

**AGENDA**  
**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.**  
**OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.**  
**OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION (Councilman Faltery Jolivette)**
- III. ROLL CALL:**
- IV. CONDOLENCES:**
- V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:**
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - **Regular Meeting: February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**
- VII. PARISH PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**
  - **Approval for preliminary and final plat showing the Resubdivision of Lots 5, 6, 7,8 and 15 and creating Lots 5A, 6A, 7A, 8A, and 15A Daly Estates street address: LA Hwy. 182 and LA Hwy 178 Sunset, La 70584.**
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**
  - \*Items passed through committee.

- 1. Vote for two appointments for a two-year term to Coulee Croche Fire Protection District No. 4. (04-20-2026 – 04-20-2028). Applicants are: Joy Usie, Kyle Boss, and Tyler Cormier.
- 2. Vote to appoint Joel Brent Breaux for a five-year term to St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority. (03-17-2026 – 03-17-2031)
- 3. Authorize Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for Public Works Commission District Six for the remainder of a four-year term ending 10-20-2028.

**IX. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:**



**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-010**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. LANDRY PARISH ORDINANCE CHAPTER 44, SECTION 44-14 so that Jessie Richard Road and Bearb Road can be included on the list of roads in St. Landry Parish that are designated as “No Truck or 18-Wheeler Thru Traffic” routes.**



**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-011**

**AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY THE MILLAGES FOR THE 2026 TAX ROLLS ON ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT THAT the following millages are hereby levied on the 2026 tax rolls on all property subject to taxation:**

	<b>2026 LEVY</b>
General Alimony	3.780 mills
Exempted Municipalities	1.890 mills
Health Units	2.170 mills
Jail Parish Wide	1.000 mills
Road District No 11A Sub 1	9.560 mills
Road District No 1 Ward 3	10.260 mills
Road District No 12 Ward 2	4.800 mills

**X. ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:**



**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-004  
(Sponsored by: Councilman Jimmie Edwards)  
AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE 2026 OPERATING BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the 2026 St. Landry Parish Operating Budget, herein attached, is hereby adopted to reflect the detailed estimate of revenues and expenses for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026, being the same is hereby adopted to serve as the operating Budget of Revenues and Expenses for the Parish of St. Landry during the said period.

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

**Section 1. The attached, detailed estimates of revenues for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026, is hereby adopted to serve as the operating Budget of Revenues for the Parish of St. Landry during the said period.**

**Section 2. The attached estimates of expenditures by department for fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026, is hereby adopted to serve as an operating Budget of Expenditures for the Parish of St. Landry during the said period.**

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

**Section 4. Amounts are available for expenditures only to the extent included within the 2026 Budget.**

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



**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-007  
(Sponsored by: Councilwoman Mildred Thierry)**

**AN ORDINANCE TO SELL ADJUDICATED PROPERTY BEARING PARCEL NUMBER 8178722206 TO AN ADJOINING LANDOWNER OF THE ADJUDICATED PROPERTY AS PER LA R.S. 47:2202 (B)**

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 47:2202 B. states that the governing authority of each political subdivision may allow an adjoining landowner to purchase adjudicated property for any price set by the governing authority without public bidding at a public meeting of the governing authority; provided, that the governing authority determines that the adjoining landowner has maintained the adjudicated property for a period of one year prior to the sale. Such a sale shall be deemed a public sale.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Government has determined that Genevieve Zachery is the adjoining landowner of adjudicated property and has maintained said adjudicated property for a period of one year or more, and thus, Genevieve Zachery may purchase the adjudicated property through a public sale without public bidding.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that the following adjudicated property shall be sold by public sale to Genevieve Zachery, an adjoining land owner to the adjudicated property who maintained said adjudicated property for one year or more, without public bidding, for a price set by St. Landry Parish Government, as per LA R.S. 47:2202 B., and said adjudicated property is described as follows:**

**1 LOT 35 (50 X 93.2) CHARLES O. BURR ADD 689829 (1-25-386) 1007796**

This adjudicated property bearing parcel number 8178722206 in the St. Landry Parish land records which adjoins the property bearing parcel number 0103372500



**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-008**  
(Sponsored by: Councilman Ken Marks)

**AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 2025-035, WHICH IS AN ORDINANCE TO SELL ADJUDICATED PROPERTY TO AN ADJOINING LANDOWNER OF THE ADJUDICATED PROPERTY, DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE OWNER OF THE ADJUDICATED PROPERTY REDEEMED THE PROPERTY PRIOR TO ORDINANCE NO. 2025-035 BEING ENACTED**

WHEREAS , Ordinance No. 2025-035 was enacted by the St. Landry Parish Council on October 15, 2025, and said Ordinance ordained that adjudicated property bearing parcel number 0105907050C would be sold to the adjoining landowner, Gilda Gretchain, as per LA R.S. 47:2202 (B).

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2025-035 was recorded in the Conveyance records of the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court on October 16, 2025, under Act number 1274250.

WHEREAS, the owner of the adjudicated property, James Larry Thibodeaux, redeemed the property prior to Ordinance No. 2025-035 being enacted.

WHEREAS, no Conveyance or Non-warranty Cash Sale conveying the property to Gilda Gretchain has been signed or recorded with the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court.

WHEREAS, the St. Landry Parish Council shall repeal Ordinance No. 2025-035 because the adjudicated property has been redeemed by the owner of the property.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that St. Landry Parish Ordinance number 2025-035, which conveys formerly adjudicated property bearing parcel number 0105907050C, and being described as 1 LOT TRACT 8-C (53.75X197.24) (.243 AC) PARTITION OF LOT 8 OF LEONARD CHENIER ESTATE, N TRACT 8-D; S TRACK 8-B; E LAZARD; W LOT 7, IN SEC. 71, T-5-S, R-3-E, 1034295 PLAT, to the adjoining landowner of that property, is hereby repealed.**

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court is hereby requested and authorized to make note of this Ordinance on the Ordinance that is being repealed which is recorded under Act number 1274250 in the Conveyance records of the St. Landry Parish Clerk of Court.**



**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-009**  
(Sponsored By: Councilman Ken Marks)

**AN ORDINANCE TO ABANDON BATISTE ROAD IN ST. LANDRY PARISH**

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish Government has decided to abandon Batiste Road in St. Landry Parish because Batiste Road is no longer needed for public purposes, as per Louisiana Revised Statute 48:701.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL FOR ST. LANDRY PARISH GOVERNMENT that Batiste Road in St. Landry Parish is hereby abandoned.**

**XI. RESOLUTIONS TO BE ADOPTED:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 003-2026**

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Bellevue and Coulee Croche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, on Saturday, June 27, 2026, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Bellevue and Coulee Croche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Bellevue and Coulee Croche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on March 3, 2026, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, June 27, 2026, 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 Bellevue and Coulee Croche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, this Parish Council hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION  
(MILLAGE RENEWAL)**

Shall Bellevue and Coulee Croche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy a special tax of 7.84 mills on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$210,000 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 2027 and ending with the year 2036, 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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 004-2026**

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, June 27, 2026, to authorize the continuation of a special tax therein.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on March 10, 2026, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, June 27, 2026, 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 Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, this Parish Council hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION  
(TAX CONTINUATION)**

Shall Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy a special tax of 5.16 mills (the "Tax") on all property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$198,000 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 2027 and ending with the year 2036, for the purpose of maintaining and operating fire protection facilities, purchasing firefighting equipment and paying the cost of obtaining water for fire protection purposes, provided that a portion of the Tax proceeds is required to be contributed to state and statewide retirement systems as provided in R.S. 11:82, said millage to represent a 0.64 mills increase (due to reappraisal) over the 4.52 mills tax authorized to be levied through the year 2026 pursuant to an election held on November 21, 2015?

**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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 005-2026**

**WHEREAS**, there are documents and requests that St. Landry Parish Government needs to sign regarding any and all contracts on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development involving the following projects: State Project No. H.015505 (Solid Waste Road over Bayou Boeuf) and State Project No. H.015510 (Phillip Street over Bayou Yarbor).

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the St. Landry Parish President, Jessie Bellard, is authorized to sign any and all documents and requests on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development involving the following projects: State Project No. H.015505 (Solid Waste Road over Bayou Boeuf) and State Project No. H.015510 (Phillip Street over Bayou Yarbor).

**RESOLUTION NO. 006-2026**

A Resolution authorizing St. Landry Parish to participate in the recent national settlements with Remnant Defendants ("2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements"), arising from or relating to St. Landry Parish's claims in the national opioid litigation, in conjunction with and pursuant to the previously agreed to Louisiana Memorandum of Understanding with the Louisiana Attorney General's Office ("Louisiana MOU").

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish has suffered harm from the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish recognizes that the entire State of Louisiana has suffered harm as a result from the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana has a pending action in state court, and a number of Louisiana Parishes, Cities and Special Districts have also filed actions in state court or have been transferred to, or directly in, *In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio) (the "Opioid Litigation" or "national opioid litigation").

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish is a litigating political subdivision and has a pending action in the Opioid Litigation;

WHEREAS, the 2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements were publicly announced to all potential participating subdivisions nationwide on or around March 5, 2026;

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish recognizes, acknowledges and accepts that it is eligible to participate in the recently announced 2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements, even though some of the remnant defendants were not a named party in St. Landry Parish's pending action;

WHEREAS, participation in the 2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements by a large majority of Louisiana cities, parishes and special districts will maximize the amount of funds allocated for Louisiana under the Settlement Agreement;

WHEREAS, failure to participate in the 2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements will reduce funds available to the State, St. Landry Parish, and every other Louisiana City, Parish and Special District;

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish's private attorneys from Neblett, Beard & Arsenault (and other co-counsel firms) have sufficiently explained the details of the 2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements to St. Landry Parish (through its Legal Advisor/Counsel), St. Landry Parish has had an opportunity to ask questions concerning same, and St. Landry Parish's private attorneys have satisfactorily answered those questions to the best of their ability and based on currently available information;

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish's private attorneys from Neblett, Beard & Arsenault (and other co-counsel firms) firmly believe that St. Landry Parish's participation in the 2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements is and will be in St. Landry Parish's best interest;

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish's private attorneys from Neblett, Beard & Arsenault (and other co-counsel firms) strongly recommend that St. Landry Parish participate in the 2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements arising from or relating to St. Landry Parish's pending action and claims in the national opioid litigation, and agree to be bound by the terms thereof; and

WHEREAS, St. Landry Parish finds it prudent, appropriate and necessary to: (1) authorize the Parish President to agree to the 2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements arising from or relating to resolution of St. Landry Parish's claims in the National Opioid Litigation and its pending action; and (2) authorize the Parish President to execute any formal agreements required by the Louisiana MOU or required to effect St. Landry Parish's participation in the 2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements, including but not limited to, any Subdivision Settlement Participation Form(s)/Agreement(s), Release(s) or other documents required by any Settlement Agreements arising from or relating to resolution of St. Landry Parish's claims in the National Opioid Litigation and pending action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL:**

SECTION 1. That St. Landry Parish finds that participation in the 2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements is in the best interest of St. Landry Parish, its citizens, and its community(ies).

SECTION 2. That St. Landry Parish hereby re-affirms its support of a unified plan for the allocation of any funds and use of opioid settlement proceeds as generally described in the previously agreed-to and executed Louisiana MOU.

SECTION 3. That Parish President is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents or formal agreements to effectuate St. Landry Parish's participation in the 2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements, including but not limited to, Settlement Participation Form(s)/Agreement(s), Releases and other necessary documents.

SECTION 4. That St. Landry Parish's private attorneys from Neblett, Beard & Arsenault (and other co-counsel firms) are authorized to perform any and all work necessary to accomplish St. Landry Parish's participation in the 2026 Remnant Defendants Settlements, and resolution of St. Landry Parish's claims in the National Opioid Litigation and its pending action.

SECTION 5. That the Secretary/Clerk be and hereby is instructed to record this Resolution in the appropriate record book upon its adoption.

SECTION 6. The Secretary/Clerk is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this Resolution to:

Neblett, Beard & Arsenault  
c/o Dustin C. Carter  
P.O. Box 12120  
Alexandria, LA 71315

SECTION 7. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**XII. COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

**FIRST MEETING  
ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026  
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

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

*Ms. Joy Usie addressed the council. She stated,* “Good evening to all of you, President Bellard, Chairman Ardoin and members of the Committee. My name is Joy Usie. I am applying to be seated on the Fire Board for Coulee Croche Fire Protection District No. 4. I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I was born and raised in the Cankton Community and I am a lifelong resident of St. Landry Parish. I belong to the Catholic Church in Cankton Louisiana. In growing up I attended Cankton Elementary School. I became a teacher and served as a teacher at Cankton Elementary for a number of years and then I went on and served as the School Principal at Cankton Elementary for about 15 years. I later worked as an Instructional Supervisor for the St. Landry Parish School Board. At that time I had an opportunity to visit communities and schools throughout our parish. I have traveled to Krotz Springs, Port Barre, Opelousas, Eunice, Melville, Morrow, Washington, Arnaudville, Sunset, Grand Coteau and back to Cankton. This is a large parish about 929 square miles as all of you know. Over that time I have meet some incredibly hard working people, people who love their community and are dedicated to serving their community. The men and woman of the Cankton Community and Coulee Croche are some of those hard working and dedicated people. Our first responders and firefighters know what service to their community is. If you dial 911 they are the first individuals there and they respond in minutes. These volunteers actively attend fire training and CPR training. They do hazmat and rescue operations. They seek grants and funds to upgrade equipment and to procure new equipment. They keep up with mandates, rules and regulations that pertain to fire safety and protection. In addition these volunteers support our veterans and our children. They participate in food drives, toy funds and they host the mosquito festival which was held in Cankton in the fall of 2025. As a member of the Cankton Community I am so proud of these men and women, many of whom I have actually thought in school, that tells you how old I am. For me to give back to my community, serve and support these people I would like your consideration when you select an individual for the Fire Board for Coulee Croche Fire Protection District No. 4. I thank all of you. Good evening.”

*Public Works Chairman Jimmie Edwards questioned,* “Does anyone have any questions for Ms. Usie?”

*Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated,* “It is truly a pleasure to hear you and the views that you bring to the table. We would like to say thank you for the passion that you have to serve.”

**Ms. Joy Usie stated,** “Thank you very much. My husband and I live in the Cankton Community. About 2-3 years ago they built the new Coulee Croche Fire Station and it is adjacent to our house. We are literally sitting on the Fire Station in Cankton.”

**Public Works Chairman Jimmie Edwards stated,** “Mr. Batiste do you want to speak or do you want to wait until the Finance Committee?”

**Mr. Milton Batiste, Superintendent stated,** “If I can.”

**Public Works Chairman Jimmie Edwards stated,** “Okay.”

**Mr. Milton Batiste, Superintendent stated,** “Mr. Brown already told me that I had 5 minutes. We have a Regional Round Playoff Game tonight so I definitely appreciate speaking early.

Good evening Mr. President and members of the board. Again thank you Mr. Brown for the invite and thanks to each and every one of you all for what you all do. I know we spend countless hours talking on the phone and you advocate for different areas around the parish so thank you for all of your support as we continue to move around. We have kicked off our School Millage Campaign. I have had a chance to present to every school staff at this point and I always start off like this. I am not the property tax police and I am not the millage police. The only thing that I want you all to do is listen with an open mind and an open heart. If there is something that you can support we would absolutely appreciate it. If there is something that you can't support I will understand but I want you to listen with an open mind and an open heart. We normally have a power point presentation as we are doing this but as I speak through it I ask you to try and create a visual in your mind so you can follow me. The first thought I had was in 1986. When you think about 1986 think about where were you. While you are thinking I will tell you where I was in 1986. In 1986 I was at Grolee Elementary in the second grade in Ms. Rider's classroom. I had not moved to Plaisance yet Ms. Thierry because I was still at Grolee in the second grade in Ms. Rider's Class. So think about where you were in 1986. So in 1986 was the last time that the St. Landry Parish School system had an increase in our school millage rate in the parish, so think about that. Now we are operating on a 40 year old budget. When you think about 40 years you think about a school bus and a school bus at that time cost about \$20,000.00 and one school bus as we speak now cost about \$125,000.00. We think about the classroom, it did not have air condition and now we have air condition all across our buildings. You think about computers, at that time we probably had 2-3 computers in the entire district and now we have thousands, in fact every student have a 1-1 ration and every student have their own device. I think that is one of the great benefits of the St. Landry Parish School System and that is insurance. Everything that you currently see and currently have like right now is being funded on that same 1986 budget. What we are asking for is an additional \$9.9 Mils. It is on that one page and you can follow along. The previous superintendent asked for 23 additional mils. What I did as superintendent I went to a lot of people who said no we cannot support that and I ask why? They said too much, too soon, too fast so I said what if we scale back and keep it under double digits and ask for some things that we can do and put into place will you support it? Right now the feedback that I have been getting so far has been really good in terms of the support so think about 1986. The second thing I want you all to think about is that we have 64 parishes in Louisiana and Ms. Joy Usie put it very eloquently that we cover about 929 square miles. So we have 64 parishes in the state of Louisiana and St. Landry Parish covers about 929 square miles. Of those 64 parishes St. Landry Parish as a school system currently have the 60 lowest millage. As a school system we have the 60 lowest millage out of 64 parishes. I will not mention Lafayette when you think about Acadia, St. Martin, Evangeline and our neighboring parishes they are passing some of the school millage but we are 60 out of 64 parishes in the state of Louisiana. If we are able to pass this millage what changes? That is the big token. Out of those 929 square miles we have seven high schools. Out of those seven high schools we have one functioning tract. Right now the only functioning tract in the St. Landry Parish School System is North West High, not Eunice High, Beau Chene High, Port Barry High, North Central High, none of those tracks are runnable or operable. This plan would allow every high school to have a new tract and a turf football field. I have already told every high school principal that these fields and these tracks are not just for the students they are also for the community. When we get this done we want the

tracks open so Ms. Nancy can go run and exercise and anyone else. This will allow us to secure and fence in our elementary campus, remember the public said no to brand new buildings all around the parish so how do we secure what we currently have. At Eunice Elementary you can walk right onto Park Vista's campus. We have a lot of elementary campus that you can walk right onto from the major highways. We want to be able to keep outside threats out and we want to keep our students in because we have a lot of students that are runners. We want to be able to get the state of the art metal detectors at our schools to help deter treats, weapons violence all of those things that are at an all-time high. Our high schools have material loaded building but our elementary schools don't. We want to be able to get metal detectors to help in that effort. I mentioned seven high schools but what about our Magnet Schools. If I am a parent and I have a kid that goes to a Magnet School how would this benefit the Magnet Schools? The Magnet Schools does not have sports. The Magnet Schools would get a performance auditorium because they have performances. When families go now they pack into the gym and most times they cannot hear or understand what is going on. This would allow families to benefit from the performances at the Magnet Schools. The last component would be for employees. This would allow every employee no matter what you do for St. Landry Parish School System, whether you are a principal, assistant principal, teacher, custodian, bus driver, cafeteria worker every employee would receive a \$2,500.00 raise. Why is that important? It allows me to compete with Evangeline and Acadia for the best personnel support for our students. I know that I have said a lot but I don't have a lot of time to go through everything but one more thing that I want to add is this: This is not just a public school plan it is a plan for St. Landry Parish. The St. Landry Parish School System supports private and public schools students. I will tell you how: Every school in the parish receives whether you are private or public you will receive Federal Funding. That Federal Funding comes in to the St. Landry Parish School system, I sign off on those funds and we distribute those funds and I do periodic evaluations. If you go to a private school or a public school and you receive Special Education Services whether that student is hearing impaired, vision impaired or speech impaired the St. Landry Parish School System provides Pupil Appraisal Services to those kids that qualify. This is not just a public school plan this is a plan for our parish. We look at crime and some of the challenges that you are facing as a governing body I think that education is the key to overcoming this. Again I am not coming forth to push this down your throat but I ask that you do your homework and do your research. At the bottom of the sheet you can see that if your home is valued for \$80,000.00 it will cost you an additional \$4.95 a year to support this. If your home is valued at \$140,000.00 it will cost you an additional \$64.35 a year to support this. We do have an active website to where you can go on and plug in an amount so you can see. If you have any questions you can give me a call and we can talk through it. All I ask if that you just look at it with an open mind and an open heart. If this is something that you can support and help advocate for please do so. The election will be on the ballot on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Employee salaries will start in September, fencing project, metal detection project will start right away. The only thing that will be delayed would be the football fields because we will be right in the heart of football season at that time and we will have to wait until the season ends to start those projects."

***Public Works Chairman Jimmie Edwards questioned,*** "Are there any questions for Mr. Batiste?"

***Councilman Harold Taylor questioned,*** "What is the average assessed value of homes here in St. Landry Parish?"

***Mr. Milton Batiste, Superintendent stated,*** "I don't know the average assessed value but I do know we have about 45% of our homes are homestead exempt. I am not sure of the average home stead exemption."

***Councilman Harold Taylor stated,*** "Thank you."

***Mr. Milton Batiste, Superintendent stated,*** "If you want to know the last time in 1986 that increased high school millage was used to build North West High, Beau Chene High and North Central High at that time."

***Public Works Chairman Jimmie Edwards stated,*** "Thank you Mr. Batiste."

**5. Public Works Report:**

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

Boom Axed	1	Roads
Culvert Cleaned	7	Roads
Culvert Installation	17	Roads
Debris Removal	27	Roads
Ditching	5	Roads
Grading	60	Roads
Grass Cutting	4	Road
Material Spreading	3	Roads
Patching	32	Roads
Sign Installation	22	Roads
Tree Removal	7	Roads
Washout	12	Roads

We also removed over 250 tires from bayous and canals in the parish last month. Not to mention stoves, refrigerators and pieces of cars.”

*Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Mr. Barry, Mr. Bellard, I want to thank you and your crew for the clean-up and the removal of the trees due to last month’s storm. I had several trees down in my area and I know that trees were down all over the parish but I want to thank you for the promptness that you all gave. Tell them thank you very much. We appreciate you all.”*

*Councilman Ernest Blanchard questioned, “Mr. Bellard, on HWY 190, Bayou Teche are we going to get to that soon?”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes, so right now that money that came in from the projects on the west side they are digging those canals that go into Bayou Des Cannes. After that is done they are going to start the process of cleaning up at the bridge itself. They have been monitoring that and picking up. The state have been monitoring and picking up as well it is just so much of it and it is steadily coming.”*

*Councilman Ernest Blanchard stated, “They did not pick it up for about one year and you all had to go out there and clean it.”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “That is what I am saying. Since then they have been monitoring it and picking it up as they go. The state have and we have also.”*

*Councilman Ernest Blanchard questioned, “Is that some of that appropriated money that you went and got in Washington DC??”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “No this is from DOTD and the state.”*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned, “Do you have an update on that clean up that we were going to assist that drainage board?”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Yes, the board ask that we help them with that project. Yesterday afternoon we finally got some movement on it. It is not just that particular spot but behind where the concrete plants are we are finding out that the concrete company are dumping their washout into the canals and blocking our drainage. We are having to address that issue as well. I don’t know how we are going to fix that problem but that is one of the major reason why the west side of HWY 182 it is blocked up because the concrete company are washing out their trucks and the concrete have blocked everything. It will be a matter of the city pipes that cross the canal, I don’t why they have that but those pipes that are sewer lines and water lines that cross the canals and there are so many feet above the top and it is blocked so we are having issues with that but we are going to clean it up but it will be an ongoing project on that one.”*

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned*, “How are we going to handle the concrete company dumping their waste? Is that legal?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “I was made aware of this on yesterday. I will be talking to the concrete company. I know in Eunice Babineaux use theirs and they sell it. Why not just do the same thing. Why block our drainage is what I am saying? I will be addressing that issue with the as well.”

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “The issue with the dumping of the concrete, I spoke with Mr. Barry about the Washington Road, HWY 182 on both sides. It is horrible.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “They will start doing some work on the west side to alleviate that problem where the concrete plants are then they will jump on the other side and start the project. That is coming into the city of Opelousas. We will be working with the Mayor on that one.”

*Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “It is horrible that waste is at a standstill on both sides. I talked to the state and I was wondering if you all had any feedback. We will wait and see I guess. That is all that I have.”

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

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly and Ernest Blanchard.

**NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Vivian Olivier. **ABSTAINED:** None.

*Motion carried.*

**6. Forward all applications received for two appointments for a two year term to Coulee Croche Fire Protection District No. 4. (04-20-2024 – 04-20-2026).**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Ernest Blanchard to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026* to forward all applications received for two appointments for a two-year term to Coulee Croche Fire Protection District No. 4. (04-20-2024 – 04-20-2026).

**On roll call vote: YEAS:** Mildred Thierry, Alvin Stelly and Ernest Blanchard.

**NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Vivian Olivier. **ABSTAINED:** None.

*Motion forwarded.*

**7. Discuss placing a Speed Bump on the East Side and a Speed Bump on the West Side of the Curvy Section near the address of 567 Dufilho Road. (Councilman Dexter Brown).**

*Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “On two occasions we had individuals traveling down Dufilho Road at a high rate of speed. It is like an ‘S’ shape figure in the road. I guess they don’t anticipate how the road curves. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026 there were two incidents in that section near 567 Dufilho Road where Mr. Jerome Robertson stays. On the first incident a Honda Accord hit the ditch and went into his yard and did damage to the yard. On the second incident a utility truck lost control and hit the telephone pole and knocked power out down Dufilho Road and other places. If we could do a feasibility study and we are not in the habit right now of putting speed bumps because it is tearing up our roads but if we could do some type of feasibility study whereas we could slow that traffic down. I know the first step is getting the sheriff department to monitor and control the speed on that road. I would like for you to look into it Mr. Bellard and Mr. Barry and see what would be the best solution to try and slow that traffic down in that area.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “We will get with them and see if we could maybe put that trailer out there to see what the estimated and average speed is and hopefully fix that problem but at the end of the day it will be enforcement.”

*Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “I believe that speed limit down that road is 35 m.p.h.

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “They must be doing about 50 m.p.h.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “I have been having problem with Jennings Road, McNeese Street and Graham Street and I could name about 100 of them. I thought we had voted there were going to be no more speed bumps. I would appreciate it if Mr. Brown would get it then maybe I can get it too.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Let me just give you all a little feedback on speed bumps. Speed bumps don’t work, bottom line. If we don’t put speed bumps that are high enough to slow the traffic down then it will damage vehicles and we will be held liable for something. I am not in favor of speed bumps. If you look at the study and you go fast enough you don’t even feel them anymore. The speed bumps don’t work and we need enforcement. I think that is the only way to stop it from happening. I know on Jennings Road we did a study and it came back with some people doing over 100 miles per hour.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “The best I could get was speed limits and nobody follows the law anymore.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Nope and I agree. I agree.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated,** “Jennings Road is a major throughway from Grand Coteau all the way for people coming to work and it is bad. If you all decide just let me know, I would like to have a study done also.”

**Councilman Ken Marks stated,** “I would like to understand the situation. It looks like it is an ‘S’ shape type curb. With that being said there is no signage to notify people of that coming up? It is a parish road, right.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “Yes, they do have signs.”

**Councilman Ken Marks stated,** “You have indicated that people don’t know about it. If they observe and they watch the sign they would know there is an “S” curb, right. What is the speed limit in that curb?”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “I want to say just on the road itself it is 35 m.p.h.”

**Councilman Ken Marks questioned,** “There is no slowing down before you get to the ‘S’ curb.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “No sir. It is all 35 m.p.h.”

**Councilman Ken Marks questioned,** “Can we consider lowering the speed?”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “We can. At the end of the day I agree. I think if we tell them it needs to be 25 m.p.h. instead of 35 m.p.h. then they may do 35. I am just going to be honest with everybody here we need enforcement on these parish roads. We need to give out some tickets and we need people to understand that you have to slow down. Speed bumps and Speed Cameras are not going to work until they get stopped and they get a ticket and hopefully they might slow down. The majority of the people that are complaining are the ones that are living down that road and they are going to be speeding to.”

**8. How is drainage being addressed in the Parish? (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated,** “Mr. Bellard, I know a lot have been done and is being done but just for the benefit of the public to know where we are would you tell us what is being done continuously to address the drainage issues in the parish.”

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated,** “As everybody knows the drainage is a major problem. It is actually getting better as we go along because we are doing a lot of extra work with the help of the Federal Government and the State Government that is giving us

money to do that. We just came back from Washington DC last weekend and we applied for \$3,000,000.00 to finish Bayou Mallet and Bayou Carron and do some other drainage projects in the parish. Since we have done those two projects the reign we did get if flowing. We see a lot of help with that and we are very encouraged. We are not going to stop digging and we are not going to stop cleaning. I say digging but with certain things you have to just clean. The core won't let you dig but you can clean so I have to be careful with the wording but for the most part we do a lot. We did get \$5,500,000.00 to do a Detention Pond which will be done in District 9 off of Country Ridge Road. That is the only project that was actually approved by the Federal and the State Government. That has been 3 years in the making so that is going to help that area. We have a lot of different areas in the parish that we have to do as they come up we try and address them. In Eunice we received \$300,000.00 from the State Appropriations to do some Laterals in Eunice that goes to Bayou Des Cannes. Everyone is seeing some extra that comes from monies from the Federal and the State."

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned**, "Last year I think you all secured \$4,000,000.00. Did you all use all of that towards drainage? When you all went to Washington DC."

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "Last year we had \$1,000,000.00 that was used o Bayou Mallet and Bayou Carron from the state. We had applied for \$870,000.00 with Senator Kennedy and it did not get passed Senator Kennedy's Office. This year we applied for \$3,000.000.00 through Senator Bill Cassidy and Representative Cleo Fields office and it is moving forward."

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated**, "I remembered \$4,000,000.00 a couple of years ago but that is fine."

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned**, "Mr. Bellard, when are they going to start the Retention Pond? Are you going to bid it out?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "Right now it is with William and them. At the final stage of that process or the next stage. It is going to be a little extra work on them because we have to actually purchase some land."

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin questioned**, "Have you purchased the property from Sandoz yet?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "Oh no we have not done anything yet. I think that will be one of the hurdles that we need to cross."

**Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated**, "Thank you."

#### **9. Discuss Broadband in Rural Areas. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

**Councilwoman Mildred Thierry questioned**, "Mr. Bellard there are some concerns in the rural areas. Those roads that are off of those little roads they still have not receive any type of service and they are concerned if it is possible that they will ever be serviced?"

**Parish President Jessie Bellard stated**, "I did have a meeting two weeks ago with the State. They received more money from the Feds for that purpose. Their object and their main goal is to have fiber to the home, however there are some areas think the parish that are is going to have internet but it might not be fiber directly to the home but they will have high speed internet by the towers and everything else but their goal is to have high speed fiber to the home. They get so many billions of dollars but they are working. We just got LSUE as a Hub for LUS or Lafayette Fiber a couple of weeks ago. They will start branching out. A lot of Eunice is on the new fiber. All of the projects that were awarded as far as on our side have been complete. They still have the GUMBO Plan and all the rest of those plans. There are several plans out there that companies are doing work on. It is happening but it just have a lot of ground to cover."

#### **10. Update on Smooth Ride Home. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).**

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Where are we with that? I know that most of what is being collected is probably going towards the bonds. Could you update us?”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “I have been telling Barry to get some roads done and Barry says he does not want to do them.”*

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Barry, why you don’t want to do those roads. You know that we need to do those roads Barry.”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Actually as the money comes in we are trying to do as many roads as we can. A lot is going to the bond which is good, we can pay off the bond. The leftovers is for drainage and for roads. We are doing some roads it just takes a lot of time for that money to come and to build up enough to do a project.”*

*Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “We have about 2-3 years left?”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Until 2029.”*

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

*None.*

**12. 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 Ernest Blanchard.

**NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Jody White and Vivian Olivier. **ABSTAINED:** None.

*Motion carried.*

**(SECOND MEETING)  
ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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, Faltery Jolivette, Harold Taylor, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. **Ex-Officio:** Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** None.

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “I think Mr. Marks would like to amend the agenda.”*

*Councilman Ken Marks stated, “I would like this committee to consider advertising for a position, a resignation letter was sent in by Dale Polozola Road District 6 and based off the timing it takes to get approval to apply for applications and fill the void, they are asking me if we can go ahead and pass this to full council for Ms. Sherell to advertise now.”*

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Mr. Ken you can add anything at the bottom of the agenda at the committee meeting. It says at the bottom of the sheet any other business brought to you before this committee.”*

*Councilman Ken Marks stated, “No we do not have it on ours but we have it on the previous one.”*

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “It is on your agenda also number 11.”*

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated*, “So your motion is to amend the agenda to accept the resignation of Mr. Dale Polozola and a motion to advertise for his replacement.”

*Councilman Ken Marks stated*, “That is correct.”

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to amend agenda to advertise for one appointment to District 6 Public Works.

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

*Motion forwarded.*

3. **Person to address the Committee.**

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Mr. LaFleur texted me before the meeting and stated he is not able to attend but we can call him on the phone and talk to him. I was talking to Chairman Ardoin earlier and maybe it is best to push it back to the next committee meeting so we can have him present.”

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to forward to next committee meeting held on **Wednesday, April 1, 2026** to invite Mr. Eric LaFleur to come and address the council regarding the Walmart Payment In Lieu of Taxes.

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

*Motion forwarded.*

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

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Like you all heard on the previous committee meetings, we went to D.C. and we applied for 3 million dollars for drainage projects in our parish specifically to complete the projects on Bayou Mallet and Bayou Carron along with other projects that become available. The trip was a success when it comes to making these things happen, I want to also note that since we been going to D.C. meeting with Senator Cassidy office, we have helped to change some of these laws regarding Medicaid and the Inmates. Five years ago we started this process with Senator Cassidy office and since then Medicaid has agreed to foot the bill on juveniles both medically and mentally. At first it was just the mental side now they do both medical and mental. On the adults mental, now if an adult inmate is in the hospital more than 24 hours Medicaid will pick up that bill. So you all know as well as I do that will be a big help for us when it comes to the medical bills so I just want to give a big shot out to Senator Cassidy office and his team for working with us. Not only do they try to get us money coming down here but they listen to us and our problems we have and try to address them as well as Representative Cleo Fields and the delegation over there. We did good and will continue trying to get things done and hopefully we can make some more progress.”

*Councilman Ken Marks asked*, “Mr. Chairman, thank you. Mr. President, Do we have any other projects in the plan for drainage? I remember when John Bell Edwards had submitted a state initiative for getting rid of flood waters. Henderson did there deal as far as opening up those pipe line to get the flow to move. A discussion was at the blocks remit canal live but the core is the basic individuals that have to approve or disapprove but the point I am getting at is remit canal has never been dredged. We would increase the flow dramatically by trying to channel not so much the whole wide deal of it but at least have water to be moving at a faster rate to get rid of this excess water.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “So I can tell you dealing with the federal dollars and FEMA for mitigation and everything else, FEMA is totally against us doing anything to make the water move faster down South. They do not want us to make our water go any faster down South than what we are doing because they do not want to flood down South and I totally get that and understand that. However, we still have the issues in our parish as well as Evangeline and Rapids as well as everywhere else. We got together with

Acadia Planning Commission to make a regional concept approach from Evangeline parish all the way down to the Gulf and come up with a plan and asking them to fund it. Hopefully that will be part of the project to get that going.”

*Councilman Ken Marks stated*, “So if I may inject here we don’t want to flood our neighbors to the South but the initiative is to start cleaning from the Gulf up then we you get to our area the water won’t have a place to go. Is that correct?”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Mr. Taylor and I talk about this on a regular basis on this water shed if we can lower that down and have that as a reserve to put water but we cannot get the core to allow us to drop it down just an extra couple of inches. That is the most common sense approach but they do not want us to do that. It is difficult.”

*Councilman Ken Marks stated*, “So there is no alternative, whatever the Core says is law and that is definitive.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Unless there is something else that we are missing.”

*Councilman Ken Marks stated*, “I don’t know what else we can do. We would have to yield to a higher authority, I don’t know.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “I know that the Planning Commission is developing a plan to do a Regional Approach on that drainage.”

*Councilman Ken Marks stated*, “We will be getting that information as well.”

*Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Yes sir.”

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, Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** None. **ABSTAINED:** None.

*Motion carried.*

**5. Forward all applications received for one appointment for a five-year term to the St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority. (03-17-2021 – 03-17-2026).**

*Mr. Lonnie J. Carriere has resigned.*

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026** all applications received for one appointment for a five-year term the St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority. (03-17-2021 – 03-17-2026).

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

*Motion forwarded.*

**6. Discuss moving precinct 24 and Precinct 25 from the Yambilee Building to Opelousas Junior High. Precincts to be placed in the newest building north of the Cafeteria. (Councilman Dexter Brown.)**

*Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “I have these two precincts at the Yambilee Building in the Lobby area. It is a great location but whenever the Yambilee building is rented the people and whatever activity that is going on they have to go on the back side of the auditorium to come in and exit from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. I called Mr. Milton Batiste, Superintendent of the St. Landry Parish Schools because I had a concern with the possible closing of Opelousas Junior High School moving to Opelousas Senior High School what would happen to the campus and the building at Opelousas Junior High School. He assured me that it would still be operational for years to come. It would make these buildings annexed for different departments that they have housed in the school board and at the Pupil Appraisal Center. The campus itself and the building would be operational. They have two precincts there already just south of Elementary Lane but they have a

newer building that was built around 2003 or 2004, whenever they had the consolidation between Opelousas Junior High School and East Junior High School. I want to move those two precincts there. It is ADA Accessible and the people can park under the bus ramp when they are in a wheelchair. They can park under the bus ramp and roll to the building, everything is flat and it is handicapped accessible. It is a great location and everything is covered. If it is raining you would not get wet or snowed on or whatever it may be.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere questioned**, “Is that the same precinct that was moved from South West and from Living Waters? Is that the same one that you had at South West then Living Waters and now you want to move it to Opelousas Junior High?”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated**, “Yes Ma’am, I had to move it from Living Waters Community Chapel because Mr. Nathaniel Thierry said he did not have a Custodian to open and close the building during the election time, everything was on him. So that is when I seek another location at the Yambilee Building and it was a great venue to have the election at. That is when I ran into a little bump in the road. Whenever the Yambilee Building was rented from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. anyone that had rented the building had to go from the south side to the back of the building.”

**Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated**, “I understand Mr. Brown. I was just asking because I know some of the constituents on that southwest end of town and I was just asking about the convenience but that is your district that is fine I just want to know if that was the same precinct.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated**, “It is not my district it is just the district that I represent and I love my constituents of District 10.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned**, “Have you thought about checking with the Clerk of Court and maybe the Registrar of Voters before we take action on this to get their input on how this may affect the State Protocol?”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated**, “I did and Ms. Debra Sostand called me on it. She wanted to know all of the disabilities and the ADA aspects of the building where I was trying to move it to. That is when I assured her that the venue in the building that I was moving it too was all ADA accessible and everything was all cleared.”

**Councilman Ken Marks questioned**, “Mr. Brown, is the school board going to be responsible for opening the venue for you for elections?”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated**, “Yes Sir.”

**Councilman Ken Marks questioned**, “Bathroom accessibility is important for our constituents there. What if the building is sold and no longer available then what do we do?”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated**, “Both building have a lounge area and a restroom facility. They also have a classroom where we hold the machines. You are asking if the buildings are sold but as of right now, I spoke with the Superintendent there is no discussion for the sale of the buildings.”

**Councilman Ken Marks stated**, “That was my only concern.”

**Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated**, “Did you just say that this school would probably not be a school?”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated**, “On Thursday, in two days they basically will vote and merge the Junior High Campus the 7 and 8 graders to Opelousas Senior High School. The Superintendent applied for a Grade Configuration Change of Opelousas Senior High School from 9 -12 grade through the superintendent Dr. Brumerly through 7-12 because it would be feasible to move the 7 graders to the high school and economically as well.”

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, "You think we could delay this for one month and see how that shapes out?"*

*Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "I don't have a problem with rolling it over to next month for the April Committee Meeting. I will pull this motion for this month and place it on the agenda for April."*

7. **Forward to Full Council: RESOLUTION No. 002-2026.**

**Resolution No. 002-2026 will be re-discussed at the April Committee Meeting**

**RESOLUTION NO. 002-2026 PULLED**

**A RESOLUTION TO REASSIGN THE POLLING LOCATION FOR  
PRECINCTS 24 and 25**

**WHEREAS**, The current polling location for Precincts 24 and 25 is the Yambilee Building located at 1939 W. Landry St., Opelousas, and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the St. Landry Parish Council to reassign Precincts 24 and 25 to a newer facility, and

**WHEREAS**, The St. Landry Parish Council wishes to assign the polling location for Precincts 24 and 25 to the new building located north of the cafeteria on the Opelousas Junior High campus, located at 730 S. Market St., Opelousas.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** That the St. Landry Parish Council, in Regular Session assembled, does hereby reassign the following polling location for Precincts 24 and 25 as follows:

**From:** Yambilee Building at 1939 W. Landry St., Opelousas

**To:** Opelousas Junior High new building at 730 S. Market St., Opelousas, and with said Opelousas Junior High School polling location being used currently as the polling location for Precincts 26 and 26-A and thus qualifies as a consolidated polling location for Precincts 24 and 25 under applicable State statutes.:

8. **Forward to Full Council: RESOLUTION No. 003-2026.**

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, March 18, 2026* to Adopt **Resolution No. 003-2026.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 003-2026**

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Bellevue and Coulee Croche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, on Saturday, June 27, 2026, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Bellevue and Coulee Croche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Bellevue and Coulee Croche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on March 3, 2026, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, June 27, 2026, 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 Bellevue and Coulee Croche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, this Parish Council hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION  
(MILLAGE RENEWAL)**

Shall Bellevue and Coulee Croche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy a special tax of 7.84 mills on all the property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$210,000 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 2027 and ending with the year 2036, 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.

9. **Forward to Full Council: RESOLUTION No. 004-2026.**

A motion was made by Councilman Faltery Jolivette, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, March 18, 2026* to Adopt **Resolution No. 004-2026.**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 004-2026**

A resolution approving the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, June 27, 2026, to authorize the continuation of a special tax therein.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "District"), adopted a resolution on March 10, 2026, calling a special election in the District on Saturday, June 27, 2026, 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 Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, this Parish Council hereby approves the holding of an election in the District, on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at which election there will be submitted the following proposition, to-wit:

**PROPOSITION  
(TAX CONTINUATION)**

Shall Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana (the "District"), continue to levy a special tax of 5.16 mills (the "Tax") on all property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$198,000 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 2027 and ending with the year 2036, for the purpose of maintaining and operating fire protection facilities, purchasing firefighting equipment and paying the cost of obtaining water for fire protection purposes, provided that a portion of the Tax proceeds is required to be contributed to state and statewide retirement systems as provided in R. S. 11:82, said millage to represent a 0.64 mills increase (due to reappraisal) over the 4.52 mills tax authorized to be levied through the year 2026 pursuant to an election held on November 21, 2015?

**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.

**10. Forward to Full Council: RESOLUTION No. 005-2026.**

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned, "Is this a Bridge Project?"*

*Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director stated, "Yes."*

A motion was made by Councilman Timmy Lejeune, seconded by Councilman Ken Marks to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, March 18, 2026** to Adopt **Resolution No. 005-2026.**

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

*Motion forwarded.*

**RESOLUTION NO. 005-2026**

**WHEREAS**, there are documents and requests that St. Landry Parish Government needs to sign regarding any and all contracts on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development involving the following projects: State Project No. H.015505 (Solid Waste Road over Bayou Boeuf) and State Project No. H.015510 (Phillip Street over Bayou Yarbor).

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the St. Landry Parish Council that the St. Landry Parish President, Jessie Bellard, is authorized to sign any and all documents and requests on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development involving the following projects: State Project No. H.015505 (Solid Waste Road over Bayou Boeuf) and State Project No. H.015510 (Phillip Street over Bayou Yarbor).

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

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “I would like our Legal Counsel to look into a class action lawsuit. Garrett, I will give you some information on it tomorrow. I was talking with a guy named Stephen Acquario. He is with the New York State Association of Counties. At the meeting that I was in at NACO he was discussing the cost of Fire Trucks. He said that they had 3 main fire truck manufacturers that were over charging everyone in the United States higher prices for Fire Trucks. Right now they have a class action lawsuit regarding the cost of the three main companies and I will give that information to you tomorrow.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “One of the things I will hinge on is: When was the last time you bought a fire truck? How much did it cost? Once you file a lawsuit you receive the damage from being over charged and then you will receive compensation for the over charge. It is sort of like when we had the insulin lawsuit. You can collect from the class action lawsuit as long as we had parish government employees on insulin. With the fire trucks you would have to have purchased a fire truck at some time recently or whenever and be overcharged for the fire truck. With that being said you could spell his first name and his last name for me.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “His name is Stephen Acquario. He is with the New York State Association of Counties. They basically are in the class action lawsuit as well. I forgot how many years back that we could file. I know that we brought several new fire trucks in the last 10 years. I will have to get with the fire chief to see how many trucks that we brought and from where? It is the three major companies, the manufacturers of fire trucks that basically overcharged the people in the United States for the cost of the fire trucks.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “Again, if you purchased the fire truck during this time of over pricing you will see that you were overcharged and you can collect and join the class action lawsuit. We would have to look into that.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “Regarding the Insulin situation, he also stated, just like you said about the parish government employees on insulin, it is the people of St. Landry Parish who are on insulin where we can join that class action lawsuit. It is just not the Parish Government Employees.”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “We attempted to get in the class action lawsuit but the Class Action Lawsuit Attorney discovered that we did not have enough people on insulin.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown questioned,** “Is that is just with Parish Government Employees or is that with the people of St. Landry Parish?”

**Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated,** “We were asked to enter into the insulin class action lawsuit which is a natural lawsuit in federal court. In this particular case if you were overcharge for the fire truck or more than one then you would have entry to this class action lawsuit but I have his contact name.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “I will get the law firm that he had discussed, I will get that to you. Thank you.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned,** “Mr. Brown, do you know the name or the location of these 3 major fire truck builders? Do you know where they are at? It would be a lot easier if we knew it. We could call the Fire District within our parish and ask if any of you all bought a fire truck from this particular company?”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “I can call Mr. Stephen tomorrow. I have his cell phone number and I can get that information to you and Mr. Garrett tomorrow morning.”

**Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated,** “I am just asking.”

**Councilman Dexter Brown stated,** “No, I am just telling you. I will get you that information.”

*Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Then maybe you can get in touch with the fire station and find out.”*

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor questioned, “Are you going to look into it Counsel?”*

*Legal Counsel Garett Duplechain stated, “I have his name and number.”*

*Administrative Finance Chairman Harold Taylor stated, “You will also come up with a budget that it will cost us to do this if we decide to do this, right. Do I have a motion to adjourn?”*

*Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “Mr. Chairman, we also need a motion to authorize to advertise for Public Works District 6 position.*

*Councilman Ken Marks stated, “I thought we did that at the beginning of the meeting.”*

*Council Clerk Sherell Jordan stated, “We voted to amend the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.”*

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to forward to Regular Meeting held on *Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026* to authorize the Council Clerk to accept the resignation letter and advertise for one appointment for the remainder of a four-year term to the Public Works Commission District 6. *Mr. Dale Polozola has resigned.* (10-20-2024 -10-20-2028).

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

## 12. Adjourn.

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

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

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

## XIII. ADJOURN