

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

**(FIRST MEETING)
ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1st, 2026
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. **Councilman Ernest Blanchard** called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation** was said earlier in the meeting by **Councilwoman Mildred Thierry**.
3. **Roll Call:** Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier and Ernest Blanchard.
Ex-Officio: Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Jimmie Edwards.
4. **Person to address the Committee:**

► **Mr. Brett Michael Clark addressed the council. He stated,** “I am Brett Michael Clark. My address is 3706 HWY 360, Melville LA, 71353. I bought a mobile home for some farm laborers and I am trying to get a permit to put a sewer system down and get electricity. The mobile home is 28 years old.”

Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “So you need a variance is that sen what you need.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Was the mobile home already there or was it moved there?”

Mr. Brett Michael Clark stated, “It was moved there.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “Does everyone have it in their packet?”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “It was moved there but I see a structure that is in front of it.”

Mr. Brett Michael Clark stated, “That was a porch that came with it.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “There is no one here to answer questions regarding the footage and all of that but I think you just need a variance because of the age of the trailer?”

Mr. Brett Michael Clark stated, “Yes, ma’am.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Thank you for coming. You need a variances for a 28 year old mobile home. We passed an ordinance requiring 25 years and we have to go through a variance partition to do what you want to do. Let me ask this administration, have this trailer been inspected for living conditions and so forth like we do with others?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I don’t know about that, I will have to find out.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “Is that normal procedure?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I would think so. Let me text someone and I will get you an answer real quick.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “It seems to me that every time we have a variance it ought to be inspected. If it meets conditions that are conducive to someone living in it I have no problem with it, whether it is 28 years old or 30 years old. It is in the country, it is not in a subdivision that have rules that are appreciable. My thoughts is very simple, we inspect it. If

it meets code and I am sure it does, you would not have bought it if it did not then I don't see any problem not moving it on through the process."

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, "Thank you for coming when was the trailer moved?"

Mr. Brett Michael Clark stated, "About three weeks ago."

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, "You got a permit to move it?"

Mr. Brett Michael Clark stated, "I went through a mover."

Councilman Ken Marks questioned, "So no one have inspected the trailer that you are aware of."

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, "I got an answer for you all. The inspection was not done yet because the permit have not been issued because it did not meet the age requirements. Apparently once you do what you have to do then an inspector will go out."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "Okay, great thank you."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "We just finished changing that ordinance. We keep repeating the same things over and over again. When are we going to stand up to the laws that we write? That is what it is. I saw another trailer house today that is not in question and they want a variance too. I know you are going to rebuttal me Mr. Harold and I get it. I am not against the guy, I know what he is trying to do, he is trying to make a living and do his thing and I get that. I am going to rest go ahead Ms. Nancy."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Mr. Bellard is not here. This is one of the proposals that I made because we may have to give a variance because we see this property. It looks like it is in a pretty good condition. I know what Mr. Timmy said we do have to stick to the law but then that is why we have such a thing as a variance so that we can see what is what. Some homes are in good condition. We did talk about the movers informing you all before you even buy it and that way you would not have to go as far but it is done, three weeks ago. Van we did talk about an inspection, I asked Mr. Bellard if a trailer can get inspected and pass an inspection it would give us a better opportunity to pass the variances. I know he said there was no one to do the inspections. I heard you say about the septic tank, the treatment plant, it have to be inspected before the lights are put on so the electric company will also inspect. If it is not up to par they will not turn the lights on. Even if we would grant them a variance we will have to wait until all of the ducks are in line before we grant a variance."

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, "My understanding is the variance have to be done first. That starts the process for the permit to be issued. Once the permit is issued then an inspection is done."

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, "I know they want to get on with life. We are in a Committee Meeting. The only thing that we can do is move it to Full Council for a full vote on it in two weeks. We can ask all of the questions that we have and have a final vote on it. I will suggest that we move it to the Full Meeting."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "If we do that I would like to see if we could get a copy of the procedures for trailers meeting this criteria. A check list, an inspection and whatever the process is. I have no clue what it is but yet I am expected to approve things I am not quite aware of what needs to be done and the process. That would be helpful for us to make a decision in two weeks for full council if you could get us that information."

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, "We will get you that."

Mrs. Brett Michael Clark stated, "Can all of that be done before we come back and waste your time and our time. Can all of the inspections and everything be done before we come back in two weeks and waste your time and out time."

Councilman Ken Mark stated, "I would hope so."

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I will have to find out. We are being told that the variance have to be done first before an inspection begins.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “The variance have to be approved first then you would go forward with your inspection. It probably won’t be done until we have our next meeting.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly questioned, “How much frontage do you all have from the road to the trailer house?”

Mr. Brett Michael Clark stated, “Probably 600 – 700 feet. It is on four acres and it is towards the back of the four acres.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “That is one road that you have to have 90 feet of frontage. That is one of the requirements.”

Councilman Harold Taylor questioned, “Is this for a home or a camp?”

Mr. Brett Michael Clark stated, “It is for Farm Laborers.”

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, July 15th, 2026** to approve a Variance for Mr. Brett Michael Clark, 3706 HWY 360, Melville, LA

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly and Vivian Olivier.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

- **Mr. Richard LeBouef addressed the council. He stated,** “My name is Richard LeBouef. My address is 728 Dufilho Road, Opelousas, LA 70570. My issue is on item 10 of the agenda. You all are going to authorize the council clerk to advertise for two appointments to the Solid Waste Commission. I want to thank the council for what they have done in the past for us. We have Mr. Stephen Quebedeaux and we have Mr. Edward Brisco who are coming back up for an appointment. Again I would like to have those guys stay on. Two years ago I wanted to make sure for the incoming people, the ones that are going to serve like on Mr. Briscos’ District, it is 1,2,3,9 and 10 from the Road Maintenance District No. 1. Mr. Quebedeaux comes from the Road Maintenance District No. 3 which is District 4, 5 and 6. I just wanted to put that out in case they have some overflow wherever their domicile is at or they own property. I just wanted to clear that up for the council. Are there any questions? Thank you for the appointments that you have made in the past.”

Mr. Kevin Garrick addressed the council. He stated, “My name is Kevin Garrick. My address is 279 HWY 358, Church Point, LA. I am here to ask for your support for a Proposed Assisted Living Facility that will be developed in stages beginning with a 24 bed facility and expanding to approximately 60 beds as the needs grows. Our community have a growing population of Senior Citizens who deserve access to safe affordable and compassionate care close to home. Many families are forced to travel long distance to visit loved ones because there are not enough local care options. My goal is to help address that need right here in our community. This project is about more than constructing a building it is about creating a place where our elderly residence can live with dignity and receive quality care and remain close to their loved ones and families. The facility will also benefit our community by creating local jobs including positions for care givers, nurses, administrators, dietary staff, housekeeping and maintenance personnel. It will support local businesses through the purchase of supplies and services and contribute to the local economy. I understand the importance of following every requirement. I am committed to working with the city, the fire marshal, the health department and all the appropriate agencies to ensure the project complies with zoning regulations building codes, health safety standards, accessibility requirements and all state licensing requirements. My vision is to build this facility responsibly beginning with the manageable first phase and expanding to only a demand as resources allow. This approach helps control cost while ensuring that the project remains sustainable over long term. I respectfully ask for your support as I move through the planning and the approval process. I welcome your questions, your guidance and any recommendations you may have to help make this project a success.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Where is this going to be located? I know that you live in Church Point but where is this facility going to be located? Will it be in St. Landry parish?”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “Yes, Ma’am. It is in St. Landry Parish. I own eight acres in St. Landry Parish.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Where?”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “At 279 HWY 358 in Church Point. It has two different parishes. Across the street is Acadia Parish and where I am at is St. Landry Parish.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “So you have nothing to bring to Acadia Parish? You don’t need to ask them for any permission? Even though it is saying Acadia Parish it is St. Landry Parish.”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “Yes, Ma’am it says St. Landry Parish. Like I said across the street is Acadia Parish and I am in St. Landry Parish. It is like 5 feet across.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I understand it can get confusing. This is going to be a newly constructed building? I am sure that you got with the engineers already and is this just your first step?”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “This is the first step before I go and spend money with engineers. I wanted to get the approval on the zoning area.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “I don’t think that we have a zoning area. But Van, is he going about the right process?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “That I don’t know.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Because there is no zoning but as far as coming to us first before he starts the development.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “There is no zoning in the unincorporated area of the parish.”

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Is he going through the right steps starting with the parish first and then he is going to get the engineer? Garrett can you answer?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain, “Do you have a contractor?”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “Yes, I have several that I was speaking with.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “How many contractors do you have?”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “Right now I have two sub-contractors. One for the foundation and one that does the pre planning.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Who is the General Contractor?”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “These are all sub-contractors.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Are you the General Contractor? I am just checking because sometimes people do that.”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “Right, I will be working with them to make it as cheap as possible.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Okay so what they are going to do is they are going to go through the process of getting the permits and all of the legal requirements if they are building a facility on property that you own.”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “Yes sir that I own.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “So your contractors are important in that. I am sure that they will get the permits and all of that. Is this a private facility or is it a public facility?” Who will run it?”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “It will have a D.O.N. and administrators.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Who will run it?”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “My wife and I. She been dealing with health care for years.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Okay, so it is a facility. If you need to you will contact the Louisiana Department of Hospitals and see what you will need because it is a facility. You will contact the Louisiana Department of Health and your contractors will do what they have to do. Is there something specific that you would like to ask the council to do for you?”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “If I can get their approval on building it?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “The Executive Branch, The Parish President’s Office issues permits.”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “Okay.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “How many beds will there be?”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “24.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “Will it be like a nursing home?”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “It is the Assistant Living. It is not a nursing home.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “Will they be like the elderly apartment like they have in Lawtell or something of that nature?”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “Well they have care givers. It looks like that type of layout but it would be like Assistant Living. We will have caregivers that are assisting with their daily medications and food and so on.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “It would start with the permit office and then it would come to us when you have all of your ducks lined up and that is when we will approve the permit. That is the best way that I can explain it to you. So start in the courthouse.”

Mr. Van Reed Administrator stated, “Come to the Parish Government Office.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “He will have to start with the state, the hospital people because if you are going to be assisting people how are they going to fit into that criteria? You have to start someplace else besides right here. Thank you.”

Mr. Kevin Garrick stated, “Thank you. I appreciate you all. Thank you all very much.”

5. Public Works Report:

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director addressed the council. He stated, “For the month of June we:

Boom Axed	03	Roads
Box Blading	23	Roads
Culvert Cleaning	09	Roads
Culvert Insulation	06	Roads
Debris Removal	33	Roads

Ditching	04	Roads
Grading	38	Roads
Grass Cutting	31	Roads
Material Spreading	07	Road
Patching	15	Roads
Sign Installation	10	Roads
Tree Removal	03	Roads
Washout	04	Roads

Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “What is the latest update on Tom Schexnayder Road? A little lady called about those bad spots where the cane farmer tore up the road. What are we looking at?”

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, “We have a new machine. We will start doing our own repairs in those situations. Our first job will be in Lawtell near the Dollar Store. There is a bad spot, we cut it out and we placed Limestone and the rain will help us pack it and we will come back with this machine and overlay it ourselves. That will save the parish a lot of money.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned, “So you will take care of Tom Schexnayder Road.?”

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, “We will do the same thing on all of the roads. Howard Venable have some areas and Tom Schexnayder have a few areas that have an issues with big trucks that are messing up our roads. We are cutting expenses a lot by using own machine.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Thank you Sir.”

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

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly and Vivian Olivier.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

6. Forward all applications received for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District #5 for the remainder of a three-year term. 04-21-2025 – 04-21-2028).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Vivian Olivier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, July 15th, 2026** all applications received for one appointment to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District #5 for the remainder of a three-year term. 04-21-2025 – 04-21-2028).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly and Vivian Olivier.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

7. Forward all applications received for one appointment to Lawtell Water District No. 1 for the remainder of a four-year term ending 08-12-2027.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, July 15th, 2026** all applications received for one appointment to Lawtell Water District No. 1 for the remainder of a four-year term ending 08-12-2027).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly and Vivian Olivier.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

8. Forward all applications received for three appointments to East St. Landry Consolidated Gravity Drainage No. 1 for a four-year term. (09-04-2026 – 09-04-2030).

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, July 15th, 2026** all applications received

for three appointments to East St. Landry Consolidated Gravity Drainage No. 1 for a four-year term. (09-04-2026 to 09-04-2030).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly and Vivian Olivier.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

9. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Bellevue & Coulee Crouche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 for the remainder of a four-year term ending 05-02-2029.**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on ***Wednesday, July 15th, 2026*** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Bellevue & Coulee Crouche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 for the remainder of a four-year term ending 05-02-2029.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly and Vivian Olivier.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

10. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District for a four-year term expiring 09-02-2026.**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on ***Wednesday, June 15th, 2026*** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to St. Landry Parish Solid Waste Disposal District for a four-year term expiring 09-02-2026.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly and Vivian Olivier.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

11. **Discuss information regarding Variances on Frontage Footage of Properties. (Councilman Dexter Brown).**

Public Works Chairman Ernest Blanchard stated, “Councilman Dexter Brown is not here. Is there anyone that would like to discuss this item?”

There was no one to discuss this item.”

12. **Discuss any other business properly brought before his committee.**
None.

13. **Adjourn.**

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

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly and Vivian Olivier.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

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