Minutes -April 4, 2023

Call Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

The meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Patterson, Louisiana was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. The meeting was held at 1314 Main Street in the Council meeting room at 6:00 P. M.

Mayor Rodney Grogan presided over the meeting.

Mayor Rodney Grogan called the Council Meeting to order.

Rev. Mark Gowan Sr from Word of Life Church in Patterson led the invocation.

Mayor Grogan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Holden Murry, Human Resources, called roll. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Lee Condolle, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach were present.

Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk, arrived at 6:10 p.m., switch places with Holden Murray who was sitting in for city clerk who was serving as juror on a Federal Grand Jury. Ms. Bourgeois arrived late from jury duty.

City Attorney Russel Cremaldi, C. J. Franklin from Providence Engineering and Chief Garrett Grogan were in attendance.

Motion made by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach and seconded by Pro Tem Lee Condolle to dispense with the reading and approve the March 7, 2023, minutes. Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle, Councilmembers Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, and Miranda Weinbach voted yes.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey to accept the submission of the financial statement. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan advised we need to amend agenda in reference to Surveillance Footage Agreement with Sugar Ridge 2023 Limited Partnership. More on this matter will be discussed later in the meeting. Mayor then asked if there were any public comments regarding amending agenda, no public comments. Mayor asked for a motion to amend agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle made the motion to amend the agenda and seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor asked public if there was anything on agenda they would like to speak about, there were no public comments.

Holden Murray, on behalf of the Community Development Department, advised that for the past few months they have been spotlighting different organizations or people in our community who are helping grow the community. Tonight’s spotlights are the Patterson High School Lumberjills who became District Champs in Basketball. Accepting award on behalf of the Lumberjills is Officer Linda Span, whose granddaughter plays on the Lumberjill’s team. The second spotlight went to Patterson High School Lumberjacks who went all the way to semifinals. Accepting this award was Head Coach Warrell Span. Coach Span advised it was a journey to get where they got, they came together as one, it is a brotherhood.

Ann Poole w/ St. Mary Re-Entry Program spoke of the upcoming job fair being held on April 19, 2023. Ms. Poole gave information on transition into the re-entry program, Second Chance. This program is for individuals after being incarcerated a second chance into society, jobs, housing, plus other. Most times an individual who has been incarcerated have burned bridges with family and friends, have no where to go after being released so they fall right back into jail. Second Chance helps these individuals to transition. The inmates can get assistance through the federal government to help get into program. When given the tools they need, these individuals thrive. The month of April has been declared “Second Chance” month by President Biden.

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Beverly Domengeaux with St. Mary Parish Council of Aging advised looking for drivers to delivery meals daily between 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. If anyone is interested, they can contact Mrs. Pat Blanco. A letter asking for the support of the Senior programs of St. Mary Parish Council on Aging was read by Mayor Grogan. Mayor Grogan advised the council that the City of Patterson gives an annual donation of $5,000 and was asking that the council approve this annual donation. A motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to approve this donation. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan asked that with all due respect that the following three items under Unfinished Business: (1) Approval of Ordinance #2023-03A, Amending rates for sewer service, (2) Adopt Ordinance #2023-03B levying a General Alimony Tax of 8.30 Mills for the 2023 Tax Year and (3) Adopt Ordinance #2023-03C levying a 12.2 Mills for Public Improvement Board for Waterworks issues for the 2023 Tax Year be placed on next month’s agenda due to we didn’t have a public hearing on these items. There will be no approval of the following items until there is a public hearing. Mayor does not want to be caught up in anything in case someone brings up items that were approved and there was no public hearing. Motion made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry to move items to next month for public hearing. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Reginald Weary, CFO, stated last week there was a meeting to discuss new water/gas meters. There were two presentations given by Aqua Metric and Core & Main. Tonight, the council needs to discuss a meeting held last week and decide which company to choose. The warranty for both companies are the same. The durability, accessibility and advancement of both companies were discussed. There were more pros for Aqua Metrics than Core & Main. Motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember DeMale Bowden to move forward for Aqua Metrics. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Reginald Weary advised the council he has one sealed bid plus an email with 2 bids that was sent to Steve Bierhorst that was not sealed. City Attorney Russel Cremaldi advised if not sealed then do not accept. The sealed bid for fire truck summited by JJ Merchant was for $877.77 and the unsealed bids were $1100 and $1300. The fire truck bid winner was JJ Merchant.

Reginald Weary, CFO, presented the 2023 – 2024 budget. Announced will do workshop for council to come in and see how the budget works. This budget will be showing a $300,000 deficit. Mr. Weary stated the two funds he needs to make sure are balanced and we are not over are the General Fund and the Utility Fund. These two accounts are used for the majority of our daily activities. In front of each councilmember is the entire budget plus the financials of where we stand today as per Mr. Weary. As the mayor stated at inauguration, this is your budget, so we want you to understand what is going on. We want to get where we can save $400,000 to $500,00. Budget will be introduced in May and adopted in June.

Mayor Grogan announced he received a Resolution from Kim Stansbury that he read in support of Legislation to create the Acadiana Regional Juvenile Justice District comprised of various parishes in or near the Acadiana Region. Mayor advised we need to support the Acadiana Regional Juvenile Justice District. The motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey in support of this resolution. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan requested a motion to declare the week of April 10th – April 14th as National Community Development Week. The motion was made by Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan read the Proclamation of Fair Housing Month in the City of Patterson. Motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember DeMale Bowden. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

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Mayor Grogan received a letter from Sugar Ridge 2023 Limited Partnership, they received close to a million dollars to upgrade the housing of Sugar Ridge Apartments. Part of the upgrade would be to install security cameras. This Surveillance Footage Agreement would allow our police department to go directly to look at cameras if something were to happen instead of having to get a warrant. Motion to enter into this Surveillance Footage Agreement made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Chief Grogan thanked the council for everything they do for the police department.

Sharon Gillum with Water Plant had no comments.

Holden Murray announced “Love the Boot Week” for clean up day in the City of Patterson on April 22, 2023, then on May 6, 2023, is the Color Run. Received a grant for $8000 from Keep Louisiana Beautiful. Holden also advised they are doing a tornado relief campaign to help the people in Mississippi. Mayor Grogan did announce that the Garden Club came before him and asked if we could paint the entrance sign. They will be sprucing up the landscape.

C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering advised they have submitted multiple applications for the sewer lift stations whether with Community Funding or Capital Outlay; they are awaiting those decisions. Sent in an engineering agreement for the City of Patterson to review. The 2022 Street improvements were completed almost two months ahead of the completion date of March 31, 2023. Capital Outlay funding currently available was increased from $451,000 to $592,633. Mayor Grogan reminded that the application is fine but without having specs it is shovel ready, the money goes to shovel ready.

Russel Cremaldi, City Attorney had no comments.

Mayor Grogan would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter and remind them that the Week in the Word Campaign of the New Testament will be held in the City Hall parking lot tomorrow night at 4:00 p.m.

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

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Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk Rodney A. Grogan, Mayor