Minutes -February 9, 2023

Special Call Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

The Special Call meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Patterson, Louisiana was held on Thursday, February 9, 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 Mo Seneca from Lighthouse Community Church led the invocation.

Councilmember Mamie Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk, called roll. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Lee Condolle, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach were present.

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

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey to dispense with the reading and approve the January 3, 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 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 ask to amend agenda, will have to do separately, however, one is Krewe of Armani annual parade and block party, the second is to add Slade Sanders as a guest to address the temporary locking of restrooms at Morey Park and third is to add Resolution of Respect for 92 year old Bessie Mae Butler. Motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry to amend the agenda and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan asked if any comments from public in adding Krewe of Armani parade and block party on Monday, February 20, 2023, adding Slade Sanders, Chairman of Main Street to address locking restrooms at Morey Park, and Resolution of Respect for Ms. Bessie Mae Butler. There were not comments. Mayor Grogan announced that we got a motion to amend so now we need to get approval for all three topics. A motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey to approve 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.

Scott Hutton, Fire Chief was approved for a boot shake on March 11, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Mr. Hutton then invited everyone to come by to see the May Day training. Mayor then advised to Scott about great turnout for banquet and it was great that the council supported our fire department by attending.

Slade Sanders, Chairman of Main Street, advised he got an alert in reference to a post on Facebook about a child that got locked in the men’s restroom in Morey Park. The women’s bathroom was out of order due to people destroying and damaging the bathrooms. Mr. Sanders stated the urine, feces, broken doorknobs, hypodermic needles that has been found in the bathrooms is disgusting which he and city workers had to clean up others filth. Due to some in the public not having respect these bathrooms will be locked. If a function is going on in the park, the person holding function can come to City Hall and get a key, will need a copy of their driver’s license; this will hold the person hosting an event responsible. Cameras will be repositioned to give a wider view to catch whoever is destroying the property. The bathrooms Cherry St. Park will start being locked at 7:00 p.m. after the doors are changed at the bathrooms at that park. Signs will be put up plus Chief Grogan advised they will go lock doors after events.

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Mayor Grogan asked if any comments from public on what is being discussed at tonight’s council meeting, there were no public comments.

Mayor Grogan announced the appointments of Planning and Zoning Committee. Paulette Dewey, Mark Gowan, Jr., Eric Stewart, Jr. and Cedric Wilson are returning on the committee. Travis Darnell ask to be appointed on this board. Motion made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Lee Condolle. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro-Tem voted yes.

Mayor Grogan announced the appointments of the Housing Authority Board. All the board members advised they wanted to go back. The Board members are Richelle Lewis-Carline, Latoya Johnson-Darnell, Veronica Johnson, Tai Paul and Gail Williams. Motion made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded Councilmember Miranda Weinbach . Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro-Tem voted yes.

Mayor Grogan advised there will be no action on appointments for the Park and Recreation board at this time.

Mayor Grogan announced the appointments on the Patterson Community Center Board. C.L. Grogan, Edward B. Jones, Regenia Leonard, Holden Murray, Renee Broussard Stelly, and Sandra Keys Turner will be returning. Ms. Lisa Wilson Terrance Johnson came highly recommended and was appointed to the board also. This group will govern solely and primary the Community Center as per Mayor Grogan. Motion made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle. Mayor did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro-Tem voted yes.

Reginald Weary, CFO, discussed sewer increase for Wards 5 & 8. A letter was sent to the City of Patterson January 2, 2023, stating new rates goes into effect March 1, 2023. As a city we would need to increase our rates to compensate as well. Amendment was done a couple years ago with the CPI index to commence on January 1, 2022 plus to commence every year forward. Many years our sewer department was costing where it was not profitable so we were loosing money on sewer cost. We are now in line with cost versus revenues but this increase would put us back in deficit. The increase is around $1.30 per 1000 gallons. The city will have a rate study with LA Rural Water done, last rate study was in 2016, which is outdated. Rate studies on all utilities will be done, but this particular will have to be addressed sooner. Once a date is confirmed when they will come out, the city will provide information, have a special call meeting with council so everyone can come in , see presentation, and how to precede to make sure we are profitable and not trying to gauge customers and see service we need. At this time there are too many issues with the sewer pumps. Trying to get money now to upgrade all lift stations and the overtime is so high for pumps are constantly running due to people flushing baby wipes, synthetic hair plus other items down toilets and drains.

Reginald Weary, CFO spoked on the Water Meter Project. Bids were sent out for 3rd time for project. Aqua Metric, Meter Install Group, and Core & Main were bidders. Normally with Capital Outlay funds you would have to go with lower bid but things were done differently. Fortunately we were able to get the rest of the Capital Outlay funds, we declined the lowest bid, we resubmitted, now going through the criteria of what each bidder is offering and will go from there. Water meters is south of the rail and gas meters is for Bayou Vista.

Lenora Jones, Krewe of Armani Lieutenant was granted permit for the Krewe of Armani parade on Monday, February 20, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. then followed by a block party that will end at 6:00 p.m. Chief Grogan advised that was ok with he and his staff. Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro-Tem voted yes.

A Resolution of Respect was read by Mayor Grogan for the late Ms. Bessie Mae Butler. Motion made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden and seconded by to adopt a Resolution of Respect for the late Ms. Bessie Mae Butler. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro-Tem voted yes.

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Mayor Grogan announced Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Jr. has accepted to be advisor of the Cemetery Board. It is in the creation and evolving stage where we do not have any members for the board. Councilmember Ray Dewey was asked to assist. Mr. Dewey has been very involved in helping try to clean up property. This board will need 7 to 9 members. Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Jr. explained how this became a revenue for the City of Franklin. Mr. Bowden also explained how the steps in getting developed.

Chief Garrett Grogan had no matters to discuss.

Sharon Gillum had no matters to discuss.

Terry Space had no matters to discuss.

Holden Murray advised the 3rd Annual Color run site will give live February 10, 2023, will be on Facebook, City of Patterson website. Funds go toward summer programs, feed programs, Community Development, Homecoming presentation for kids. Also advised the last round of ACT class training will be on Friday afternoon, February 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. for Juniors and Seniors. This April another class will be held for Sophomores.

Mayor Grogan announced that Councilmember Miranda Weinbach has been appointed advisor for the Main Street committee.

Slade Sanders, Chairperson for the Lower Atchafalaya Historical /Cultural District announced on Saturday, February 11, 2023 starting at 6:00 p.m. will be hosting “Moonlight on the River” in Morey Park. There will be food trucks, bar, live acoustic music.

William Gil, Zoning and Planning thanked the mayor and council for passing the zoning maps. All the maps were digitized back to 1897, if you would go to the City of Patterson website, on the building page you will see all the maps current, far back as we have them and the old city maps from the courthouse for the public to view. Advised there is link for all the zoning and all the building codes for the website.

C.J. Franklin of Providence Engineers advised that the 2022 street project is almost completed, Mr. Franklin will look to see if infrastructure money will cover repairs on Park St., 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th streets as per Mayor Grogan’s request. Mayor advised to Mr. Franklin that Park St. with more school buses and trash trucks using this street it will crack down the middle. Patterson did not receive funds through Round 2 for the Water Sector Program. Mayor Grogan advised we will not speak on water yet, he wants to wait to see if we get the money from a separate fund than Capital Outlay.

Mayor announced that the Louisiana Housing Commission is offering 4% closing cost on new homes for police officers, fire fighters, public workers, educators. Mayor will be having a spokesperson for the Louisiana Housing Commission come speak with the employees. Will advised on date and time.

Reginald Weary advised council that if anyone wanted to come sit in on meeting Monday around 5:00 p.m. will be a good learning experience.

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

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Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk Rodney A. Grogan, Mayor