

## Parish considers ordinance changes

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A heavily revised nuisance ordinance designed to speed up the parish's ability to remove junked cars, clean up abandoned property and deal with other eye sores such as overgrown lots has been forwarded to the St. Landry Parish Council to act on at its Aug. 20 meeting.

Those revisions were one of four ordinance changes approved recently with no comments from the public by the Council's Public Works Committee.

One lower building permit fees for buildings with an estimated value of less than \$2,000.

The parish currently charges a minimum fee of \$100 for building permits, which some council members argue is too high for small structures such as sheds and other out buildings.

The last two call for abandoning a 40-foot right-of-way for Popular Street in the Lewisburg area and designating Midway Lane from La. 743 to U.S. Route 190 as a no-through truck traffic route and setting its weight limit at 10,000 pounds.

While it exists on parish maps, Popular Street was never developed and property owners James and Elaine Tweedel have requested its abandonment.

Midway Lane is increasingly being used as a shortcut for truckers going to and from the Wal-Mart Distribution Center. While Wal-Mart has forbidden its trucks from using the road, about half the trucks that come and go from the center are independent haulers.

In other action, the committee voted to ask Jude Moreau, executive director of the St. Landry Parish Communications District, to attend the Aug. 20 meeting to discuss changing the name of Choctaw Drive in the Sunset area.

The district, which oversees the parish E-911 emergency response system, is responsible for maintaining an accurate list of all road names and addresses in the parish.

District 8 Council member Pam Gautreau said Choctaw Drive is near Choctaw Street, and the similarity of names is causing confusion for police and firefighters who must respond to emergencies in the area.

Public Works Director Tim Marks also announced to the committee that a proposed subdivision ordinance for the parish is now complete and, once it undergoes a final review, will be submitted to the council for adoption.

The parish has been undergoing rapid growth in recent years, adding more than 40 subdivisions in the past four years.

The parish currently has no subdivision regulations. The new ordinance is expected to set minimum standards for everything from sewage disposal to road standards.