

President's Report
Council Meeting of Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Good Evening Council Members, Ladies and Gentlemen:

St. Bernard Parish was fortunate to be spared from major damages and flooding due to the recent storms. In preparation of and during the storm, our Administration had our first Crisis Action Team (CAT) meeting. The Administration worked closely with Lake Borgne Basin Levee District and other public entities. All canals were pumped down; road crews cleaned street drains and removed debris from ditches and other problem areas. Entergy crews promptly and safely restored power to all customers who had outages due to the storms that came through Thursday night and Friday. Our Office of Emergency Preparedness remained in constant contact with the National Weather Service and everyone was kept abreast of weather conditions by Administration through press releases and social media. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those in the surrounding areas who lost their lives, homes and businesses.

On a lighter note, the **First Lady Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on **Sunday, March 20**, at 10:00 a.m. in Torres Park. Laurie and I would like for families to bring their children ages 1 to 10 to the park to enjoy a Good Ole Fashion Easter Egg Hunt that will include Sack Races, Family Twister, Egg on a Spoon Run and more. After the event, families are encouraged to visit the 40 Arpent Wetlands Observatory to enjoy the fun and excitement of paddle boating.

The **Grants Department** has been actively collecting information on current grants to ensure they are on the correct track forward; reconciling grant funds to identify additional funding, and leading grant monitoring sessions with outside entities to ensure continuation of grant income. The Department is also currently exploring potential grant opportunities involving coastal protection and habitat restoration, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, Recreation Department equipment, and improvements for the Government Complex Square.

We are utilizing HMGP dollars for canal and drainage improvements, the acquisition of new emergency generators and pumps and other projects that will contribute towards a reduction of flood risk for neighborhoods throughout the parish.

St. Bernard Parish Government Officials broke ground on the Old Arabi Planning and Streetscape Improvements – Phase I. The project will cost \$811,000 and is funded through various state and federal programs and is projected to be completed by October, 2016.

The 2016 **Working on the Water “WOW” Summit** will be held on **Tuesday, March 22**, at Docville Farm. All Louisiana Fishermen, Oystermen, Shrimpers, Charter Boat Captains and anyone interested in expanding their business, learning about new opportunities in disaster recovery, tourism, coastal restoration and government contracts are invited to attend.

The **Fire Department** will also begin Fire Hydrants Inspections on **Monday, April 4**. Fire hydrants throughout the parish will be opened for approximately two minutes to record water pressure and flow readings. This is a necessary procedure performed twice a year. Residents

may experience rusty water during this testing. By running water for five minutes the rust should be flushed and clear up.

John Rahaim, **St. Bernard Parish Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness** Director, recently spoke with the residents of the Hannan Manor concerning the upcoming Hurricane Evacuation Exercise to help citizens who want to evacuate during an emergency, but lack the capability to self-evacuate.

Louisiana has an official partnership with Belize and Haiti to enhance the ability for their country to be prepared for future natural disasters. John recently spoke to their group of Emergency Managers and exchanged ideas on emergency operations, procedures, planning, and disaster response.

The Louisiana Crawfish Festival will be held **March 31-April 3**, located on the grounds of the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex. There is a \$5.00 entry fee. The festival will have live entertainment, food, rides and crafts. The festival originated in 1975 and has grown to become a Louisiana tradition.

Reminder: Early voting for the Millage Renewals will begin on **Saturday, March 26 thru Saturday, April 2** for the upcoming **April 9th election**. These renewals are CRITICAL to providing vital public services, such as street lighting, curbside garbage pick-up, fire protection, and recreational services to our community.

Lastly, I am honored to announce that I've been appointed to the Coastal Protection Restoration Act Board by Governor John Bel Edwards. The Coastal Department and my staff have worked very hard with other governmental agencies and officials across the State to garner this important appointment. I am appointed to serve as a representative of the coastal zone located east of the Atchafalaya River and am one of only two Parish Presidents appointed to the CPRA Board. CPRA represents the States position and policy relative to the protection, conservation, enhancement and restoration of the coastal area of Louisiana. The board oversees the Coastal Protection and Restoration Trust Fund, enforces compliance with Coastal Master Plan and develops a master plan for integrated coastal protection. It produces an annual plan for protecting, conserving, enhancing, and restoring the coastal area.

I humbly accept this opportunity and challenge to represent you, the Council and all of St. Bernard Parish on this most important issue, confronting not only our state, but our country.

Guy McInnis
Parish President

MARCH 1, 2016 COUNCIL MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Wanda Alcon

- **Trash pickup around Angelique Apartment Complex**
Trash picked up
- **Hole on Caluda Lane & Judge Perez Drive**
Pothole fixed
- **Paris Road Ditches - Grass growing out of them**
Ditches cut

Nathan Gorbaty

- Sub-Contractors took down lights but forgot to put one light pole up in the 2400 block of Jackson
Lights put back up

Gillis McCloskey

- Feb 18 Council meeting -Government Website Ordinances can be updated on parish website. The last update was in 2014
IT Department is working on coding all old Ordinances and Resolutions for the website.
- **Kick ball game that the Council, Adm., Sheriff, School Board, Fire Dept., etc. will have on April 3**
Public information Notice
- Parish Volunteer Coordinator assigned to ask for outside volunteer services.
Denise Montabano assigned to coordinate the volunteer program.
- Street Lights out – Two blocks off of St. Claude on Mehle toward the River.
Entergy repaired Streetlights

Richie Lewis

- 620 Cougar, LLT Lot. Council voted to remove it from the build a bundle list. Can this be put back into commerce and on the website as available property?
620 Cougar will be removed and sold.

Monty Montelongo

- South Lake lights – The first four are out\
Lights repaired
- Violet Playground
Equipment is going to be removed due to its condition.
- Move playground equipment from Sebastian Roy (On School Board property)
Spoke to School Board and they are disassembling playground equipment.
- Gun Range – Pistol and Rifle Noise
Spoke with Sheriff Pohlman
- Set up meeting with the State to discuss the condition of Bayou Road. One part is about to collapse and the other is in need of repair.
Meeting with State set up for 9am Thursday, 3/17/16.

Kerri Callais

- Riverbend Oxidation Pond Environmental Issues
We did ten consecutive days of testing at the site and we currently have five days of data back. All tests have come back safely within the allowable range.
- Boards & Committee Applications being advertised. Make an Electronic Form available online on parish website (pdf) or direct the applicant to another site with a link.
IT added application to website. The applications for Boards and Commissions are online under the Forms section. We are looking at website providers.

Howard Luna

- Completed Streets Plan
The Complete Streets Policy will be part of the Comprehensive Plan of the Office of Community Development/BZA. We will be providing an Ordinance to the Council to incorporate the Complete Streets into further Construction, Planning and Capital Improvement Plans.

Public

Catherine Serpas

- People illegally hunting, trespassing, shooting guns behind her house
Spoke with Sheriff Pohlman

David Delise

- 3104 Plaza – LLT lot purchase.
Original documents mailed back to Mr. Delise on 3/10/16.
President McInnis spoke to Mr. Delise regarding this matter and it appears the sale of this property will proceed. The charges were \$5,358.