Minutes -December 5, 2023

Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

The Mayor and Council of the City of Patterson, Louisiana meeting was held on Tuesday, December 5, 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. Wendell Howse led the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said in unison.

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

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

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

Mayor Grogan stated to the council that in their council packets is the monthly financial report submitted by CFO, Reginald Weary. At this time the deficit is about $500,000 with $200,000 from overtime pay due to the drought causing water line breaks and repair, and payments to contractors for their work on these water breaks. Councilmember DeMale Bowden asked if the city has a Finance Committee that works with Reginald Weary, a reference to a representative from the council. Mayor Grogan stated that the finance consultant is Alan Taylor, an accountant the city hired to work with Reginald. Mayor Grogan did state that the day the council was sworn in, he stated that the council controls the budget, you all have been doing well, but the unavoidable things need to be balanced out, and honestly the budget should be adjusted each month. It was stated that if any questions, the council could go sit and discuss with Mr. Weary at any time. A motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry to accept the financial statement submission. Mayor Grogan did Roll Call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

There were no public comments.

Heather Bersegay with Mission Church of Patterson – approved for a Christmas parade to be held in Sugar Ridge Subdivision on December 16, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. The Mission Church’s goal for this event is to bless the children in the neighborhood. Would like a police escort plus a fire truck. Will be handing out toys to the children in the neighborhood. The 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.

Keri Hill and Briana Alexander – Patterson High School Beta Club – were approved for a can shake on December 16, 2023, and January 4, 2024.

Sandra Turner /Tina Johnson – approved for a 5K run on April 13, 2024, benefiting a scholarship fundraiser. The motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey 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.

Angelena Brocato with the St. Mary Parish Hospital District spoke on hospital services, and gave an update on the hospital district, explaining the importance of bringing back labor and delivery services to Ochsner St. Mary. Ms. Brocato asked the Mayor and Council for their support in this effort.

Approved vending machine agreement with G. Rentals, LLC to put vending machines at the shop and City Hall. The agreement states that 15% of gross amounts are paid into the vending machines, the term

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of the agreement is for one calendar year, and G Rentals is solely responsible for the maintenance. A motion to enter into an agreement with G. Rentals, L.L.C. was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey 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.

Pastor Castine advised the council it has been a long time coming but changes are coming to the Patterson Housing Authority. Pastor Castine introduced the new board Chairperson, Ms. Whitney Breaux, and the new co-chairperson, Ms. Tempest Jackson. Reverand Patrick Jones was introduced as the new Executive Director for the Patterson Housing Authority. Pastor Castine thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as chairperson and to be on the Housing Authority Board but will be stepping down from the Patterson Housing Authority Board. Pastor Castine will be resigning on December 31, 2023, and the new Executive Director, Reverand Jones will begin on December 20, 2023. Mayor Grogan advised Reverand Jones, the new director, that HUD board members will need to become civil service, they all will need to take Ethics classes, and the board members will have to be sworn in by Mr. Russel Cremaldi, City Attorney. The board can be sworn in in January 2024. Reverand Patrick Jones stated he is very grateful for being chosen as the new director, looking to do some great things for the housing and this community. Councilmember DeMale Bowden thanked the Housing Authority Board for moving forward. Mayor Grogan thanked Councilmember DeMale Bowden for stepping up with his initiative and passion for the Housing Authority and to continue. Mayor Grogan commended Councilmembers Ray Dewey and DeMale Bowden for actually saving the possibility of the Housing Authority being turned over to Berwick/Morgan City Housing.

Scott Hutton, Fire Chief came before the mayor and council to discuss getting a debit card for the Patterson Volunteer Fire Department account. It would only be one card, locked up with only the Chief and Assistant Chief to have access. Mr. Hutton stated it is getting harder to use checks at certain places these days, you have to pay with a debit or credit card. Mayor Grogan stated that Mr. Hutton came before the council because, in the Audit Report for 2020, it is stated that no debit cards will be issued. Russel Cremaldi stated that in 2013 a resolution authorizing the adoption of a credit card policy was placed in the personnel manual, this was for the city. The card's name will be under the Patterson Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Cremaldi stated that an ordinance would be needed, and will need information on who will oversee the card, and a letter from the Patterson Volunteer Fire Department Board would be needed requesting to allow the Fire Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief to get a debit card as per Mayor Grogan.

Chief Garrett Grogan announced on December 16, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Place Norman Shopping Center the Police Department will be hosting Buckle Up with Santa. Chief Grogan stated they will have instructors at this event showing parents how to put car seats in and make sure it's buckled correctly, also Santa will be at this event so please bring the children.

Holden Murray announced that many events are coming up such as this Saturday, December 9, 2023, the Office of Finance/ Economic Development will host a leadership business conference called “That’s My Business” beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Patterson Community Center plus the Christmas parade will be held on December 10, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Murray announced that he is starting a new tutoring program called Tutor Up Patterson in February 2024. In March 2024, Mr. Murray stated that he and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle will be wrapping up their program called Southern Economic Inclusion program, also announced yesterday he received confirmation they have been invited and accepted into a new program called Southern Strong Cities Initiative. This initiative is still with the National League of Cities, how it works is that we have access to funding to come up with any project that is based on improving the quality of youth in this area.

Mayor Grogan announced that on Monday, December 11, 2023, the Christmas lighting will be from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. so make sure you have your lights on, then on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, we will be joining Reginald Weary for his graduation with Leadership St. Mary. Also, on December 16, 2023, Ms. Latrina Benjamin will be having a Cocoa Christmas from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 1522 Cherry St., which is open to the public.

C.J. Franklin w/Providence Engineering announced that the bid opening today for the Sewer Lift Station Rehab was at 10:00 a.m., the winning bid was with E. B. Feucht out of Eunice, LA for $2,444, 701.00, this was the only bid to come in. Councilmember DeMale Bowden made a motion to accept the bid

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from E. B. Feucht for $2,444,701.00 and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. The gas grant decision will be in January 2024 as per Mr. Franklin.

Russel Cremaldi, City Attorney, advised he put together an agreement, sent it to the Town of Berwick’s attorney today to look over, and gave the engineers a hard copy of the agreement. Mr. Cremaldi stated we will need to discuss how to go about the rates, Mayor Grogan stated that we will need to get with the Louisiana Municipal Gas and they will give us the rates study. Mr. Cremaldi also stated that we check the contact with our supplier to make sure there are no prohibitions stating where we can not do this. We will need to check to see if there are any regulatory approvals we need from anyone. This will only be for emergency supplies where it will kick in as needed.

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

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Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk Rodney A. Grogan, Mayor