

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 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. **Roll Call:** Faltery Jolivette, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Timmy Lejeune and Ernest Blanchard. Ex-Officio Jody White. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown.
3. **Person to address the Committee.**
There was no one.
4. **Parish President & Finance Reports:**

Mr. Van Reed stated, “I have no report but I do know that Jessie is about 15 minutes from joining the meeting. You all want to wait until her gets here?”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “No we are going to move on.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “You all should have the Finance Report in front of you all.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “How do you want to handle the Parish President’s Report? Do you want to accept it as it is or do you want to wait until he get here?”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “We will wait until he gets here.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I don’t have anything on the Parish President’s Report. I am just going to bring out Item No. 5 on the Agenda. The discussion about the Immovable Property, Mr. Lejeune mentioned that it was that building behind the Hospital that we did not know we had. The appraisal came back I want to believe it was at \$500.00 a month and that is what the rate was. I did talk to the CEO at the hospital and I told them about the rate. We are going to go back and look inside that building and see if it is even worth them having it. Right now we are going to go in there and take out whatever they have and if they need it then they will rent it. We are in the process of making that happen. It has not been open in years. Probably everything in there is not any good but we want to make sure. If they use it they will pay the \$500.00 per month and we will get that by next month’s meeting.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “Mr. Bellard, were they renting that building currently?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No, it was a gentlemen’s agreement between the Hospital District and the Hospital. As long as they would keep up the grounds they could use the building. There is no contract.”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard questioned, “Mr. Bellard, if they don’t rent the building then who is going to keep up the grounds?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We will have to take care of it. That is exactly where we would probably put the coroners building in that same grassy area for the autopsy room and stuff on that same property.”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “I thought the autopsy room was going to go to those two small buildings that we left standing.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “One of the building would cost too much money to put the roof and remodel that part so we will just have to build a new structure right there to fit the needs of the coroner, it would be a lot cheaper. We have the Grant to furnish it and put everything on the inside.”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “Are we going to tear down those two small buildings?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That one small building. The big building we applied for the Grant to re-do that big building and bring it back into Commerce.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Now that you are here Mr. Bellard have you spoken to Mr. Lincoln Savoie about the letter?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am dealing with the Department over there. I am not dealing with Mr. Lincoln Savoie. I am dealing with the lady in charge. I received a letter from her last week. That is what I was waiting on. We sent a letter back to them. We just want to make sure that we have the clarity right of what the building will be used for, it will not be a place to go and sit. We are in negotiations with them.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “He called. He was suppose to be here tonight but you were not here so Mr. Reed spoke and said that maybe you all had talked.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Not me and him but me and another person did talk.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “So it is still a possibility that it will happen.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is going to happen. There are a couple of things that she is asking for and I think that we need to negotiate. We can’t pay for their stuff but we can supply them the building. We will make some things work for them. Then the issue with Plaisance and the other areas that is our big question. Why do you do it in some areas and not in all areas?”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I can understand, we own that building over there and it was done there before. The man brought it up and we want to accommodate.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “We can do it over there but I want them to look for other ways.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Thank you, I appreciate it.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to accept the Parish President & Finance Report:

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Timmy Lejeune, and Ernest Blanchard. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion carried.

5. Further discuss the Appraisal of the Lease of Immovable Property by St. Landry Parish Government to Allegiance Health Management, Inc. dba Acadian Medical Center.

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Who placed this on the agenda?”

Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “That was forwarded from the last Committee Meeting.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “Is that the building that is behind from where the old Hospital was at?”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Do we have any further discussion about that?”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Not that I can remember in detail.”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “That was taken care of. I went to the meeting on that. You will have to talk to Jessie but that was taken care of between the Hospital Administrators and Jessie.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Do we need to take any action?”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “No we don’t need any action. It has been taken care of.”

6. Discuss the salary adjustment for the Assistant Council Clerk Karen Barlow.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Mr. Brown had taken the effort of getting this done. I would like to say that I spoke to Mr. Bellard and he said that he will make sure the he can find \$2.00 per hour for an increase in her pay. I will make it as a motion.”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “I will second.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “You want to forward it to the Full Council.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “That is correct.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Is there anyone else that have something that they want to say? I have something to say. We can take it out of our own budget since she works for us. All we have to do is give up \$200.00 each on our travel pay. That would make sense. Do you all understand that we are a separate body from Parish Government?”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Oh yes, I understand that clearly Mr. Taylor.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025** the salary adjustment for the Assistant Council Clerk Karen Barlow.

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

7. Forward all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 2 for a two-year term. (05-15-2025 – 05-15-2027).

A motion was made by Councilman Faltery Jolivette, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025** all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 2 for a two-year term. (05-15-2025 – 05-15-2027).

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

8. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Hospital District No. 2 (Opelousas General) for a six-year term. (06-07-2025 – 06-07-2031).

A motion was made by Councilman Ernest Blanchard, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Hospital District No. 2 (Opelousas General) for a six-year term. (06-07-2025 – 06-07-2031).

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

Motion forwarded.

9. **Authorize Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement between St. Landry Parish Government and the St. Landry Parish Housing Authority.**

A motion was made by Councilman Faltery Jolivette, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025** to authorize Parish President Jessie Bellard to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement between St. Landry Parish Government and the St. Landry Parish Housing Authority.

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

Motion forwarded.

10. **Authorize the Lease and Operating Agreement between St. Landry Parish Government and Robin C. Ardoin for Lots 24 and 25 at the St. Landry Parish Airport.**

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Timmy Lejeune to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025** to authorize the Lease and Operating Agreement between St. Landry Parish Government and Robin C. Ardoin for Lots 24 and 25 at the St. Landry Parish Airport.

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

Motion forwarded.

11. **Forward to Full Council Resolution No. 009-2025**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO AMEND La. R.S. 33:130.302 AND TO ENACT A NEW STATUTE REQUIRING PARISH AND/OR MUNICIPALITY APPROVAL FOR PROJECTS THAT WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT LOCAL TAXES.

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025** the approval of **Resolution No. 009-2025**.

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

Motion forwarded.

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Ladies and Gentleman. The Chairman have something to say. First of all SLED, the Economic Development District is a Subdivision of the State of Louisiana. It reads in the Revised Statue 33:130:302(B) the Power and Authority to appoint commissioners shall not be construed to confer on the St. Landry Parish Municipal Association or the Parish Council of St. Landry Parish in a direction control or other influence over the district the board not specifically provided here in or otherwise provided by law. Furthermore the current members of the Municipal Association and the parish council may not serve as commissioners. These folks have been in operation since 1998. They are created by the State, unlike District 5 and District 6 which we have no control over. What are we doing getting involved in this? They have done a tremendous job over the years bringing jobs to our parish and building our community. What are we trying to do here?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Mr. Chairman.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Who is speaking?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I have arrived.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Go ahead Mr. Bellard, I am so glad that you are here.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “So it is very simple. The authority to do what is being done now, presently, by abating taxes and making deals with Pilot Programs and everything else should rest with this body here, not a board. I will explain the process. I am asking this council for a Resolution to support the bill that I have submitted to change the way the board has the authority to do certain things. One thing and the main thing is that the board will not be able to approve Pilot Programs or any type of programs that is going to eliminate some taxes or defer some taxes on the taxing bodies of our parish. That is the only thing that we are asking to be changed in the law.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “That is not what you are saying in the Resolution.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I am trying to explain it to you. Give me a minute.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “You should have done your homework before you presented this to us.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I did all of my homework. I promise you.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Why have you taken your job out of it?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Sir.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Somebody objected to it or something. I think that it was crazy that you would put it in there but that is you. Listen if you are suggesting that the parish council.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I have the floor.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “I have the gavel.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I was talking and you gave me the floor so it is my turn.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Finish up. Finish up.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I will take my time. I just walked in the door.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “You have the floor Mr. Bellard.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The whole thing about this is that we are going to change the Statue to read that this council, this body is the one that is going to make the final decision on Abating Taxes and Approving Pilot Programs. That is it, nothing else in there changes.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “So you are taking all of this other stuff out?”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “To answer your question, when I put that other part in there, you know why I put it in there?”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Yes I would like to know.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Because I knew you and another councilmember would question it.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “You are excused, thank you very much. So you want to amend the Resolution to read that it will be this body that is going to make the final determination whether or not these tax exemptions are going forward.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Correct.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Everybody got that. It is not about the President being involved or having authority. Do we have a motion?”

Resolution No. 009-2025

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO AMEND La. R.S. 33:130.302 AND TO ENACT A NEW STATUTE REQUIRING PARISH AND/OR MUNICIPALITY APPROVAL FOR PROJECTS THAT WILL NEGATIVELY AFFECT LOCAL TAXES.

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 33:130.301(B) states the St. Landry Parish Economic and Industrial Development District was “established for the primary purpose of stimulating industrial and commercial developments in St. Landry Parish... special attention shall be focused on developing stable and more extensive employment opportunities, promoting economic development in disadvantages communities, improving infrastructure, and promoting the overall welfare of the citizens of the parish.”

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government, the governing authority for St. Landry Parish, must protect the tax bases of the parish and its municipalities;

WHEREAS, St. Landry Economic and Industrial Development District possesses the authority to negotiate economic development projects that may reduce, eliminate, abate, or otherwise affect the tax bases of the parish and/or its municipalities, without any requirements of notification provided to or approval received from St. Landry Parish Government;

WHEREAS, the Executive Director or Chief Executive Officer of the St. Landry Economic and Industrial Development District is appointed by the board of commissioners;

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government can effectively protect the taxes bases of the parish and its municipalities if St. Landry Parish Economic and Industrial Development District was required to submit a detailed proposal of any economic development project that may reduce, eliminate, abate, or otherwise affect the tax bases of the parish and/or its municipalities, for the governing authority’s review and approval and allowing forty-five (45) days for the governing authority to conduct a public hearing and to approve or deny the agreement by resolution.

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government can more effectively ensure that the St. Landry Parish Economic and Industrial Development District is fulfilling its purpose and focusing special attention on the areas identified in La. R.S. 33:130.301(B), and protect the taxes bases of the parish and its municipalities if the Executive Director of the St. Landry Parish Economic and Industrial Development District reported to the St. Landry Parish President who (1) shall have authority to provide general direction, strategy, and supervision to the Executive Director or Chief Executive Officer, and (2) will work at the pleasure of the Parish President.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Landry Parish Council hereby expresses its support of legislation to amend La. R.S. 33:130.302 and to enact a new statute requiring parish and/or municipality approval for projects that will negatively affect local taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to those members of the Louisiana Legislature representing St. Landry Parish.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the St. Landry Parish Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025** the approval of **Resolution No. 010-2025**.

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

12. Forward to Full Council Resolution No. 010-2025

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Bayou Mallet and Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 10 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, on Saturday, October 11, 2025, to authorize the continuation of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Bayou Mallet and Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 10 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana (the “Governing Authority”), acting as the governing authority of Bayou Mallet and Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 10 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana (the “District”), adopted a resolution on April 9, 2025, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, October 11, 2025, to authorize the continuation of a special tax therein; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the District has requested that this Parish Council, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of this Parish Council to approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of Bayou Mallet and Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 10 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, this Parish Council hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION
(MILLAGE CONTINUATION)**

Shall Bayou Mallet and Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 10 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana (the “District”), continue to levy a special tax of 12.19 mills on all property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$333,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2025 and ending with the year 2034, for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, operating and improving the gravity drainage works in the District?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, this Parish Council does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, April 16th, 2025* the approval of **Resolution No. 011-2025**.

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

13. Forward to Full Council Resolution No. 011-2025

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, October 11, 2025, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on April 14, 2025, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, October 11, 2025, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority of the District has requested that this Parish Council, acting as the governing authority of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, give its consent and authority for the District to hold the aforesaid election, and in the event that the election carries to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein; and

WHEREAS, as required by Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, it is now the desire of this Parish Council to approve the holding of said election and in the event that the election carries, to authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Parish Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Parish, that:

SECTION 1. In compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and in accordance with the request of the Board of Commissioners of Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, this Parish Council hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION
(MILLAGE RENEWAL)**

Shall Ward 1 South Gravity Drainage District No. 1 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy a special tax of 3.49 mills on all property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$312,000 expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2026 and ending with the year 2035, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining and/or operating the District's drainage works?

SECTION 2. In the event the election carries, this Parish Council does hereby further consent to and authorize the District to continue to levy and collect the special tax provided for therein.

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

None.

15. **Adjourn.**

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

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

Motion carried.

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