

Parish President Jessie Bellard was absent for this meeting. He welcomed a new grandbaby.

(FIRST MEETING)

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 2026
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Chairman Wayne Ardoin called this meeting of the Administrative/Finance Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Councilman Faltery Jolivette said the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.
3. **Roll Call:** Faltery Jolivette, Ken Marks, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. Ex-Officio Wayne Ardoin. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere and Harold Taylor.
4. **Elect Chairman:**

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I will open nominations to elect a chairman for the committee."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "I will nominate Harold Taylor but he is not present. We can still do it as our Legal Counsel stated. We have four members here."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "He can decline when he returns."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "Then we will just assign somebody else."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "I will second your motion."

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "I will close all nominations."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "We have a second to your motion Mr. Marks. We have a motion to close all nominations and elect Councilman Harold Taylor as the Administrative Finance Chairman for the year 2026."

A motion was made by Councilman Ken Marks, seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to close all nominations and elect Councilman Harold Taylor as the Administrative Finance Committee Chairman for the year 2026.

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

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "So Mr. Taylor who is not present, will one of you take the chairmanship tonight?"

Councilman Ken Marks stated, "I will take it. I have done it before."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Is there a motion to elect the Interim Chairman?"

A motion was made by Councilman Dexter Brown, seconded by Councilman Faltery Jolivette to elect Councilman Ken Marks as the Interim Chairman for the Administrative Finance Committee due to Councilman Harold Taylor's absence.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune. **NAYS:** None. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere and Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.
Motion carried.

5. **Person to address the Committee.**
None.

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

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I am filling in for Jessie. He had a grandbaby and he is on his way to see the grandbaby. You all have your finance report in front of you. There is no additional items on the Parish President’s Report.”

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks questioned, “On the financial report have we decided when we going to have a discussion? Is there a date?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I was not given anything on a date.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I have a question Mr. Reed. There was a question asked by Mr. Taylor the other night in reference to the Solar Panel Project. How much money or what is the dollar amount that the parish would get from them? I know that the Economic Inducement People are involved with it and they are getting some money. What is going to be our share? Mr. Taylor asked for that and all we got was this figure of \$193,000.00.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I was instructed that there are different items from different funds that are going to be coming into this project, it is not just the Solar Farms. What you got is what has been presented to us right now in writing. So the total number that you are asking for cannot be given out accurately, it would be an estimate.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Okay, it is just an estimate. Are you going to have some further information on it as it goes on?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I will pass it on to the Jessie and the committee.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Thank you.”

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, “We have received the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement as well as the Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement based off of the leases. We have not had a chance to look at it yet but I appreciate that information. I also understand that SLED is the main drive is that correct?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “I am not sure.”

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, “That is what it states in the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. We can get information from that department, detailed information that is being requested, that is an avenue I would think.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “Yes, I would think that that would be possible. I can get Jessie to clarify that.”

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, “There you go, I was going to ask you to do that. That would be great. On that subject matter we also received a Lunch and Learn for the topic that we are talking about. It will be at the Petroleum Club in Lafayette on March 3rd, 2026. It is a Luncheon for our administration to attend. The event will be hosted by Southeastern Wind Coalition, Southern Renewable Energy Association and Project Vanguard. We have the liberty to decide if we want to go or not. All we have to do is let Ms. Karen know and she will be glad to set it up for you. Thank you Ms. Karen.”

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

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere and Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

7. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise 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, February 18th, 2026* to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment for a five year term to the St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority. (03-17-2021 – 03-17-2026).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Faltery Jolivette, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere and Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

**8. Discuss when to amend the agenda to make changes to a line item.
(Chairman Wayne Ardoin).**

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “The reason why this is on the agenda is because Ms. Nancy Carrier ask that question. I told her I would put it on the agenda and she is not here tonight. I spoke to Mr. Duplechain, Mr. Duplechain do you want to explain what you came up with as far as what the Home Rule Charter states.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “If there is an item which is not on the agenda when the agenda is published in the Official Journal, The Eunice News, at the beginning of the meeting the council can vote with a unanimous vote to add that item to the agenda. I think the question being posed is this: What if the item is on the agenda but it calls for one thing such as a discussion that can be altered during the meeting for the council to take action. I think that part would have to be amended. If you are going to alter an item that is already on the agenda to say something a little bit different where the council goes beyond discussion and take action such as a vote. So that is basically it and of course that decision have to be made and the Chairman presides over the meeting. If you will notice at each of your seat I think you have a copy of section 2-7. I placed it there just so the council can see or have at their fingertips the procedure for posting an agenda in the Official Journal for Committee Meetings and Regular Meetings as far as posting it two days prior to the meeting. It really sets it forth right there. An ordinance that was passed by the council quite a while back. Generally speaking if you post a notice on the agenda that the meeting place is 24 hours before the meeting is a sufficient notice. It looks like this ordinance looks beyond that to require a two day notice in the official journal prior to a meeting, which we do anyway every month. Each of you have the 2.7 ordinance. You all can see the procedure of posting an agenda notice prior to the meeting that the council pass.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Let me ask this question. She brought it up and she is not here tonight. My question is this: Last meeting we had to discuss an item and we went on and we voted on that item. During the meeting can it be changed to go ahead and bring it to a vote? Is that what you are saying?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “You can amend it by unanimous vote when that meeting starts.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “So the chairman have to bring it up and make sure that every councilmember wants to go along with the voting of it.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Right.”

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Thank you. So that would answer her question.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I have a question on that issue. I just want to be clear that when something is posted on the agenda and we have it to discuss no action can be taken. So when we forward anything from the Committee Meeting it is to be voted on in the full council.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “Right.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “Alright, so anything that is forwarded from the committee goes to the full council it can be voted on. You just said if it is pushed there and it has the word discuss you cannot vote on it. We have to be perfectly clear on this subject because on every item that we place on these agendas from now own let’s make

sure that we say it is to be voted on in the full council. If that is not stated then we are not going to be able to vote on it. I am just repeating what you said but I am stating it like it is. I want to make sure that I understand that. If we forward anything from a committee agenda it is to be voted on in full council and that is how it has to be stated or it cannot be voted on is that correct?"

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Correct unless it is amended at the beginning of the meeting."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Okay, I just want to make it clear so everything that we talked about so far we did not say that we were going to vote on it so it can't be done nothing in the full council, it can only be talked about. So let us be careful on that. I am just saying this. I have never heard that until tonight, never have I heard that. I am good with the new rule as long as we understand that we have to say to vote in the full council because we won't get nothing accomplished. That is all that I have to say."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "Last month we had a hot item on the agenda. I did discuss this with our Council Clerk Ms. Karen. Days prior to the meeting basically after our committee meeting we had to make sure that we worded that particular item specifically and politically correct. I just wanted to make sure. I said Ms. Karen just make sure. She said okay Mr. Brown and we reviewed it and everything else but we want to be politically correct in everything that we do."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Do we have to go back on the items that states to authorize the council clerk. We did not say that it is to be voted on in the full council."

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, "I thought it was understood."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Okay, that is what I understood too. So the conversation is, and I am just going back because he just said if you don't say to be voted on it can be. Let's make it clear are we going to follow that rule from now own going forward? Let's make sure that we do that."

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, "If it is part of our ordinance to do so we may have to follow that part."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "We never did since I have been here."

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, "I know that is why it is written."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Do you all want to re-do Agenda Item No. 7? Can we re-do item No. 7?"

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, "In what respect?"

Assistant Council Clerk Karen Barlow stated, "On item No. 7 of the agenda when I am going to place it on the Full Council Meeting it will stipulate to for you all to authorize me to advertise and you guys are going to vote on it."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "But Mr. Duplechain said: You have to state that you want to vote on it because if we don't state that it will apply to everything else. You can't have it one way and do it the other. If you are going to do it I we need to do it the same way all the time to make sure that it sticks that way. Do you want to re-do Agenda Item No. 7 in order to be able to allow the full council to move that to advertisement?"

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, "Do we need that?"

Councilman Faltery Jolivette questioned, "My question is this: We only state in the Committee Meeting and we vote to authorize in full council."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I understand that.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “I want to make sure that is what we are saying. Since it is to be authorized, Item No. 7 says to authorize the council clerk to advertise for one appointment that is in the finance committee so it does not make a difference Mr. Duplechain that she has authorize just the finance committee to do such or does it not make a difference?”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “On the agenda for the full council meeting it is going to say: Vote for 1 appointment for a five year term. If it does not say that then it comes into play is what we are all talking about right now. For this Committee Meeting Agenda it says to forward all applications received meaning those applications are going to be forwarded two weeks down the road to the full council meeting. When we get to the agenda for the full council meeting then it will say vote for one appointment to the five year term. If it says any other thing than vote then what we are saying comes into play.”

Councilman Faltery Jolivette stated, “I still have the floor. Just authorizing the Council Clerk to make the advertisement would be okay for tonight?”

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, “Excuse me if I may interject, that was the standard operating procedure, right? That is what we have always done.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I am good. Let’s just make sure that we are voting and we are saying it the right way. It will have to repeat itself every time.”

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, “I hear you very well Timmy.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I am not being controversial. I am just trying to make sure that I understand.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Hold up a second, back up. We are in the Administrative Finance Committee. We are forwarding an item to authorize the council clerk to advertise for one appointment for a five year term to the St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority. We have to forward that to the full council. So now when we forward that to the full council everyone will vote on this item right here.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “It does not say advertise, it says to forward.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Yes it says advertise. It says to advertise for one appointment. So what we are going to vote on in two weeks is to authorize the council clerk to advertise for that one appointment for a five year term. Whenever we vote on it then we are going to pass it, hopefully we will pass it and that is when the council clerk can start advertising or send out that advertisement.”

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, “So whenever Item No. 7 goes to the full council meeting agenda and it says the council to discuss whether to make one appointment for a five year term it is going to go one way but if it says council to vote for one appointment for five year term it is going to that way. If it says discuss it will be discussed but if it says vote for one appointment for a five year term to the St. Landry Agricultural Arena then it will go for a vote at the full council meeting on the agenda for the full council meeting.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “We are just asking and maybe I may be confused on this but I don’t think that I am. We are just going to advertise for that one appointment. We cannot advertise until the full council approves. We have to vote on the advertisement.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I just want clarity. I am not looking for all of that commotion. All I am asking is this: Should we say the word vote. We don’t have to say

vote on item No. 7. All I am asking if he says you have to say vote and you don't say vote what can we do? You can't have it two ways."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "In two weeks from now you will have to say vote. In two weeks."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Okay in Committee you don't have to say nothing. You can move it forward and they can vote in full council."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Right."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "That is right and the only way that you can put something else on the agenda or change anything to the agenda is by getting a unanimous vote. If one says no it dies in the full line. That is the rule. Nothing else changed."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "Hold on, that is two different things by adding something to the agenda and forwarding this. I am just saying."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "You will notice on the Public Works Agenda, Item No. 6. That says to advertise."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "It say to authorize the council clerk to advertise for one appointment. It says to advertise here too, both of them says to advertise. So we are giving the council clerk permission to advertise for a five-year appointment to the St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority and that is what we are going to vote on whenever we meet in two weeks."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "I did not have the updated version. I have it now and you are right, it says to advertise. I have the updated version here."

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, "Okay, so that is where I was confused about. Like it states now on the agenda it is correct."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Yes, this is the updated agenda. The one I had was the previous one. It does say to advertise, yes."

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, "So we are clear? Everyone is okay? So let's move on. Mr. Chairman, are you done with item No. 8?"

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I am fine with it. Ms. Nancy is the one that brought it up. Now we are going to move on."

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, "Okay we will move on to the next item."

9. Discuss overcrowding in the Council chambers and when to plug and un-plug the Security Scanner. (Chairman Wayne Ardoin).

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "That was also brought up by Ms. Nancy, she called me. Nick would you come up and give us an explanation from the other night of the overcrowding. Did you all unplug the scanner that you are leaning on?"

Officer Nick Frank stated, "When?"

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "The night that we had the meeting with the overflow of the crowd. That was last month."

Officer Nick Frank stated, "Everybody was searched by hand by that time."

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, "So were there any weapons that were found?"

Office Nick Frank stated, "No weapons were found?"

Chairman Wayne Ardoin stated, “We will let Ms. Nancy know on that item also. Thank you sir.”

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, “Before we move on from that when we have an overflow of a crowd we have a designated number of personnel for this building and it should be posted that we cannot exceed that as per Fire Marshall.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “It is posted. The amount is 50.”

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, “It is 50 people so that is what I am getting at. In regards to 1000 people out there only 50 can come in.”

Assistant Council Clerk Karen Barlow stated, “They were aware. They had some that were standing against the wall and security did let them out and kept the ones that were seated.”

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks questioned, “Is security going to do the head count?”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune questioned, “How many chairs do we have in here?”

Assistant Council Clerk Karen Barlow stated, “We have 36 chairs along with 13 councilmember and Jessie’s crew that equals to 50.”

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, “So with the chairs, once they are full we are full. I am good with that.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “Mr. Chairman, I oversee security so I will meet with them to make sure that they all understand.”

Councilman Jody White stated, “Mr. Van, in reference to what I knew about that night, Mr. Ballard saw people starting to congregate out here and it was early, really early, he was trying to do something good because of the weather. I think he may have called and asked if some of the early arrivals could be let inside. I think we want to make note that we don’t want anybody to come in with just our council clerks sitting in here and security is not here to let the first 50 people inside. I think every councilmember knows when they arrived it was already full in here. We want to note that Mr. Ballard had the right intentions but if security is not here to be with the council clerks and they are early they will just have to stay outside. That is just my opinion.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “Maybe it can be done with the overcrowding whereas we having our blinds up where the audience outside could see. Could we look into putting a little small speaker possibly at the top of our door to allow the people who cannot get in, just for the meetings, a small speaker where they can hear what is going on in the meeting because they can clearly see through the windows? Could we look into placing a small speaker on the outside whereas they could hear what is going on in the meeting?”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “We can meet with the IT Department and see what options we might have to get a speaker out there. It is all going to come down to the wiring of the sound system and stuff like that.”

Councilman Dexter Brown stated, “I know that it is on Facebook live as well.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “They want to see it live.”

Mr. Van Reed, Administrator stated, “We can weight our options.”

Interim Administrative Finance Chairman Ken Marks stated, “It is just a thought. Moving on.”

10. **Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.**
None.

11. 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, Dexter Brown and Timmy Lejeune.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Nancy Carriere and Harold Taylor. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

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