

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2026
CHAIRMAN ROBERT ARCURI
VICE-CHAIRWOMAN TAMMY HOUSTON

The Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist Parish, State of Louisiana, met in Regular Session in the St. John the Baptist Parish Government Complex Chambers, LaPlace, Louisiana on Tuesday, April 14th, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL: Lennix Madere, Jr., Councilman-at-Large, Div. A, Michael Wright, Councilman-at-Large, Div. B, Virgie Johnson, Councilwoman District I, Warren Torres, Jr., Councilman District II, Tammy Houston, Councilwoman District III, Robert Arcuri, Councilman District V, Vernon Bailey, Sr., Councilman District VI, Dixie Ramirez, Councilwoman District VII

ABSENT: Tyra Duhe-Griffin

Councilman Wright led the Prayer and Councilman Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Legal Counsel Keith Green, Jr. and Kennilyn Schmill were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY (3 minutes per citizen)

There was no public comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA: Approval of Minutes - March 24th, 2026, Council Meeting

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Bailey seconded the motion to approve consent agenda consisting of Approval of Minutes - March 24th, 2026, Council Meeting. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Terrance Wolfe and Desiree Allen v. St. John the Baptist Parish, 40th JDC No. 83145 Div. "B"

A. Lasseigne Properties, LLC v. St. John the Baptist Parish, 26-C-19 5th Circuit Court of Appeal, State of Louisiana

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss *Terrance Wolfe and Desiree Allen v. St. John the Baptist Parish, 40th JDC No. 83145 Div. "B"*; *A. Lasseigne Properties, LLC v. St. John the Baptist Parish, 26-C-19 5th Circuit Court of Appeal, State of Louisiana*. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin arrived in the meeting at 6:03 PM.

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilwoman Ramirez seconded the motion to go back into Regular Session. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

MOTION: Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to authorize Legal Counsel to enter into a settlement negotiation for Terrance Wolfe and Desiree Allen v. St. John the Baptist Parish, 40th JDC No. 83145 Div. "B". The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin moved and Councilwoman Johnson seconded the motion to authorize Legal Counsel to utilize the SIR (Self-Insured Retention) to negotiate settlement with the Terrance Wolfe matter and any other subsequent claims. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

President's Report

PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE (S)

26-14 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving excavation within Parish Rights-of-way for the installation of fiber optics along Portrush Drive by municipal address 154 Portrush Drive, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (Permit No. 19452) (J. Hotard/C. Powell)

And approving excavation with Parish Rights-of-way for the installation of fiber optics along Virginian Colony Avenue by municipal address 1820 Virginian Colony Avenue, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (Permit No. 19481) (J. Hotard/C. Powell)

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Bailey seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 26-14. The motion unanimously.

26-15 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the resubdivision of Lot X-1-A, of the Belle Pointe Plantation Subdivision No. 2, located at 2700 West Airline Highway, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-1465) (J. Hotard/C. Powell)

MOTION: Councilman Torres moved and Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 26-15. The motion FAILED with 4 yeas (Madere, Arcuri, Duhe-Griffin, Torres) and 5 against (Wright, Ramirez, Bailey, Houston, Johnson).

26-16 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the resubdivision of the remainder of the J. Oswald Lot and the remainder of Aline Plantation, located in the rear 1052 Highway 628, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZS-1466) (J. Hotard/C. Powell)

MOTION: Councilwoman Ramirez moved and Councilman Wright seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 26-16. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Bailey).

26-17 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the request to rezone Lot 2, of the Lester Hymel Subdivision from the Residential District One [R-1] and the Commercial District One [C-1] to the Commercial District One [C-1] located at 117 Alexis Court, Lucy, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZR-1763) (J. Hotard/C. Powell)

Kimberly Taylor and Jo Banner commented on Ordinance 26-17.

MOTION: Councilwoman Johnson moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the substitute motion to amend Ordinance 26-17 to correct the address from 117 Alexis Court, Lucy to 117 Alexis Court, Wallace. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilwoman Johnson moved and Councilman Bailey seconded the motion to DENY Ordinance 26-17.

MOTION: Councilwoman Johnson moved and Councilman Bailey seconded the motion to RETRACT the motion to DENY Ordinance 26-17.

26-18 (Public Hearing Held) An ordinance approving the request to rezone Lot X-1-A, of the Belle Pointe Plantation Subdivision No. 2 from the Commercial District Three [C-3] to the Residential District Three [R-3] located at 2700 West Airline Highway, LaPlace, St. John the Baptist Parish, LA (PZR-1764) (J. Hotard/C. Powell)

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilman Bailey seconded the motion to DENY Ordinance 26-18. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 1 against (Torres).

NEW BUSINESS:

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R26-44 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to advertise and Requests for Proposals (RFP) for Information Technology Services

MOTION: Councilwoman Houston moved and Councilwoman Ramirez seconded the motion to approve Resolution R26-44. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to advertise and Requests for Proposals (RFP) for Information Technology Services. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H (2) and (5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution when authorizing a designated person(s) to execute a previously approved contract on its behalf and/or to perform a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, St. John the Baptist Parish is requesting proposals for Information Technology Services; and, WHEREAS, services will include technical support, assistance, hardware, software troubleshooting and system training on an as-needed basis; and, WHEREAS, the costs of these services will be funded through various funds/departments. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that St. John the Baptist Parish is hereby authorized to advertise Requests for Proposals for Information Technology Services. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R26-45 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with New Wine Christian Fellowship for Emergency Sheltering Services

MOTION: Councilwoman Duhé-Griffin moved and Councilwoman Ramirez seconded the motion to approve Resolution R26-45. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with New Wine Christian Fellowship for Emergency Sheltering Services. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H (2) and (5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution when authorizing a designated person(s) to execute a previously approved contract on its behalf and/or to perform a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, New Wine Christian Fellowship located at 1921 and 1929 W. Airline Hwy, LaPlace, LA and the adjacent parking lot will be used for a shelter in connection with emergencies and natural disaster recovery efforts; and, WHEREAS, the Agreement provides use of the facility to Parish residents adversely affected and/or impacted by a man-made or natural disaster; and, WHEREAS, the Agreement is recommended by GOHSEP and FEMA as a requirement of FEMA Reimbursements; and, WHEREAS, fees for the facility will be funded through the Public

Works Department with FEMA Reimbursement. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that Parish President, Jaclyn Hotard is hereby duly authorized and empowered on behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council to sign and execute the Professional Services Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and New Wine Christian Fellowship. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R26-46 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Professional Services Agreement with Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc. for the Cambridge #2, Cambridge #3 and Ned Duhe Lift Stations Rehabilitation Project

MOTION: Councilman Wright moved and Councilman Bailey seconded the motion to approve Resolution R26-46. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish to amend the Professional Services Agreement with Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc. for the Cambridge #2, Cambridge #3 and Ned Duhe Lift Stations Rehabilitation Project. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H (2) and (5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution when authorizing a designated person(s) to execute a previously approved contract on its behalf and/or to perform a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc. provide engineering services to rehabilitate the lift stations to continue to provide reliable wastewater collection; and, WHEREAS, Amendment No. 3 includes additional Resident Project Representative services for the duration of the project due to unforeseen construction conflicts; and, WHEREAS, the estimated cost of Amendment No. 3 is \$30,360 and is funded through the Wastewater Fund and reimbursement from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water State Revolving Loan. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that Parish President, Jaclyn Hotard is hereby duly authorized and empowered on behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council to execute Amendment No.3 of the Professional Services Agreement between St. John the Baptist Parish and Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R26-47 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 3 with Command Construction, LLC for the Cambridge #2, Cambridge #3 and Ned Duhe Lift Stations Rehabilitation Project

MOTION: Councilman Bailey moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to approve Resolution R26-47. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 3 with Command Construction, LLC for the Cambridge #2, Cambridge #3 and Ned Duhe Lift Stations Rehabilitation Project. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H (2) and (5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution when authorizing a designated person(s) to execute a previously approved contract on its behalf and/or to perform a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, Change Order No. 3 increases the original Agreement in the amount of \$3,225.32 and an additional seven (7) calendar days; and, WHEREAS, the increase is due to unforeseen construction conflicts that were discovered during construction; and, WHEREAS, the existing Force Main located at the Cambridge #2 Lift Station site requires the installation of 10" x 8" reducer to the new Force Main; and, WHEREAS, the project is being funded through the LDEQ Clean Water State Revolving Loan. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that Parish President Jaclyn Hotard is hereby duly authorized and empowered on behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council to execute Change Order No. 3 between St. John the Baptist Parish and Command Construction, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R26-48 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 3 with Command Construction, LLC for the Ezekial Jackson and Esperanza Lift Stations Rehabilitation Project

MOTION: Councilwoman Ramirez moved and Councilman Madere seconded the motion to approve Resolution R26-48. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute Change Order No. 3 with Command Construction, LLC for the Ezekial Jackson and Esperanza Lift Stations Rehabilitation Project. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H (2) and (5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution when authorizing a designated person(s) to execute a previously approved contract on its behalf and/or to perform a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, Change Order No. 3 is a close-out change order for the reconciliation of liquidated damages assessed for delayed project completion, final project quantities and withheld retainage; and, WHEREAS, the project completion exceeded the contract time by seventy-three (73) days and as a result, liquidated damages were assessed to Command Construction, LLC in the amount of \$61,320; and, WHEREAS, the adjustment of quantities and materials used to complete the project resulted in a decrease in the amount of \$8,652.40; and, WHEREAS, the retainage payment in the amount of \$50,396.92 will be withheld to cover a portion of the assessed liquidated damages; and, WHEREAS, Command Construction, LLC owes St. John the Baptist Parish liquidated damages in the amount of \$2,270.68 after contract reconciliation; and, WHEREAS, the project was funded through the Wastewater Budget with reimbursement from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Clean Water State Revolving Loan Program. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that Parish President Jaclyn Hotard is hereby duly authorized and empowered on behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council to execute Change Order No.3 between St. John the Baptist Parish and Command Construction, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

Jaclyn Hotard/Peter Montz - Resolution - R26-49 - A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute the Certificate of Substantial Completion with Command Construction, LLC for the Ezekial Jackson and Esperanza Lift Stations Rehabilitation Project

MOTION: Councilman Madere moved and Councilwoman Ramirez seconded the motion to approve Resolution R26-49. A Resolution authorizing St. John the Baptist Parish President to execute the Certificate of Substantial Completion with Command Construction, LLC for the Ezekial Jackson and Esperanza Lift Stations Rehabilitation Project. WHEREAS, Article IV, Section H (2) and (5) of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter permits the Parish Council to adopt a resolution when authorizing a designated person(s) to execute a previously approved contract on its behalf and/or to perform a ministerial act related to the administrative business of the Parish; and WHEREAS, this project has been deemed substantially complete by the Project Engineer; and, WHEREAS, all punch list items were identified and near completion. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council, that Parish President Jaclyn Hotard is hereby duly authorized and empowered on behalf of the St. John the Baptist Parish Council to execute the Certificate of Substantial Completion between St. John the Baptist Parish and Command Construction, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

26-19 An ordinance to repeal Ordinance No. 20-54 (Sec. 36-9), as authorized by Article IV, Section A5 - Ordinances and Resolutions - of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter (T. Houston/V. Johnson)

26-20 An ordinance to establish the process of naming public property, pursuant to authority granted in Article III, Section A7(a) (b), and (xi) - Powers and duties of the Parish Council - of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter (T. Houston/V. Johnson)

26-21 An ordinance to establish the process of honorary naming a public street to honor a person or group for the significant contributions made to the nation, state, and/or parish, pursuant to authority granted in Article III, Section A7(a), (b) and (xi)- Powers and Duties of the Parish Council - of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter (T. Houston/V. Johnson)

26-22 An ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 10-37 (Sec. 6-1531.1) by increasing the fine for any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this chapter (T. Houston/V. Johnson)

26-23 An ordinance to provide the meanings of phrases, terms, and/words used in Ordinance No. 26-24, Abandoned and Blighted Property Administrative Adjudication Hearing Process (V. Bailey)

26-24 An ordinance to provide the administrative hearing process of determining whether immovable property is abandoned or blighted, pursuant to the requirements of LSA-R.S.13:2575 and the authorities granted under Article III, Section A(7) (b) and (c) (ix) - Power and Duties of the Parish Council - of the St. John the Baptist Parish Home Rule Charter (V. Bailey)

Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin excused herself from the meeting at 7:31 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:33 PM, Councilwoman Johnson moved and Councilwoman Houston seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed with Councilwoman Duhe-Griffin absent.

/s/Robert Arcuri
COUNCIL CHAIR

/s/Donna Barber
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT