**Minutes – June 6, 2017**

**Council Meeting**

**City of Patterson, Louisiana**

**The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Patterson, Louisiana was held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017. The meeting was held at 1314 Main Street in the Council meeting room at 6:30 PM.**

**Mayor Rodney Grogan presided over the meeting.**

**6:30 PM PUBLIC HEARING – A public hearing was held to discuss an ordinance levying a General Alimony Tax of 8.20 Mills for the year 2017, the Public Improvement Bond for Waterworks Issues Tax of 14.00 Mills for the year 2017, and the 2017 – 2018 Operating and Capital Outlay Budget. There was no public comment. The agenda stated a discussion on a variance request to rezone, but Russel Cremaldi, city attorney, stated it should read request to rezone 601 Martin Luther King from R-6 Residential to T-Trailer for the establishment of a trailer park. There being no further discussion, Councilmember Russo made a motion to close the public hearing seconded by Councilmember Mendoza. The council unanimously agreed.**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Mayor Grogan called the Council Meeting to order.**

**Brother Mark Gowan led the Invocation.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Russel Cremaldi.**

**Mayor Grogan asked for a moment of silence for Carey McBride "Mac" Staples, a former educator, coach and principal.**

**Mr. Russel Cremaldi, City Attorney, commented that** **we would have to amend new business # 5 from Discussion amending or repealing Charter to Introduction of Ordinances amending Charter. Motion was made by Councilmember Rentrop to amend the agenda to Introduction of Ordinances amending the Charter, seconded by councilmember Mendoza. A roll call vote was held. Councilmember Darnell, Mendoza, Rentrop, Russo and Turner voted yea.**

**Angela Shilling-Boyles, City Clerk, called roll. Councilmembers Darnell, Mendoza, Rentrop, Russo and Turner were present.**

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

**Motion was made by Councilmember Rentrop and seconded by Councilmember Mendoza to dispense with the reading and approve the May 2, 2017 Minutes. Councilmembers Darnell, Mendoza, Rentrop, Russo, and Turner voted yea.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Turner and seconded Councilmember Darnell to accept the submission of the financial statement. Councilmembers Darnell, Mendoza, Rentrop, Russo and Turner voted yea.**

**No public comments were made concerning the agenda.**

**The PHS Dance Team requested a can shake, but a representative was not present. Councilmember Rentrop said someone should be present when requesting a can shake.**

**Coby Roberson with Mount Pisgah requested a can shake to benefit the Scholarship Fund. Motion was made by Councilmember Mendoza and Seconded by Councilmember Darnell to grant the can shake. The Council unanimously agreed.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Rentrop, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza to adopt an Ordinance levying a General Alimony Tax of 8.20 Mills for the Tax Year 2017. Councilmembers Darnell, Mendoza, Rentrop, Russo, and Turner voted yea.**

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**Motion was made by Councilmember Rentrop and seconded by Councilmember Turner to adopt an Ordinance levying the Public Improvement Bond for Waterworks Issues of 14.00 Mills for the tax year 2017. Councilmembers Darnell, Mendoza, Rentrop, Russo and Turner voted yea.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Darnell, Seconded by Councilmember Russo to adopt a Resolution for the Annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the fiscal year 2017 - 2018.**

**Councilmembers Darnell, Mendoza, Rentrop, Russo and Turner voted yea.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Rentrop and seconded by Councilmember Mendoza to appoint The Daily Review as the Official Municipal Journal of the City of Patterson. The Council unanimously agreed.**

**The Planning and Zoning Committee met on May 30th to discuss the rezoning of 601 Martin Luther King from R-6 Residential to R-T Trailer. The Committee did not present a recommendation and referred the decision to the City Council. A notarized** **letter by the abutting neighbor was presented to Council. After a lengthy discussion, Councilmember Russo made a motion to rezone 601 Martin Luther King** **from R-6 Residential to R-T Trailer, seconded by Councilmember Mendoza. A roll call vote was held. Councilmembers Darnell, Mendoza, Rentrop, and Russo voted Yea. Councilmember Turner abstained.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Mendoza and seconded by Councilmember Rentrop to adopt a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Maintenance Agreement including Mowing and Litter pickup with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. The Council unanimously agreed.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Mendoza, seconded by Councilmember Rentrop to adopt a Resolution in support of The Recreational Trails Program for the Teche Project. The Council unanimously agreed.**

**There was a lengthy discussion by Russel Cremaldi, City Attorney, explaining the amendments to the Charter that where being considered.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Mendoza and seconded by Councilmember Rentrop to Introduce an Ordinance proposing the amendment to the City Charter by calling for a Charter Amendment Election to amend Section 4-03 of the City Charter so as to provide for the Appointment of the Police Chief by the Mayor; include provisions for the Police Chief’s grant of authority and persons eligible to exercise police authority; omit provisions related to the Police Chief’s salary, benefits, and restrictions on holding other offices and employment.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Mendoza and seconded by Councilmember Russo to Introduce an Ordinance proposing the Amendment to the City Charter by calling for a Charter Amendment Election to amend Section 3-05(2) of the City Charter so as to provide that the Chief of Police shall appoint, suspend and remove City Employees working within the Police Department with the advice and consent of the Mayor and City Council, except that the Chief of Police may suspend City Employees working within the Police Department for a period not to exceed ten days without the advice and consent of the Mayor and City Council.**

**Introduction of Amending the Charter Ordinances for term limits of Council Members and the Mayor failed.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Turner and seconded by Councilmember Rentrop to Introduce an Ordinance proposing the Amendment to the City Charter by calling for a Charter Amendment Election to adopt Section 4-03.1 of the City Charter so as to provide for term limits for Police Chief, if elected; the effective date of such amendment; and the application of such amendment on an incumbent Police Chief.**

**The other charter changes listed on the Agenda, Section 2-06 and Section 2-10 will be discussed at a later time.**

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**There was discussion on amending compensation for Board of Commissioners. These Board Members are not paid, they are volunteers. If any board members go to a conference, the city should pay for attendance, mileage, and hotel if stay is needed, with the approval of the conference agenda by the Mayor.**

**There was a lengthy discussion on the “Quiet Zone,” which concerns the train whistles at night. Mayor Grogan asked for input from the council and citizens in the audience. It was decided by all to be left alone because of safety concerns.**

**Motion was made by Councilmember Mendoza to declare vehicles that are of no use to the Police Department surplus, seconded by Councilmember Darnell. The Council unanimously agreed.**

**After a lengthy discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Mendoza and Seconded by Councilmember Russo to declare the Rip Rap at the Boat Landing Surplus. The Council unanimously agreed.**

**Steve Bierhorst, Public Works Director, said the Trash Truck is not working. Mr. Bierhorst got a quote from Empire for a new trash truck. A Lease Purchase would cost $125,000.00 at 0% for 5 years. Mayor Grogan said he wants a written statement from a certified mechanic stating that the trash truck can’t be fixed; and specs on a new trash truck for the next Council Meeting.**

**Reginald Weary, City Accountant, stated that Pelican Waste will start picking up trash and limbs this Saturday to assist the City.**

**The Council heard from the departments.**

**Lieutenant James Carinhas with the Police Department reminded citizens that school is out, be careful and watch for children. Slow down with the construction on Hwy 90. Hurricane season started; make sure you check your equipment.**

**Steve Bierhorst, Public Works Director, told Mayor, Council and Citizens how important it is for the public to put items in your garbage can if it fits in your garbage can, especially with the Trash Truck not working.**

**Mayor Grogan along with Steve Bierhorst explained how important it is not to put toilet wipes in the toilets. It causes our sewer system many problems.**

**The Summer Recreation Program starts at the Community Center on Monday, June 12th Through July 21st.**

**Sharon Gillum, Water Plant Supervisor, said the Consumer Confidence Report will be posted tomorrow.**

**Clay Breaud with Providence Engineering gave an engineering report. The water plant construction will begin June 19th. The automated water meters are going out for public bid.**

**There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, Councilmember Mendoza made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Rentrop. The Council unanimously agreed.**

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**Angela Shilling-Boyles, City Clerk Rodney A. Grogan, Mayor**