

**AGENDA**  
**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING—WEDNESDAY, March 18, 2009—6:00 P.M.**  
**ST. LANDRY PARISH COURTHOUSE, 118 S. COURT ST.**  
**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ROOM # 132**  
**OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION**  
by Councilman and Chaplin Jerry Red, Jr.

**III. ROLL CALL**

**IV. CONDOLENCES**

**V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:**  
Welcome all guests & allow time to address Council.  
Kelly J. Scott – Candidate for State Senate District 24

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Meeting date February 18, 2009.

**VII. SPECIAL BUSINESS:**

- Changes recommended for application for board appointments:
  - What other board is applicant currently serving on?
  - If seeking reappointment, length of time applicant has served on board.
  - Does applicant hold any elected positions?
- Request that legislative delegation work with Governor to omit cuts in Opelousas and Eunice at T.H. Harris and LSUE.
- Approval of documents to complete transaction on the Delta Grand Theater.

**VIII. PARISH PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**IX. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

**X. ORDINANCES TO BE ADOPTED:**

**XI. ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED:**

- Summary No. 003 OR, Non-Hard Surface Roads
- Ordinance No. 2008-011, Amended Subdivision Ordinance

## **XII. RESOLUTIONS**

- Approval of trail ride applications –The Lady Gator Booster Soccer Club
- Enterprise Zone Endorsement Resolution
- Board Appointments/Reappointments
  - St. Landry-St. Martin Hospital Service Dist. (1 for a 6 year term)
  - Gravity Drainage Dist. No. 1 of Ward 2 (3 for a 4 year term)
  - St. Landry Agricultural Area Authority (1 for a 5 year term)
  - Fire Dist. No. 7 (2 for a 2 year term)

## **XIII. LITIGATION REPORT**

## **XIV. COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009 @ 6:00 P.M.  
ST. LANDRY PARISH COURTHOUSE, 118 S. COURT ST.  
ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ROOM #132  
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

### **MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman, Ronald Buschel;

1. Council Clerk, Novella Richard, called roll;

**PRESENT: Fekisha Miller, Glenn Stout, Jay Guidry, Jimmie Edwards, Ronald Buschel, Chairman, Leon Robinson, Ex-Officio. ABSENT: Kenneth Vidrine**

2. Jerry Red Jr., led the committee members in the pledge and prayer.
3. Tim Marks presented the Public Works report. He reported that the workers operating the milling blade have just completed Dist. 7 and are moving to Dist. 11.
4. Jerry Red, Jr., asked how many sub-divisions are going to fall under the old subdivision ordinance and will need to be grandfathered in. Mr. Marks answered between six and eight.  
Jerry Red inquired about arrangements for trash pick-up for Gautreau and Diamond Lanes. Tim Marks responded that a release was signed by Mr. Gautreau (owner) for both lanes to receive service.

5. Pam Gautreau reported that a resident of Adams Lane has requested the installation of a culvert. Adams Lane is a private road according to our records but there is a green sign, indicating it to be a parish road, posted in the area. Tim Marks said the sign should be blue and he would check into it. He further explained that the state does not install driveway culverts.
6. A motion was made by Glenn Stout and seconded by Jay Guidry to accept the Public Works Report. The vote was as follows:  
YEAS: Glenn Stout, Jay Guidry, Jimmie Edwards, Fekisha Miller  
NAYS: None. ABSENT: Kenneth Vidrine
7. Tim Marks distributed copies of the Parish President's Report in the absence of Mr. Don Menard. A motion was made by Jay Guidry and seconded by Jimmie Edwards to accept the Parish President's Report. The vote was as follows:  
YEAS: Jay Guidry, Jimmie Edwards, Fekisha Miller and Glenn Stout.  
NAYS: None. ABSENT: Kenneth Vidrine.
8. A motion was made by Fekisha Miller and seconded by Jay Guidry to move the discussion of road issues to the end of the Administrative Finance meeting in order to finish all other business and allow more time for discussion on roads.  
YEAS: Jimmie Edwards, Fekisha Miller, Glenn Stout and Jay Guidry.  
NAYS: None. ABSENT: Kenneth Vidrine
9. Jay Guidry reported that he had been notified that a member, Watson Champagne, of a drainage board in his district submitted a letter of resignation. Once the letter is received by the Council, Mr. Guidry suggested we advertise for the position to be filled.
10. A motion to adjourn was made by Glenn Stout and seconded by Jay Guidry.

Submitted by:  
/s/ Ronald Buschel, Chairman

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE.  
NOVELLA RICHARD, COUNCIL CLERK

**ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2009**

**Minutes**

1. Meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman, Albert Hollier;
2. Council Clerk, Novella Richard, called roll;

**PRESENT: Jerry Red, Jr., Hurlin Dupre, Pam Gautreau, Dexter Brown, Gary Courville.**

3. A motion was made by Councilman Hurlin Dupre and seconded by Councilman Pam Gautreau to forward to the full council the discussion of adding the following questions to the application used for board appointments:
  - a. What other boards do you sit on?
  - b. If seeking reappointment, how long have you served on this board?
4. Councilman Ronald Buschel stressed that careful consideration should be taken not to complicate the application by adding more questions. He pointed out that these positions request services that are not paid for.  
Councilwoman Pam Gautreau stated that in her district, all three drainage boards receive payment although she understands a lot of positions are filled with volunteers. She believes the application will allow the council an opportunity to find out more about the board members/applicants.

The vote to move the discussion of adding questions to the application for board appointments to the full council was as follows:

YEAS: Dexter Brown, Gary Courville, Jerry Red, Hurlin Dupre, Pam Gautreau. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

Councilman Gary Courville suggested adding the questions of what board(s) applicant currently sits on and what position(s) have they been elected into, if any.

5. A motion was made by Councilwoman Pam Gautreau and seconded by Councilman Jerry Red to advertise for two positions to be filled on the South St. Landry Community Library District due to expirations of Ronnie Daigle and Charles James.  
YEAS: Jerry Red, Hurlin Dupre, Pam Gautreau, Dexter Brown, Gary Courville. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

6. Councilman Glenn Stout asked what the status was on hiring an Assistant Council Clerk. The Council Clerk answered that the position announcement is being advertised. It was decided at the last full council meeting that interviewing would be conducted March 18<sup>th</sup> and will begin at 5 o'clock pm. Councilman Jerry Red suggested all applicants be asked to arrive at 5 o'clock and called in one at a time for interviewing.
7. Councilman Jerry Red reminded members that one year ago it had been agreed upon to approach the drainage boards regarding beaver control and set a price for payment from each board. He made a motion to bring to the full council, a discussion on asking \$1,500.00 per year from each drainage board. Councilman Albert Hollier informed the committee that in conversing with Mr. Don Menard, he understood the parish to be managing those funds without problem. Councilman Red voiced that he didn't feel the parish should continue to pick up the fee. The understanding was for the parish to pay for the first year and then a price would be set for drainage boards to help afterwards. Mr. Red suggested the vote be taken to the full council since that was the original plan.
8. A motion was made by Councilman Jerry Red and seconded by Councilwoman Pam Gautreau to bring the discussion to the full council of charging each drainage board \$1,500.00 per year for beaver control charges. The vote was as follows:  
YEAS: Hurlin Dupre, Pam Gautreau, Dexter Brown,  
Gary Courville, Jerry Red. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.
9. A motion was made by Councilman Gary Courville and seconded by Councilman Hurlin Dupre to consider requesting copies of financial statements from the St. Landry Parish Tourist Commission be sent to the Parish Council. The vote was as follows:  
YEAS: Pam Gautreau, Dexter Brown, Gary Courville, Jerry Red,  
Hurlin Dupre. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.
10. A motion was made by Councilman Gary Courville and seconded by Councilman Hurlin Dupre to request that Andrea West, Legal Council, update the council members on the status of the bond issued and sale agreement for the purchase of the Delta Grand Theater. The committee also requested the plan for relocation of the tourist commission and council clerk's offices and the remodeling of the current meeting room to be turned into judge's Chambers. Mr. Tim Marks shared information with the committee that the case is in litigation due to a problem with a current lease on the building.

The vote on the motion was as follows:

YEAS: Jerry Red, Hurlin Dupre, Pam Gautreau, Dexter Brown, Gary Courville. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

11. A motion was made by Councilwoman Pam Gautreau and seconded by Councilman Dexter Brown to have a copy of the requested 13 funds from the budget available for any council member who would like one. Copies can be requested from Novella Richard, Council Clerk.

The vote was as follows:

YEAS: Hurlin Dupre, Pam Gautreau, Dexter Brown, Gary Courville, Jerry Red. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

Chairman Albert Hollier opened the floor for discussion on road issues.

12. Councilman Jerry Red suggested creating a user fee on vehicles to generate funds for paving/overlying roads. Councilman Pam Gautreau asked if the state department of motor vehicles could be contacted to find out how many registered vehicles are in the parish. Councilman Guidry recalled that Mr. Vidrine had gathered that information last year and might still have it.
13. Councilwoman Fekisha Miller commented that the user fee would be a good idea but she would agree on trying anything that the committee members would all agree to work together on. She shared research information she had gathered from other states who are charging similar fees.
14. Councilman Ronal Buschel shared that research on user fees in other areas has shown problems in collecting. He shared that vehicle inspection fees can be increased without a need of the public vote and the parish would have to work with municipalities demanding a portion of the money from whatever the council decides to do. Mr. Buschel expressed that a sales tax of 1 to 2 percent might be the best idea and half of the collected money would go to municipalities.
15. Councilman Hurlin Dupre suggested a one cent parish tax.
16. Councilman Leon Robinson suggested taking the suggestions and divide up in groups to approach and meet with mayors on each of idea. This would allow involvement of the entire parish. Councilman Guidry added that a letter could be sent out to municipalities asking for a resolution of support. Mr. Robinson stressed building a structure to begin getting something done.

17. Councilman Albert Hollier recalled that two proposals for property taxes were favorable in his district. He questioned if any kind of tax would pass but commented that he would agree with the vehicle user fee if there were a collection plan.
18. Councilwoman Pam Gautreau said if a sales tax increase was considered, could a road fund column be added to the school board sheet. She asked members to keep in mind that Louisiana currently has the highest sales tax in the country. Ms. Gautreau asked if a one to two cent sales tax is adopted parish wide, could the road maintenance taxes be abolished? This would allow giving something to the people while increasing road funds. She compared this idea to the Solid Waste Commission's sales tax currently being collected and noted that municipalities do not collect a share of these funds because the municipalities already have a tax within the area.
19. Councilman Robinson suggested considering how much money left over after municipalities take 65%. Ms. Gautreau asked if the municipalities share would be based on population. She stated that this would be unfair.
20. Councilman Jay Guidry stated he would support a user fee as well as a sales tax but thinks it would be hard to collect any kind of tax or fee. He suggested reviewing a past proposal from Solid Waste that can generate funds.
21. Councilman Jimmie Edwards said that taxes may not pass but agrees that the committee should revisit the proposal from Solid Waste.
22. Councilman Gary Courville stated that property taxes have not been successful in his district.
23. Councilman Jerry Red suggested taking five ideas (1) vehicle user fee, (2) sales tax, (3) one cent sales tax, (4) trash for cash, and (5) drivers' license fee and requesting the Daily World to run a survey for comments from readers.
24. Councilman Fekisha Miller suggested forming three focus groups. The groups would look at the following factors:
  - a. - current funds
  - b. - user fee/vehicle registration fee/drivers license fee
  - c. - sales taxes

Each group should have some information to share with the council at each regular meeting. If a certain project is found not to work then that group can be excused.

25. A motion was made by Councilman Hurlin Dupre and seconded by Councilman Jerry Red to form three focus groups. The vote was as follows:

YEAS: Jerry Red, Hurlin Dupre, Pam Gautreau, Dexter Brown, Gary Courville. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None.

26. A motion to adjourn until the next scheduled committee meeting on April 6, 2009, was made by Councilman Gary Courville and seconded by Pam Gautreau.

Submitted by:  
/s/ Albert Hollier, Chairman

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE.  
NOVELLA RICHARD, COUNCIL CLERK

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

Novella Richard  
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