

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2009 @ 6:00 P.M.**

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

The Council of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, convened in a special session on this 1st day of October, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leon Robinson.

Councilman Jerry Red led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Members present were Jerry Red, Fekisha Miller, Kenneth Vidrine, Ronald Buschel, Hurlin Dupre, Albert Hollier, Pam Gautreau, Glenn Stout, Dexter Brown, Jay Guidry, Jimmie Edwards, Gary Courville and Leon Robinson, Chairman.

#1 – Chairman Robinson announced that the council would discuss approval of a trail ride application submitted by Snows Road Posse Trail Ride first and then discuss the creation of a regional therapeutic facility.

#2 – A motion was made by Jimmie Edwards and seconded by Jerry Red to discuss the trail ride application first, followed by the regional therapeutic facility. The vote was as follows: YEAS: Jerry Red, Fekisha Miller, Kenneth Vidrine, Ronald Buschel, Hurlin Dupre, Albert Hollier, Pam Gautreau, Glenn Stout, Dexter Brown, Jay Guidry, Jimmie Edwards and Gary Courville. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

And the motion was declared adopted this 1st day of October, 2009.

#3 – Chairman Robinson recognized the State Representative, Senator, City Officials and members of the Sheriff Dept. who were in attendance.

#4 – A motion was made by Jerry Red and seconded by Dexter Brown to approve the trail ride application submitted by Snows Road Posse for an event to be held October 30, 31 and November 1, 2009. The vote was as follows: YEAS: Jerry Red, Fekisha Miller, Kenneth Vidrine, Ronald Buschel, Hurlin Dupre, Albert Hollier, Pam Gautreau, Glenn Stout, Dexter Brown, Jay Guidry, Jimmie Edwards and Gary Courville. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

And the motion was declared adopted this 1st day of October, 2009.

#5 – Parish President Don Menard addressed the Council and audience stating that the Regional Therapeutic Facility for Youthful Offenders will be located in St. Landry Parish but not on property owned by Parish Government nor will it be located on the Airport Hwy. He added that there are possible negotiations for this facility to be located along the I-49 Corridor, Hwy 167 or south of Opelousas. It will be placed in a non-residential area on private property. Mr. Menard requested a resolution to support continued negotiations with the state government and the Office of Juvenile Justice. He requested that the Parish Council adopt a resolution in support of the facility being located in St. Landry Parish to represent the eight parishes of the Acadiana area. The resolution is to include assurance to the public that the location of the facility will not be on property owned by St. Landry Parish.

#6 - Members of the Juvenile Training Center Committee were recognized for their efforts in researching different types of facilities and programs for the needs of our area.

#7 - Members of the Child and Youth Services Board were recognized for their efforts in assisting juveniles of our community.

#8 - Senator Elbert Guillory presented goals to be attained in bringing this facility to St. Landry Parish as helping troubled children in the eight parishes of Acadiana served by this facility and bringing jobs and money to St. Landry Parish.

#9 - Representative Ledricka Theiry shared research on the Missouri Model which showed that only 7 or 8 percent of kids going through rehab programs return to the corrections system.

#10 - Sheriff Bobby Guidroz voiced his support for a facility providing rehabilitative services for youth. He voiced a desire that the resolution requested be approved.

#11 - Claude Devillier of the St. Landry Parish Children & Youth Services Planning Board presented a letter of support to Parish Government for the Regional Therapeutic Facility.

#12 – Dr. Mary Livers, Secretary of the Office of Juvenile Justice discussed the visions and operating plans for the facility and answered questions from the audience and council. She described the facility as a state of the art secured, therapeutically designed facility offering professional programs to rehabilitate troubled kids.

Dr. Livers shared the following information in a question & answer session:

- Maximum capacity for the facility will be 72 ranging from age 12 to 21.
- The facility will not be a holding or detention facility but a therapeutic facility where youth will go through programs to identify the problems that led to their delinquent behavior. Counselors will assist the kids in becoming law abiding citizens.
- There will be a minimum of two staff members supervising groups of 12 kids at all times.
- Youths allowed to enter into this facility will have been an adjudicated delinquent who is in need of the provided structure of the facility.
- Youths will be restrained and escorted properly if there is a need to leave the facility.

#13 - Sen. Guillory provided a response to the type of crimes having been committed by the residents of the facility. He stated that major crimes such as murder and rape are treated as adults and do not go into the juvenile justice system, therefore would not be serviced by this facility.

#14 - Dr. Livers continued to answer questions from the audience and shared that services offered to youths who have completed their time in the facility would include assistance provided to parents for preparing their homes for children once released. The local Work Force office will assist in finding employment for kids once released based on training they have received in the facility. An advisory council made up of locals was suggested to work with the director of the facility in order to allow participation of the community.

#15 - Councilwoman Fekisha Miller thanked Rep. Theirry and Sen. Guillory in assisting her in working with her constituents who were not in favor of the facility being located in their neighborhood but were not against having the facility in the parish. She voiced appreciation for the work being done in securing a location away from the immediate area of her constituents.

#16 - Rev. Ford addressed the Council with reasons why he feels the parish should welcome the facility. He stated that it would help those children in need of a structured environment, economic development and jobs.

#17 - Mr. Charles Renaud addressed the Council concerning his support for the project but does not support it being in his neighborhood.

#18 - Mr. Randy Fontenot addressed the Council regarding the concerns of citizens against having the facility in their neighborhoods.

#19 - In response to Council member Pam Gautreau voicing a problem with the request of the Council's support without disclosing the location of the facility to them, Mr. Don Menard stated that it is the request of the owner of the property under negotiations with the state that the location not be disclosed yet. Mr. Menard shared that one of the properties of interest is located along the east side of the I-49 corridor in a non-residential area.

#20 - Councilman Jay Guidry stated that in order to be fair to his constituents, knowing the location is important.

#21 - Councilman Kenneth Vidrine requested that the Council members be notified and informed of the location for the facility before the it is announced to the general public.

#22 - Councilman Dexter Brown voiced concern for the safety of the citizens of St. Landry Parish and uneasiness of not knowing the location.

#23 - A motion was made by Councilwoman Fekisha Miller and seconded by Jerry Red to adopt a resolution of support for Mr. Don Menard to continue negotiations for the creation of Regional Therapeutic Facilities for Youthful Offenders for St. Landry Parish not to be located on parish property or near a residential area. The vote was as follows:

YEAS: Jerry Red, Fekisha Miller, Kenneth Vidrine, Ronald Buschel, Hurlin Dupre, Albert Hollier, Pam Gautreau, Glenn Stout, Jay Guidry, Jimmie Edwards and Gary Courville. NAYS: Dexter Brown. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: None.

And the motion was declared adopted this 1st day of October, 2009.

#24 - A motion was made by Ronald Buschel and seconded by Hurlin Dupre to adjourn. The vote was as follows: Jerry Red, Fekisha Miller, Kenneth Vidrine, Ronald Buschel, Hurlin Dupre, Albert Hollier, Glenn Stout, Dexter Brown, Jay Guidry, Jimmie Edwards and Gary Courville. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: None. ABSENT: Pam Gautreau.

And the meeting was adjourned.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE:

NOVELLA RICHARD
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL