

(SECOND MEETING)
ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 3rd, 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 18th, 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 completely 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, Faltory 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 Yarbtor).

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 Yarbtor).

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 Your 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 Garrett 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 18th, 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**