

The following ordinance, which was previously introduced in written form at a regular meeting of the Parish Council on October 14, 2003, a summary thereof having been published in the official journal, together with a notice of public hearing which was held in accordance with said public notice, was brought up for final passage on motion of Mr. Duffy and seconded by Mr. Farlough:

**ORDINANCE NO. 03-67**

An ordinance providing for the levy within the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, effective January 1, 2004, of a one-fourth of one percent (1/4%) sales and use tax (the "Tax") upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and upon the sale of services in said Parish, levying and providing for the assessment, collection, payment and dedication of the proceeds of such Tax and the purpose for which the proceeds of the Tax may be expended, such Tax having been authorized at a special election held in the Parish on May 3, 2003.

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Article VI, Section 29 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and other constitutional and statutory authority and an election held on May 3, 2003, the Parish Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana (the "Parish Council"), is authorized to levy and collect within the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana (the "Parish") a one-fourth of one percent (1/4%) sales and use tax (the "Tax") beginning January 1, 2004, upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and upon the sale of services as defined in Sections 301 - 317, inclusive, of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (R.S. 47:301 - 47:317), and other applicable statutory authority, pursuant to the following proposition which was approved at said election held on May 3, 2003:

**PROPOSITION**

**SUMMARY: 1/4% SALES TAX TO BE USED FOR PAYING SALARIES, BENEFITS, TRAINING, INSURANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ESTABLISHING A PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

Shall the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), under the provisions of Article VI, Section 29(A) of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and other constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto, be authorized to levy and collect and adopt an ordinance providing for such levy and collection, a tax of one-fourth of one percent (1/4%) (the "Tax") upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property and on sales of services in the Parish, all as presently defined in R.S. 47:301 through 47:317, with the proceeds of the Tax (after paying reasonable and necessary costs and expenses of collecting and administering the Tax) to be used to pay the salaries, benefits, training, insurance, administration and other costs associated with

establishing a paid fire department (the "Department"), which Department shall be initially staffed with a limited number of personnel, with said funds to be dedicated for expenditure by the Parish Governing Authority pursuant to an agreement with the Garyville Volunteer Fire Department, the West Bank Volunteer Fire Department, the Reserve Volunteer Fire Department and the LaPlace Volunteer Fire Department (the "Volunteer Departments"), which (so long as they provide adequate fire protection from their respective areas of service) shall provide that said Volunteer Departments shall recommend an annual operating budget and make staffing recommendations to provide fire protection in conjunction with said Volunteer Departments to the Parish Governing Authority and which shall further provide that funds derived from the collection of the Tax shall be kept in a special account for expenditure in accordance with state law applicable to the Department?

WHEREAS, in compliance with the aforesaid constitutional and statutory authority and said special election of May 3, 2003, it is the desire of this Parish Council to provide for the levy and collection of the Tax and to provide for distribution of the proceeds thereof and other matters in connection therewith as hereinafter provided in this ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Parish Council of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, that:

SECTION 1. Imposition. Pursuant to the authority of a special election held in the Parish on May 3, 2003, a tax is hereby levied upon the sale at retail, the use, the lease or rental, the consumption, and the storage for use or consumption, of tangible personal property, and upon the lease or rental of tangible personal property and on the sales of services in the Parish (the "Tax"), as defined by law. The Uniform Local Sales Tax Code, as enacted by Act 73 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature and as it may be amended (the "Act"), shall apply in the assessment, collection, administration and enforcement of the Tax to the extent required by the Constitution of the State of Louisiana and the Revised Statutes.

SECTION 2. Rate. The Tax is levied at the rate of one-fourth of one percent (1/4%) of the sales price of each item or article of tangible personal property when sold at retail in the Parish, the Tax to be computed on gross sales for the purpose of remitting the amount of tax due to the Parish Council and to include each and every retail sale. The Tax is levied at the rate of one-fourth of one percent (1/4%) of the cost price of each item or article of tangible personal property when the same is not sold but is used, consumed, distributed, or stored for use or consumption in the Parish, provided there shall be no duplication of the Tax. The Tax is levied at the rate of one-fourth of one percent (1/4%) of the gross proceeds derived from the lease or rental of tangible personal property, as defined by law, where the lease or rental of such property is an established business, or part of an established business, or the same is incidental or germane to the said business, or of the monthly lease or rental price paid by lessee or rentee, or contracted or agreed to be paid by lessee or rentee to the owner of the tangible personal property. The Tax is levied at the rate of one-fourth of one percent (1/4%) of the amount paid or charged for taxable services, as defined by law, performed in the Parish.

SECTION 3. Effective Date. The Tax shall be effective on January 1, 2004.

SECTION 4. Term. The Tax has no term limit pursuant to the proposition approved by the voters at the May 3, 2003 election.

SECTION 5. Purposes. The proceeds of the Tax shall be used as authorized by the voters in a special election held in the Parish on May 3, 2003, i.e., for the purposes stated in the proposition set forth above.

SECTION 6. Vendor's Compensation. For the purpose of compensating the dealer in accounting for and remitting the Tax levied by this ordinance, each dealer shall be allowed two percent (2%) of the amount of Tax due and accounted for and remitted to the Parish Council's collector in the form of a deduction in submitting his report and paying the amount due by the dealer, provided the amount due was not delinquent at the time of payment, and provided the amount of any credit claimed for taxes already paid to a wholesaler shall not be deducted in computing the commission allowed the dealer hereunder.

SECTION 7. Exclusions and Exemptions. The Parish Council adopts none of the optional exclusions or exemptions allowed by state sales and use tax law, nor does the Parish Council adopt any exclusions or exemptions authorized by legislation enacted under Article VI, Section 29(D)(1) of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974 that are not allowed as an exclusion or exemption from state sales and use tax. Included within the Tax base is every transaction, whether sales, use, lease or rental, consumption, storage or service, with no exclusions or exemptions except for those mandated upon political subdivisions by the Constitution or statutes of the State of Louisiana, including the Act.

SECTION 8. Interest. The interest on unpaid taxes provided for by La. R.S. 47:337.69 shall be at the rate of one and one-fourth percent (1-1/4%) per month.

SECTION 9. Delinquency Penalty. Penalty as provided by La. R.S. 47:337.70 shall be five percent (5%) per month, maximum of five thirty-day periods.

SECTION 10. Penalty for False or Fraudulent Return. Penalty as provided by La. R.S. 47:337.72 shall be fifty percent (50%) of the Tax found to be due.

SECTION 11. Negligence Penalty. The penalty provided by La. R.S. 47:337.73 shall be five percent (5%) of the Tax or deficiency found to be due, or ten dollars (\$10.00), whichever is greater.

SECTION 12. Penalty for Insufficient Funds Check. The penalty provided in La. R.S. 47:337.74 shall be an amount equal to the greater of one percent (1%) of the check or twenty dollars (\$20.00).

SECTION 13. Attorney Fees. The collector is authorized to employ private counsel to assist in the collection of any taxes, penalties or interest due under this ordinance, or to represent him in any proceeding under this ordinance. If any taxes, penalties or interest due under this ordinance are referred to an attorney at law for collection, an additional charge of attorney fees, in the amount of ten per centum (10%) of the taxes, penalties and interest due, shall be paid by the tax debtor.

SECTION 14. Penalty for Costs Incurred. As provided by R.S. 47:337.75, and under the circumstances set forth therein, a penalty shall be added to the amount of tax due in an amount as itemized by the Collector to compensate for all costs incurred in making an examination of books,

records or documents, or an audit thereof, or in the holding of hearings or the subpoenaing and compensating of witnesses.

SECTION 15. Distrainment Penalty. The penalty as provided by R.S. 47:337.76 in cases where the distraint procedure is used in the collection of the Tax shall be ten dollars (\$10.00).

SECTION 16. Limits on Interest, Penalty and Attorney Fees. Should the interest, penalties or attorney fees herein, or the combined interest, penalties and attorney fees be declared to be in excess of limits provided by other law, including relevant jurisprudence, then the maximum interest, penalties and attorney fees allowed by such other law shall apply.

SECTION 17. Collector. The Tax levied by this ordinance is authorized to be collected by a "Collector" which term shall mean and include the entity presently collecting sales and use taxes on behalf of the Parish.

SECTION 18. Powers of Collector. The Collector is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to carry into effect the provisions of this ordinance, to appoint deputies, assistants or agents to assist it in the performance of its duties, and in pursuance thereof to make and enforce such rules as it may deem necessary.

SECTION 19. Agreement to Collect Tax on Vehicles. With regard to the collection of the Tax on any motor vehicle, automobile, truck, truck-trailer, trailer, semi-trailer, motor bus, home trailer, or any other vehicle subject to the vehicle registration license tax, this Governing Authority, acting through the Parish President and on behalf of the Parish, for the collection of the tax on such vehicles, are authorized to enter into an agreement with the Vehicle Commissioner, Department of Public Safety and Corrections, as provided by R.S.47:303(B).

SECTION 20. Revenues of Tax. All taxes, revenues, funds, assessments, moneys, penalties, fees or other income which may be collected or come into the possession of the Collector under any provision or provisions of this ordinance relating to the Tax shall be promptly forwarded to the Parish and shall be deposited by the Parish in the special fund heretofore established and maintained for the deposit of such proceeds, which fund shall be a separate bank account established and maintained with the regularly designated fiscal agent of the Parish, provided, however, any amount which is paid under protest or which is subject to litigation may be transferred to a separate account established by the Collector with said fiscal agent pending the final determination of the protest or litigation.

In compliance with the said special election of May 3, 2003, authorizing the Tax, after all reasonable and necessary costs and expenses of collecting and administration of the Tax has been paid as provided for above, the remaining balance in such special fund shall be available for appropriation and expenditures by the Parish Council solely for the purposes designated in the proposition authorizing the levy of the Tax.

SECTION 21. Severability. If any or more of the provisions of this ordinance shall for any reason be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this ordinance, but this ordinance shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provisions had not been contained herein. Any constitutional or statutory provision enacted after the date of this ordinance which validates or makes legal any provision of this ordinance which would not otherwise be valid or legal, shall be deemed to apply to this ordinance.

SECTION 22. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption, being an ordinance affecting the public peace, health and safety.

SECTION 23. Publication and Recordation. This ordinance shall be published in one issue of the official journal of this Parish Council as soon as is reasonably possible. A certified copy of this ordinance shall be recorded in the mortgage records of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana..

This ordinance having been submitted in writing was then submitted to a vote, the vote thereon being as follows:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>
Cleveland Farlough	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Duaine Duffy	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Lester Rainey	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Allen St. Pierre	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Richard Dale Wolfe	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Ranney Wilson	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Jobe' Boucvault	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Melissa Faucheux	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Steve Lee	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

And this ordinance was declared adopted on this, 28th day of October, 2003.

/s/ Audrey Millet

/s/ Jobe' Boucvault

Secretary

Chairman

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Nickie Monica

Parish President