Minutes -August 1, 2023

Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

The meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Patterson, Louisiana was held on Tuesday, August 1, 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.

Pastor Ronnie Mabile with Redeemed Life Fellowship led the invocation.

Councilmember Miranda Weinbach led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk, called Roll. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem were present.

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to dispense with the reading and approve the July 11, 2023, minutes. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach 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 asked that they expand the agenda for one item on the continuation of the discussion of the Patterson Housing Authority. It was stated that 8 or 9 applicants were received for the Executive Director position but need to go into further discussion. Mayor Grogan asked that a motion be made to amend the agenda. A motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. A roll call was made by Mayor Grogan. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

There were no public comments from the public on amending the agenda.

Dee Hymel with Roots & Ribbons Foundation along with Colleen Hammonds spoke on the mission of the foundation. Ms. Hymel stated that the foundation is a 501 © 3 non-profit corporation dedicated to serving St. Mary Parish residents who need assistance with medical expenses related to breast cancer such as screening, and diagnosis. Roots & Ribbons will be hosting “Puttin” on the Pink, a 5K race and 2-mile walk at Morey Park in Patterson on Saturday, October 7, 2023, starting at 4:00 p.m. to raise Breast Cancer awareness and celebrate survivorship during October Breast Cancer Awareness month. A packet of all information was handed out to the mayor and each council member. A request was made to hold this event in Patterson at Morey Park. A motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Jameson Sennette spoke about his business proposal to open up a laundry mat business called All-Clean Laundry in the old field house at the Community Center on Church St. Mr. Sennette advised the council he has been working on a business proposal with Holden Murray with our Economic Development Department, he agrees to become a Shop Patterson participate as well. Mr. Sennette gave the mayor and council a copy of his business proposal plan and lease. Holden Murray stated that Mr. Sennette has been working very hard for the past year on his business plan to go with his proposal. Holden Murray advised it is not common to find someone this interested in doing a renovation like this and dedicating yourself like Mr. Sennette to getting a business plan together. The proposal stated a 1-year lease, but the city attorney advised the city to give a 1-year lease with options. This would require an Adoption of an Ordinance in the form of a lease when need be. Mayor Grogan advised that Mr. Sennette needs to reach out to South Central Planning for a program they are offering if you have the plan and especially if you speak with the bank, stated South Central Planning has the money for small businesses.

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Mayor Grogan took the recommendation of the public housing authority commissioners and moved it up into unfinished business. At last month's meeting, Ms. Veronica Johnson submitted a letter of resignation to resign from the board, as of yesterday, July 31, 2023, the time frame was up but she is asking for 2 more weeks because at this time we only have 9 applicants to apply for the Executive Director of the Housing Authority. As per Mayor Grogan, it is best for those familiar with that board and what the needs are so therefore he is asking the city council to extend the time on board so that the board can review the applications and do interviews. At present two new people want to be on the board to replace the two that are getting off the board, but we need to check to see if a daughter-in-law and a mother-in-law both serving on board which could be a conflict of interest. Mayor Grogan asked the city council to extend the resignations of the two people on the Housing Board Council to 3 months. Motion made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Roll call made by Mayor Grogan. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes

C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineers spoke on the sewer lift station upgrades. Mr. Franklin advised the lift stations will be left where they currently are, all the walls will be redone, and the entire lift stations will be completely redone. A PER (Preliminary Engineers Report) was provided for recommendations and the recommendation stated going with Alternate 2, upgrading all nine sewer lift stations at their current location. Lights will be all around the lift stations, and all stations will have cameras and will be right away to maintain lines. Mayor Grogan made a motion to proceed to move forward to upgrade all 9 lift stations. The motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. There were no changes to the 2022 Street improvements or the Water and Gas Meter Replacement.

Mayor Grogan advised that he, Reginal Weary, and Alan Taylor met with John Armato and Jeremy with Darnell Sikes and Frederick. They have agreed to become the City of Patterson’s new auditors. A motion was made to hire Darnell Sikes and Frederick as our new auditors. A motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Roll call by Mayor Grogan. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. Mayor Grogan then asked the council for approval to proceed with the Engagement letter. A motion to move forward was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Miranda Weinbach. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan asked for consideration of an action on a litigation contract related to PFAS water contamination. Steve Bierhorst advised that water contamination has been found. A motion was made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden that the city would move forward to enter into the legal services contract with the discretion of the mayor to add any additions about the litigation to benefit the city and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Roll call by Mayor Grogan. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Chief Garrett Grogan had no announcements.

Holden Murray stated the Community Development department would like to thank everyone for the last two weekends three community events were going on: Color Run, Cornhole Tournament, and part 2 of the Mental Health Seminar. Mr. Murray advised that all 3 were very successful and the next grief support group will be on August 26, 2023, at Patterson Community Center from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. It was also announced that the Community Development Department applied for a grant, “Keep Louisiana Beautiful, we were one of the groups selected. Announcement If you want to receive city alerts about water being turned off, community events, or other general information please text Patterson 1, Patterson 2, Patterson 3, Patterson 4 to 91896, You will receive an alert to your cell phone. Shop Patterson will start in September through December.

Mayor Grogan announced that October 12, 2023, is Business After Hours at Patterson Community Center, and October 14, 2023, is Fall Fest.

C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineers stated we have spoken on the lift stations and will be moving forward with the rehab of nine sewer lift stations. Advised been working very hard and diligently on

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the Natural Gas Grant. Mayor Grogan thanked Mr. Franklin for being engaged in helping with this grant. Will need 3 million dollars for gas lines to go all the way to Bayou Vista, this includes everything.

Ronald Davis has no comments.

Terry Space had no comments.

Reginald Weary had no comments.

Mayor Grogan announced he and the council along with Reginald Weary, Holden Murray, and Midge Bourgeois were leaving on Thursday, August 3, 2023, for LMA Conference in Alexandria, we are up for an award so stay tuned to Facebook.

Beverly Domengeaux with the St. Mary Council of Aging wanted to thank everyone who brought fans for the elderly; they came in handy with this heat. Ms. Domengeaux thanked the council for going out in public to different events to be with the citizens.

Mayor Grogan recognized Stephanie Hartman who was in charge of the Back to School Bash in Berwick for St. Mary Parish. Ms. Hartman stated they were able to bless over 536 kids and also donated 100 backpacks and school supplies to South Social Services

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

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Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk Rodney A. Grogan, Mayor