29	8500180300 421 POPLAR STREET 1 LOT 6 (214X150) (.737 AC) MORE OR LESS IN SECS 70 & 85 T-5S R-4E 797224 (L-35-599) 891483 (G-39-205) 967422 (K-42-183) 1030975	KRANDALL PIJUE
30	8601116000 221 MATHILDA STREET 1 LOT 4 (50X122.5) BLK 6 FRISCO HEIGHT ADD 526675 1035606	GEORGE JACKSON
31	8100649838 FREEDOM DRIVE 1 LOT 7 (100 X 130) BLK 2 NORTH PARK ADD 843931 (TAX 12-328)	VELTON DAVIS
32	0641431862 130 GASPARD STREET (EUNICE) MARY THOMAS LEFT N JOHNSON S WOOD E GUILLORY W GASPARD ST 602311 (O-12-651) 939820 (A-41-349)	GASTON WOODS & 1 LOT (50X84)
33	8101793000 1240 W. LANDRY STREET (OPEL) 1 LOT (50X150) N LOFTON S LANDRY ST E TERRACINA W BERTINOT FRONTING 50' ON WEST LANDRY ST 729976 (DON 46-108) (LOT 8 BLK 12 W LANDRY ST	MARY JOUBERT

34	8102261300 910 W. LANDRY STREET HENRY MICHAEL MICHEL 1 LOT (43X87.2) N MANUEL S LANDRY ST E MANUEL W GATH FRONTING 43' ON LANDRY ST 837655 (DON 64-335) 917828 (B-40-863) (LOT 6 BLK 9 W LANDRY ST
35	8102857500 923 JEFFERSON STREET MARY OTHERIE SAM 1 LOT 3 (48X149.4) BLK 1 ANDRUS SUB DIV 565435-B (M-18-558) 999533

XI. RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to **Adopt Resolution No. 002-2025**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 002-2025

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has appropriated funding for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) Program; and

WHEREAS, the Local Government Assistance Program offers grants to eligible municipalities and parishes for a wide range of projects to improve public health, public safety, living conditions and for economic development purposes; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary and proper to submit applications to the Louisiana Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Local Government Assistance Program

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the St. Landry Parish Council that Parish President Jessie Bellard is hereby authorized to sign and submit an application to the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development under the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Local Government Assistance Program and also execute any and all documents should this grant be funded;

THEREUPON, the above resolution was declared adopted.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to **Adopt Resolution No. 003-2025.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON,** this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

- **RESOLUTION NO. 003-2025**

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government shall renew its' lease with Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority, which is a state authority within the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, in order to continue leasing the property located at 1638 Creswell Lane, Opelousas LA 70570.

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Mr. Chairman, I have a question about this before we move on. The Resolution 003-2025 about the renewal of the lease. The agenda that was sent out through e-mail did not have that on there but the one tonight does. I just want to make sure that we are clear on that. I don't know what is being sent out and at what time frame it is being sent out. The one that is e-mailed is the one that I print to put in my book right here and on here, the agenda for tonight they have it on here but the one that was e-mailed was not on there."

Chairman Jody White stated, "So you received something that says Resolution 003-2025 was not on yours."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Correct. I think everybody who gets the e-mail for the agenda is what I print out but tonight I get here it is on this agenda. I just want to make sure that whatever we are sending out to the public meets the criteria and that is all that I am worried about."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Sherell sent out two agendas. She updated it and I received 2. The second one that I received is the one that was sent to the Eunice News which contains the Resolution."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "So what was posted? The second one."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "The second one was posted in the Eunice News. So the second one that I got is the one that I go by and it had the Resolution. She had updated it and made a couple of the changes in it."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I will offer it as a motion that we will move with the Resolution. What I am seeing here is \$6.51 per square foot. We are leasing 10,684 square feet which is a total of \$5,796.07 per month. That is what is stipulated in it."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I was just questioning. You all already passed it. I am just questioning what I received."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "You are alright with that?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes."

Chairman Jody White stated, "It is just to make sure that everybody is getting it."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "It breaks down the payment by month. It is \$5,796.07 per month for 12 months. That is the payment per month for \$6.51 per square foot."

- **RESOLUTION NO. 003-2025**

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government shall renew its' lease with Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority, which is a state authority within the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, in order to continue leasing the property located at 1638 Creswell Lane, Opelousas LA 70570.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council, that St. Landry Parish Government will renew its' lease with Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority, which is a state authority within the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, in order to lease 10,684 square feet on the north side of the property located at 1638 Creswell Lane, Opelousas LA 70570;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that St. Landry Parish Government shall annually pay \$6.51 per square foot for the 10,684 square foot area being leased, which shall be paid at \$5,796.07 per month;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the term of said lease shall be for five years, and shall commence on February 1, 2025, and shall end on January 31, 2030;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the St. Landry Parish Council, that St. Landry Parish President Jessie Bellard is hereby authorized to sign said lease with Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority, which is a state authority within the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and to sign any and all other documents necessary to secure the lease which is authorized by this Resolution.

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry **Adopt Resolution No. 004-2025.**

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

RESOLUTION NO. 004-2025

RESOLUTION OF THE ST LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN TO BE PRESENTED TO COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 28TH 2025

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya River Basin contains the largest remaining wetland forest in North America, and irreplaceable natural treasures; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Basin's cypress-tupelo swamps are the most productive wetlands in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Basin wetlands are the number one producers of crawfish in the entire world; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Basin wetlands are about the most important wetlands for migratory birds in the Western Hemisphere and will become the most important as sea level rises and our delta disappears; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Basin wetlands can feed more aquatic birds per acre than any other wetland in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Basin is critical to Louisiana's culture as the last bastion of the Cajun culture; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Basin is designed as a spillway protecting communities from flooding all the way to Lafayette to the west, Morgan City to the south, from Baton Rouge to New Orleans and Terrebonne Parish to the east; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Basin protects our entire industrial corridor, including over 150 industrial plants between Baton Rouge and New Orleans and the largest port in the western hemisphere, the Port of South Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, communities from Bayou Sorrel and Bayou Pigeon to Morgan City on the east and many communities on the west side will have no future if we keep filling the Basin's wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the Basin’s flood capacity is critical to protect much of south-central Louisiana from flooding; and

WHEREAS, the loss of flood capacity is already responsible for a record flood in 2021 that created great misery to communities from Bayou Pigeon and Bayou Sorrel to Morgan City; and

WHEREAS, maintaining and increasing flood capacity in the Atchafalaya Basin is a must to be able to safely live in south-central Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Terrebonne Parish’s future depends on the introduction of massive amounts of sediments to protect their communities and restore the coast; and

WHEREAS, the old bed of Grand Lake and Flat Lake in the Atchafalaya Basin and the Lake Verret/Lake Palourde Basins outside the eastern Atchafalaya Basin levee, can provide huge and unlimited amounts of sand and silt to Terrebonne Parish, in the process increasing the flood capacity of the Morganza Spillway and the Lake Verret/Lake Palourde Basins;

WHEREAS, mining Grand Lake for sand will greatly decrease the need for dredging south of Morgan City to keep the Port of Morgan City open, saving millions of dollars on dredging.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be sent to Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, and St Landry Parish will be included as a cosigner to the Atchafalaya Basin Management Plan that will be submitted by Atchafalaya Basin keeper on or before February 28, 2025.

XII. COMMITTEE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the **Administrative Finance Committee Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, February 5th, 2025** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to accept the **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, February 5th, 2025** as transcribed.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 19th, day of February, 2025.

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Mr. Bellard, do you have a copy of those award letters for the Grant Money you said that you were going to provide for us.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Are you going to bring them or drop them off?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes, we will.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I don’t know if Mr. Lejeune heard what I asked. I was asking about the letters for the award of the Grant Money. We had asked and requested it last meeting.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “Was it on the agenda?”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “No but there was any other questions so I decided to ask. He said that he would provide that for the next meeting.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Put it on the committee meeting.”

XIII. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Faltery Jolivette, Mildred Thierry, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier, Wayne Ardoin, Dexter Brown, Timmy Lejeune, Jimmie Edwards and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None. **WHEREUPON**, this motion was adopted on this, the 15th, day of January, 2025.

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