

Parish President Jessie Bellard was absent for this meeting due to illness.

**(SECOND MEETING)
ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1st, 2026
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:** Nancy Carriere, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks and Timmy Lejeune.
Ex-Officio: Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** Faltery Jolivette and Dexter Brown.
3. **Person to address the Committee.**

- **Ms. June Avila addressed the council. She stated,** “I live at 294 Kim Drive, Melville LA. 71353. I am applying to be on District 5 Water Commission Board.

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “You want to tell us a little bit about your background. Are you familiar with water systems and so forth?”

Ms. June Avila stated, “No I have never done anything with the Water Commission before. I normally work in the medical field for over 30 years but I deal with a lot of people and I love to be around people. I would really like to devote my time and help the community as much as I can. I have never had this opportunity before and I would really would like to try and do that.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “Did she fill out her application?”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Her application is on file.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I have no objections. Thank you for coming.”

Ms. June Avila stated, “Thank you so much. Have a great evening.”

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

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I think that you have the Finance Report Packet on your desk in front of you that was handed out. The only item that I was given for tonight is the Resolution with the Delta Regional Authority. We received \$366,000.00 in Federal Appropriations from Representative Cleo Fields to build a Hanger. Our initial request was \$800,000.00 but we only received \$366,000.00 so we are reaching out to the Delta Regional Authority through their grant to see if we can fund the original size of the hanger. The Resolution is basically giving Jessie permission to apply for that Delta Regional Authority Grant to sign the paperwork that he needs. We can use the money from the USDA that was given to us by Representative Fields as a match for the Delta Regional Authority so there is nothing out of pocket from us. This Resolution basically gives us permission to apply for the grant and do whatever paperwork that we need to do to make that happen.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “There is no out of pocket expense in this, this is just the Resolution, I just want to make it clear. We are not spending any money and we are not using any of our dollars all we are doing is asking.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “Representative Fields gave us \$366,000.00 to build the hanger. We had ask for \$800,000.00. Because we did not get the full amount we would really like to build a nice big hanger so that we can put a few more airplanes in there and earn some revenue. We were presented with the Delta Regional Authority

Grant and they require a match. The match can be used federally funded for the match so we will be using the USDA money that Representative Fields got us. There is no money out of pocket in this project. There is no guarantee that Delta Regional Authority will come through with the money so in that case we will build a smaller hanger.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I know that you said that we are asking for Delta Regional Authority to match it.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “No ma’am. Delta Regional requires a match. Delta Regional allows us to use Federal Funds that we received for the match so we will be using the money that Cleo Fields gave us through the USDA to meet that match if we are awarded the grant through Delta Regional Authority.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “You said \$366,000.00 and it is really \$800,000.00.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “We requested \$800,000.00.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “What is the actual cost of the Hanger?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “We are working on that with the engineers right now. It will be under the \$800,000.00.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere, “With us applying for the grant and if they don’t approve it what are we going to do next?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “We would build the hanger with the \$366,000.00. It will be a small hanger that can fit about two airplanes. It will generate revenue for the airport.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Will you come back and let us know if they didn’t agree?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “Right, yes ma’am.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, July 15, 2026** to adopt **Resolution No. 010-2026**.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Ken Marks and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Faltery Jolivet and Deter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

RESOLUTION NO. 010-2026

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY APPLICATION SUBMISSION

WHEREAS, the Delta Regional Authority (hereinafter “DRA”) was created by Congress by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, as amended, as a federal/state partnership now comprised of 255 counties and parishes within the eight states of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee in order to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development and fostering partnerships that will have a positive impact on the Delta Region’s economy;

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government proposes to apply for funding through the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) for the Fiscal Year 2026 federal award program cycle for the St. Landry Parish Airport Hangar Expansion and Infrastructure Project;

WHEREAS, the proposed project will expand aircraft storage capacity through the construction of additional hangars and supporting utility infrastructure at St. Landry Parish Airport in order to address documented demand for hangar space, support continued aviation growth, and strengthen regional economic development opportunities;

WHEREAS, DRA requires that a person be designated, appointed, and given the authority to perform certain duties and administration of said award for and on behalf of the Awardee;

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Council met in a regular session on **Wednesday, July 15th, 2026**, whereby_____ were present, constituting a quorum;

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

WHEREAS, a motion was made by, _____, was seconded by, _____ to designate and appoint Jessie Bellard, St. Landry Parish President to perform all duties and administration of said award, which carried unanimously by voice vote and was recorded on the minutes;

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government has secured approximately \$366,000 in federal funding through the United States Department of Agriculture for airport facility improvements and intends to utilize such funds as leverage and match for the proposed St. Landry Parish Airport Hangar Expansion and Infrastructure Project;

WHEREAS, a motion was made by _____, was seconded by, _____, that in the event of an administration change, the new St. Landry Parish President shall continue to have such authority under this Resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, by the **15th**, of **July, 2026** as follows;

THAT, Jessie Bellard, St. Landry Parish President be and is hereby designated and appointed to perform on behalf of St. Landry Parish Government and has the authority to make those acts and assume any and all duties in dealing with the award with DRA for the Fiscal Year – 2026 federal award program cycle;

THAT, Jessie Bellard, St. Landry Parish President, is hereby authorized to execute and submit any and all documents including, but not limited to, applications, award closing documents, request for funds, status reports to DRA for the Fiscal Year – 2026 federal award program cycle;

THAT, the Awardee agrees to provide additional funds in the amount of \$366,000 to said award;

THAT, in the event of an administration change, the new St. Landry Parish President shall continue to have such authority under this Resolution.

READ AND ADOPTED, this the **15th**, day of **July**, 2026.

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I have nothing else to report.”

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, “Van is there any way that you can give us a general assessment of what the parish did for the last two weeks with the flooding situation. It would be very helpful for people to know that.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “It is an unusual case and we have never faced this kind of incident before. We worked very well with the state and the National Weather Service and they were embedded with us. The National Weather Service Hydrologist worked with us closely. We had the National Guard here and we had the Wild Life and Fisheries with high water vehicles on standby as well to respond in the case that we would need it. The parish basically went door to door checking on people to see if they needed to be evacuated or if they needed help. We also checked roads and the water

gages daily to try and monitor the flow of the water and how fast the water was moving down. We got numerous different reports from the Core of Engineers and the Weather Services and locals on the ground. A lot of the information that we were getting was confusing at first but we started relying on the gauges and what we were seeing on the ground. Again the National Weather Service Hydrologist was incredible. They got us some tools that we were able to use including satellite imagery of water and water depth. They got us elevation access and use of stimulations, we have not learned that process yet but we will learn to do that. They got Ariel fly over photographs for us to see where the water was and where the water was proceeding as well. We worked closely with the Core of Engineers to make sure that everything was up and to get our permit to build that dam at 3 Mile Lake if we had to build that dam if water backed up. We still to this day is checking homes and businesses and everything that are affected and we will continue to watch the water in the south. This new rainfall in the north today might not help things but we are monitoring the gauges closely. We are working with the state right now, the state volunteer organizations will come in and start helping with clean up and providing supplies. We are in talks right now with the state about possibly taking over Debris Management. They are doing all of the Debris Management in Avoyelles Parish and we are talking about that. There was a Presidential Declaration yesterday for public assistance. Public Assistance is dealing with government agencies and types of emergency. We are still working for individual assistance which would help households of those affected by the storm. We have yet to be told by the state whether the presidential declaration includes us so we are still trying to work through that.”

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, “The Topography Maps that we discussed. You have access to those and the calculations now and in the future it will give you more information and you will be better prepared.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “That will also help with drainage just to dig in our ditches. It is an incredible map. Once we have learned how to use everything we can run stimulations. We have that access.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “One other thing is Drones. Does the parish own any drones to take visuals?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “We own two drones.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “We own two and they were utilized I presume.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “In some cases they were yes. In some cases the trees are so thick you really cannot see the water level. That satellite imagery you received from the entity of NASA they can actually reflect off of the ground and see water and they can tell us the depth and those were helpful as well. The US Core of Engineer map was helpful.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “At this time I would like to reach out and say thank you all for a job well done. You all worked hard. It was very much appreciated and nobody knew what was coming. You all worked tirelessly every day and continue to do that. At this time I would like to thank you all for a job well done.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Barry, what is the status on that Wooden Bridge?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “He is on the phone right now. I will get him to answer you.”

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, “We will have to get a bridge guy to come in and do all of the inspection and stuff. With the water situation right now we have no knowledge of what damage is underneath the bridge. All you can see is what is actually there. We don’t have no idea. We have to see the structure if the water played a role on the foundation of the bridge. So everything is up in the air for right now.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “For now it will remain closed.”

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, “It will remain closed until it is safe to cross.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned, “Van are there any numbers on the number of homes that took on water in our parish?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I would say there is anywhere from 40 to 50 homes that were affected. I believe there were 13 homes with major damage and 23 homes with minor damage and that was as of yesterday afternoon. GOHSEP has an App that we use. It is damage.la.gov. There is a private side and there is a public side. On the public side the homeowner can report their own damage. They would provide photographs to FEMA and GOHSEP and FEMA and GOHSEP looks at that App daily and they review the status of those homes and they select whether they are minor or major damage. We were lucky enough to get GOHSEP, FEMA and Small Business Development Association here on the ground. They actually went door to door to the people that we had reported and the ones that reported their own damage and they did damage assessment. That saved us a lot of work because after a storm we have to do damage assessment but they came ‘booths on the ground’ and they did all of that for us. I think it is 23 minor and 13 major. It is only about 40-60 homes that have been affected and that have been reported to us so far. Some people may not have been back in their homes yet and when they get to their homes they may find some type of damage. But FEMA, GOHSEP and Small Business Development went door to door.”

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, “With the FEMA organization, we were told last year that they were in the process of getting reestablished to better serve the public. Is that official yet? Or are they still in the process?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I attended the meeting in Lafayette today. We meet with GOHSEP Representatives and they are still saying the same thing. FEMA has not yet decided how they want to approach disasters.”

Councilman Ken Marks stated, “So it is still a work in progress.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “Yes, still a work in progress.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned, “I read in the paper where Avoyelles Parish had 1500 homes that were affected by this. Is that the number that you have?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “Yes that is all coming from the GOHSEP App. They had 123 submissions to our GOHSEP App through St. Landry Parish but FEMA had only verified those that I gave you. A lot of people would report their garage was damage or a fence was damage but FEMA does not recognize those.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “I understand that the President have signed off on \$8,600,000.00 of funds that are available to assist these folks. If you add the numbers up and divide by the number of folks that are affected it is about \$5,700.00.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “That declaration is not individual assistance which is the homeowner. That declaration is for public assistance which is for parish government, school board and things like that.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Can you repeat that and can you speak a little louder in your microphone.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “There are two different types of assistance. There is Individual Assistance which is for the homeowner and that have not been declared yet. What the president declared \$8,000,000.00 was for Public Assistance. Public Assistance is for Government Entities such as School Boards, Hospital and things like that so that is what the \$8,000,000.00 is for. I just said a few minutes ago that we are not sure yet if St. Landry Parish is included in that declaration yet. Nobody have told us yet or anybody

who that money is actually going to yet but it would be for emergency protective measures and for damages to public buildings or public infrastructure, not individual assistance. Individual assistance is still being calculated and will come later.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned, “Reimbursement for the services that you guys did for that event are we going to get reimburse for that?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “We are waiting to see. That all comes in that Public Assistance that hopefully we will get through President Trump’s Declaration.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned, “Do you know about what we spent?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “We are still tabulating the cost.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned, “Can you guesstimate?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I could not tell you. All of that is being done through finance.”

Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “Thank you.”

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

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Ken Marks and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Faltery Jolivette and Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

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

None.

6. Adjourn.

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

On roll call vote: YEAS: Nancy Carriere, Ken Marks and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Faltery Jolivette and Dexter Brown. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried

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