

President's Report
Council Meeting of Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Good Evening Council Members Ladies and Gentlemen:

It's only been a week since we last met, but government is moving forward at a frantic pace. Thank all of you for being so engaged the last 7 days. You were given a spreadsheet of all Active Projects and Parish grants which includes information on the Total Cost of the Grant, Amount Spent, Amount Remaining, Grant Funding Start Date, Construction Start Date and Project Completion Date. This document is a work in progress.

The Grants and Finance Departments are working hard to ensure grant money is being properly spent and tracked. An internal financial coding system is being set-up that will capture and track revenues and expenditures for each grant so that we can monitor the progress of active projects.

Staying along the lines of Finance, the Administration was able to realize a huge savings for the 2016 fiscal year. After the combination of additions of the new administrative staff, reductions, and other tough departmental adjustments, \$440,000 was ultimately eliminated from the need to utilize one time funding sources which amounts to \$2.5 million in the current 2016 operating budget. We are working diligently every day to find ways to eliminate this inherited deficit now and not waiting until December, so that we can continue to fill the gap as we move forward.

As Councilmembers, you are well aware that one of the biggest problems this Administration and Council are facing is the 2016 expiration of seven millages. The millages represent \$3.9 in Ad Valorem Taxes dedicated for public services including Fire Protection, Garbage, Roads and Road lighting, Recreation Health Unit and Library. The **RENEWALS** will be on the April 9, 2016 ballot and they are being levied at the same mills so residents will **NOT** see a change in their parish tax rolls. I will be working very closely with the Councilmembers, civic organizations and residents to get the word out into the community about how monumental these taxes are to the operation of Parish Government. As a Council and Administration, we look forward to moving our Parish forward in a positive manner, however, without this renewed funding, we will to encounter many difficult challenges, loss of services, and possible employee layoffs. We ask all of

our employees, friends, neighbors and citizens of St. Bernard to get out and vote “YES” to these renewals on April 9th.

The Road Department continues to close out complaints. Approximately 190 debris and 60 pothole complaints were closed out this past week.

The Film Department is working on creating a permit for all film and television productions which will organize the process while keeping the Council, Administration and Public abreast of movie production in the community and helping the film industry in St. Bernard grow as a whole.

Mena Movie Production, starring Tom Cruise will be filming in St. Bernard Parish this week. The St. Bernard Parish Sherriff’s Office and Fire Department will provide on-site protection and ensure public safety throughout the project. Various agencies are involved to help lessen the impact within the St. Bernard Parish Community.

The Tourism Office is currently working on the 2016 spring marketing and advertising campaign. They are preparing for the re-opening of the St. Bernard Seafood and Farmers’ Market on February 13th from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Aycock Barn. Any vendors wishing to participate please call the St. Bernard Parish Office of Tourism at **504-278-4242**.

We all love a parade and so did St. Bernard Parish Special Needs children as well as the group who traveled from Hattiesburg, Mississippi to enjoy the Nemesis Parade from the Parish’s Review Stand. The Krewe of Nemesis rolled with 19 floats in its 11th annual parade. I’d like to thank the St. Bernard Parish Fire Department who did an outstanding job supervising and helping out at the review stand and making sure everyone was safe. And last, but not least, a special thank you to the St. Bernard Parish Road Department who did an outstanding job cleaning up the parish immediately following the parade.

Respectfully



Guy McInnis
Parish President