Patterson City Council Meeting

**Minutes of March 6, 2012**

**7:00 p.m., Public Hearing – Rezoning 601 M.L.K. from R-6 Residential to T-Trailer**

After being duly advertised, a public hearing was held to hear all comments and to take final action on the request for rezoning of the property at 601 M.L.K. Ave. from R-6 Residential to R-T Trailer. Dave Lowery, City Manager, reported that the issued had been reviewed by the Planning Commission, as prescribed by law, at a previous public hearing. A copy of the minutes from that meeting was given to the council for their review. After hearing all comments at the previous public hearing, the Planning Commission submitted a recommendation that the request for rezoning be denied due to the protests from residents in the immediate neighborhood.

The owner, Ronnie Turner, was present and explained that it was his intention to develop a mobile home park on the land. Also present were Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Smith, from 612 M.L.K., who expressed their opposition to the mobile home park, saying they were concerned about neighborhood security and conditions adversely affecting their peace and security. After a lengthy discussion, Larry Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Claire Sawyer, that the Public Hearing be closed, all voted, “Aye”.

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Minutes – March 6, 2012

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the city of Patterson, Louisiana, was held on Tuesday, March 6, 2012. The meeting was held at 1314 Main St. in the Council meeting room at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Rodney Grogan presided over the meeting.

Councilmembers present: Larry Mendoza, John Rentrop, Claire Sawyer

Absent were Sandra Turner and Joe C. Russo III

Also present was Russel Cremaldi, City Attorney, and Clay Breaud, with Providence GSE

**Regular Meeting**

The invocation was offered by the pastor of the Bayou Vista Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Troy Larive, present at the meeting representing the American Legion Post 242.

There was a brief discussion about adoption of new water rates, which appeared on the agenda. John Rentrop made a motion to table the issue in order for the ordinance to be published to meet the legal requirements, seconded by Larry Mendoza, all voted, “Aye”.

Troy Larive, representing the American Legion Post 242, requested a permit to hold a “can shake” fund raiser March 17, from 8:00 a.m. to noon, at the intersection of Main and Catherine St. Larry Mendoza made a motion to authorize the event, seconded by John Rentrop, and all voted, “Aye”.

Lynn Cline, representing Project Graduation at Patterson High School, requested a permit to hold a “can shake” fund raiser on March 10, from 8:00 to noon at the intersection of Main and Catherine St. Larry Mendoza made a motion to authorize the event, seconded by John Rentrop, and all voted, “Aye”.

Almetra Franklin, representing the St. Mary Community Action Agency, requested a resolution of support for the “Head Start” Program. She also informed the City that her agency would also sponsor and support the G.E.D. Program in our area. The mayor expressed his sincere gratitude for all her noble efforts in that regard. A motion to adopt the resolution of support was offered by Larry Mendoza, seconded by Claire Sawyer, and all voted, “Aye”.

Concerning the request for rezoning of 601 M.L.K. from R-6 Residential to R-
T Trailer, Councilmember Larry Mendoza, citing the recommendation from the Planning Commission that the issue be denied, and noting the neighbors in the audience still voicing their protests, made a motion to deny the request for that rezoning, seconded by Claire Sawyer, and all voted, “Aye”.

Claire Sawyer made a motion to adopt a resolution allowing the City to purchase a small school bus to be used for transportation for the summer recreation program and other special needs for the community like evacuation of senior citizens during emergencies. John Rentrop seconded the motion, and all voted, “Aye”

Claire Sawyer moved to adopt and sign an Intergovernmental Co-operative Agreement between the City and Morgan City High School in order to purchase the bus. The motion was seconded by John Rentrop, and all voted, “Aye”.

Concerning the AT&T franchise agreement, the City Attorney, Russel Cremaldi, pointed out that the City has an ordinance in place allowing the City to enter into franchise agreements informally with legal stipulations in place. As such the agreement in question was not necessary.

Skylar Noelle Webster and Rachael Lemoine came before the Council, representing the 2012 Cypress Sawmill Festival, the 22nd year of this festival. David Bourdier reported the activities that will be held this year and invited the Mayor and Council to the Queens Pageant and Luncheon on the 18th of March, and complimented Chantelle Guiotte on winning the Festival Volunteer of the year for 2011, at State-wide honor given to the most significant volunteer in State-recognized festivals. The festival will be the first weekend in April.

The mayor announced that the State’s Insurance Rating Commission notified us that Patterson’s Fire Rating dropped from a 5 to a 4, a significant improvement in our insurance rating that should mean cheaper fire insurance rates. He applauded the hard work of our Fire Department, especially Chief Sherel Martin, Asst. Chief Harry Boudreaux, and President Lonnie Easley, for their diligent efforts to achieve this rating.

Anne Perry, Patterson’s Project Manager in charge of our Louisiana Development Ready Community Project, was present and explained Patterson’s efforts to become accepted into the Community Readiness Program through the La. Dept. of Economic Development. The deadline for submittal of our plan is April 15th. A resolution in support was offered by Claire Sawyer, seconded by John Rentrop, and all voted, “Aye”.

It was announced that Patterson will compete in the State’s Cleanest City competition this year. A general clean-up will be held March 17th , from 9:00 – 11:00 starting at City Hall. The judging is to be March the 28th.

Russel Cremaldi read a proposed Cemetery Ordinance requiring minimum standards for upkeep and maintenance. Larry Mendoza made a motion to introduce the ordinance, seconded by Claire Sawyer, and all voted, “Aye”.

SWDI sent representatives to explain the lapse in services and to answer to complaints the City has been receiving from citizens for several months now. Bill Frey, Rob Stedney, and Ricky Bunns offered a sincere apology for the difficulties they have been having, and promised correct all the deficiencies. Additionally, they offered their assistance in the Cleanest City Contest efforts by providing dumpsters and containers for those extra clean-up efforts.

Providence GSE, represented by Clay Breaud, reported that Catherine St. side walk project had not received a work order from the State of Louisiana yet, and therefore would be delayed until it is issued. He expects the project to start close to the end of this month. The new water plant project is still progressing, and there is to be a meeting this March 15, at 3:30 with the City’s financial advisor who will be coming from a meeting with the State’s Bonding Commission that same day.

Howard Parsons asked to speak relative to parking tickets his daughter received. After hearing discussion, the mayor offered to have two councilmembers, the Chief of Police, and the mayor meet with Mr. Parsons to further discuss the issue.

There being no further business to come before the mayor and council, Larry Mendoza made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Claire Sawyer, and all voted, “Aye”.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Lowery, City Manager