Minutes -July 11, 2023

Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

The meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Patterson, Louisiana was held on Tuesday, July 11, 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.

Mayor Rodney Grogan announced a 6:00 p.m. Public Hearing discussion on Ordinance #2023-06, amending the article entitled “Article II. Definitions of the Zoning Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances, City of Patterson, Louisiana, so as to amend, delete, and reorganize the definitions contained therein. Mayor Grogan asks if there was anyone who would like to speak on amending article, no public comment. Mayor made a motion to bring public hearing to a close. The motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to close the public hearing and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, and Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Pastor Lee Condolle with One Faith Fellowship.

Chief Garrett Grogan 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.

Motion made by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey to dispense with the reading and approve the June 6, 2023, minutes. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, and Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

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

Johnny Olivier, Jr. with Mt. Pisgah Masonic Lodge #40 spoke requested a can shake on Saturday, August 5, 2023, to help raise money for their scholarship funding. Motion made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach to grant a can shake. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, and Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan announced that Sundrea Butler – LockD’N Travel Ball was unable to make meeting for her daughter was selected last minute for World Series but is requesting a can shake for travel ball team. Motion made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Jr. and seconded by Councilmember Lee Condolle to grant a can shake at a later date. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, and Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Brodie and Cassandra w/Brodie’s Kitchen came before the council to get temporary permission to approve the municipal license subject. Mayor Grogan stated that Brodie’s Kitchen has acquired the Boiling Mad building to open up a restaurant. They have applied for their liquor license, they have advertised in the paper, but came to council to ask for temporary permission for it will coincide since they already applied with the state. They will have to meet a requirement and the requirement is 70% of homeowners’ approval in the proximity of restaurant. The owners of Brodie’s Kitchen have been given a list and so when the answer comes back from Baton Rouge then the City of Patterson will be ready to move forward to grant permission to sell alcohol given, they have 70% of the agreement of those in the area. Mayor Grogan advised there are several video poker machines in the restaurant and the owners of Brodie’s Kitchen would have to have the permit for this also.

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Russel Cremaldi, City Attorney advised council you want to approve license subject to owners satisfying the rules of the adjacent landowner according to the City of Patterson’s rules. License will be approved subject to owners complying with other items to be done. A motion to approve the Municipal License subject to their compliance with adjacent landowners was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, and Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Motion made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Jr. and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Weinbach on the adoption of Ordinance #2023-06, amending the article entitled “Article II. Definitions of the Zoning Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances, City of Patterson, Louisiana, so as to amend, delete, and reorganize the definitions contained therein. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, and Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan advised council that we received a letter of resignation from Veronica Johnson, Chairperson for the Patterson Housing Authority as of July 31, 2023. Mayor Grogan stated the primary responsibility for the Housing Authority is the board, when appointed to board that board needs to take everything seriously, know what they are getting into, and their responsibility. Mayor Grogan stated for past 13 yrs. since in office he has had to sign off on different items but after having a conversation with Ms. Gibbs of HUD in Baton Rouge, the only responsibility the City of Patterson has with HUD is appointing the board; we were never supposed to be signing off on contracts with the Housing Authority Director, we did not have to vote on anything. This is the primary responsibility of the Housing Authority Board. With the transition since Susie Mendoza left, it has made some of the board members nervous so they would like to depart. Ms. Gibbs with HUD asked that we get the board to calm down and start advertising for a new Executive Director, she asks that the board does not make a hasty decision and put someone in there right now. It was recommended that the current person working there now remain as the Housing Specialist and that no one be appointed until they can get some applications with qualifications for you are dealing with federal funding and more. Mayor Grogan advised that Ms. Gibbs stated that Patterson Housing Authority is not Civil Service. Mayor advised that the only thing that he has to do is appoint the board and the board services at the pleasure of the mayor. The mayor gets the council to vote on the board but according to the Ordinance it states the board serves at the pleasure of the mayor. The board cannot find any of the manuals, books, and other items so Ms. Gibbs with HUD advised us to just move forward. All applications will come to City Hall, and they will be turned over to the board. Ms. Gibbs stated to make sure the board gets someone very qualified for the Executive Director will be dealing with 102 -106 units, Federal grants and so forth. Mayor Grogan stated that you have to have a resident who is living on premises to be on the board, which one of the board members has been blessed by God to move out of the housing authority so she has asked to remain on the board once Ms. Veronica Johnson resigns. Again, as per Mayor Grogan, the board is the one in charge of the Housing Authority. Ms. Veronica Johnson thanks the mayor and council for allowing her to service on the board for 13 plus years, it is a very demanding job. She thanked everyone again.

Mayor Grogan discussed about hiring Alan Taylor as a financial consultant, advised that Mr. Taylor has been with the City of Patterson for years as the auditor with Kolder Champagne Slaven. When Alan moved to the Broussard area and went with the new company, Wright,Moore,DeHart,Dupuis and Hutchinson, LLC we, the City of Patterson, went with him for we were comfortable. Every day is a new day, as we finished our audit Alan asked that we actual consider hiring him on as a financial consultant and going with back with either Kolder Champagne Slaven or Darnall Sikes Frederick because he feels that with everything coming down the pipe with federal funding and all the other stuff with ARPA we really need to have a financial consultant on board for consulting. Mayor Grogan advised that for years we had David Riggins. Reginald Weary, the CFO, advised that in Alan’s capacity he is our auditor, at times we call him to ask him a general question but as the auditor Mr. Taylor cannot legally be our auditor and guide us. Mr. Taylor will keep stay with Wright, Moore, DeHart, Dupuis as auditor but he will be our consultant and help oversee the CFO on items as we need him to keep us out of the black. Mr. Weary stated now with the new federal funds/regulations, it is alot,so we need an expertise to guide with this plus its less expensive than hiring another CPA firm to consult for us. Mayor Grogan stated with all the funding coming in, if things were to go array, he is the one responsible so at the end of day he is the Chief Executive Officer, he would have to go before the Legislative Auditors and he would be the one found for malfeasance in office although that is not the mayor’s area of expertise.

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Mayor Grogan went on to state that we have been blessed for we have so much money coming for we have $1.5 million dollars coming in from the Federal Government for the rehab of the sewer left stations, $5 million coming from the state for the water plant, then $2.395 million coming from the state for the sewer lift station. Mayor Grogan went on to say we only asked for $3 million but we were blessed with the total of $4 million plus we have $451,000 for the completion of the water and

gas meters. With this amount of funding coming in, every penny has to be accounted for and has to be used specifically for what it was allocated for, so we definitely need a financial advisor. Reginald Weary, CFO, stated everything is being accounted for now but with these amounts we need to stay in compliance. The auditing took a little longer this year due to the city switching companies. Mr. Weary advised that with the wealth of knowledge Mr. Taylor has, he cannot really advise the way we need him to advise and do the audits. As per Mayor Grogan the monies are trickling down from Washington, D.C. but the rules and policies are changing every day, so you need to use the money then for as months go by, the rules and regulations change. Next month we will decide if we go with Kolder Champagne Slaven, or will it be Darnall Sikes Frederick because we have 3 months to get the Engagement letter signed. Mayor Grogan advised the council that he would like them to meet with Alan Taylor so that they will be able to know more of what he will be doing.

Mayor Grogan stated that at last month’s council meeting it was discussed about hiring a Grant Writer. Mayor Grogan advised that we move forward to advertising and interview for this position. Motion to move forward for advertising for a Grant Writer was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, and Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan advised that Mr. Murray and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle are working with the National League of Cities, we have gotten grant monies, now they are working on Economic Development. Mayor Grogan stated that Holden Murray, HR, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle are in charge of Economic Development for the City of Patterson in which we are now in the big league with Baton Rouge and New Orleans. It was stated that there were 16 cities chosen from the National League of Cities, out of the 16 cities, 3 cities were chosen from Louisiana: Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and the City of Patterson. Holden Murray, HR, and Economic Development advised that he applied for a grant opportunity with the National League of Cities, there is a program called the Southern Cities Economic Inclusion City Cohorts. Out of all the southern cities in the United States, the City of Patterson was one of the cities chosen. Mr. Murray went on to say that during the Covid 19 pandemic, economic decline and systemic racial injustice have all had an impact on cities across the south, with this being said with challenges comes opportunities. The Southern Cities Economic Inclusion City Cohorts help pump life back into the communities of the cities that were selected to bring them up to par with the rest of the cities in the United States. This grant was not funded by the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, but they received funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Holden Murray stated that City of Patterson is the smallest city in the Cohort, he and Mayor Pro Tem has been to Atlanta, then New Orleans, they are going back to Atlanta in October to meet with other chosen cities to learn from each other what works or does not work for their cities, this is all about partnership, not just a conference where they have to break down in discussion groups, solve problems, and so forth. With the funding given to the City of Patterson, Mr. Murray and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle has open up The Office of Economic and Business Opportunities which will serve the citizens of Patterson and the surrounding areas by offering programs and initiatives to guide into financial resilience. With this program, as per Mr. Murray, we will be providing personal financial resources, professional financial resources, personal growth, professional growth, and business opportunities. Within this new program Mr. Murray and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle are doing, they have 3 innovative programs coming up in the fall. One of the programs called “Shop Patterson” is a loyalty-based reward system to encourage shopping locally, the second program is called Patterson Builds Credit which is designed to increase financial literacy in Patterson through workshops, seminars, and incentives. Last but not least the third program is Incubate Patterson which is designed to develop small businesses and entrepreneurship including resume building, business plan development and seed competitions.

A Resolution of Retirement for Ms. Cathy Eaves was read by Mayor Rodney Grogan. Mrs. Eaves was recognized and presented with a “Key to the City” for 37 plus years of service with the St. Mary/Vermillion Community Action Head Start Agency, she has worked with many adults and children in our community and was a positive and influence person to many people. A round of applause was

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given to Ms. Eaves. Ms. Eaves thanked the mayor, council, and public for giving her the opportunity to serve. Motion made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Jr to adopt Resolution of Retirement for Ms. Cathy Eave. 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 Mr. John “Zeke” Knotts. Motion made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to adopt a Resolution of Respect for the late Mr. John “Zeke” Knotts. 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. Lucille Johnson. Motion made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to adopt a Resolution of Respect for the late Ms. Lucille Johnson. 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 Mr. Wally Griffin. Motion made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle 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.

C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering gave his report. Mr. Franklin announced they are working on the sewer lift stations. The PRS has been updated and the city should be receiving a copy if we have not already, they are working on a design and also will need to come with a resolution about exactly where one will be put. Mayor Grogan advised that there is a piece of property south of the rail, he will ask for the piece of property to be donated or the city to purchase to put the new Lucia lift station place for the one on Signe St. is actually in someone’s backyard and they would have to go through two backyards to get to it. Reginald Weary, CFO advised the goal was to get it out of the neighborhood for if we go across from where we are not it would be between 2 houses and an eyesore to neighborhood plus trying to not go through resident’s yards. It was also stated that with new state-of-the-art equipment it will be able to manage growth in the future. Mr. Franklin stated natural gas is the other big-ticket item, he will need complaints, leakages, if there were any multiple repairs or have any details on these issues. Mayor Grogan stated project proposals are due by August 31, 2023.

Holden Murray announced that July 22, 2023, will be the Color Run Replay since we got rained out on the first one and also the Corn Hole League is being held on Sundays at the Patterson Community Center. The money raised by joining the league goes back into the Community Development program.

Chief Garret Grogan had nothing to report.

Steve Bierhorst, Public Works Director had nothing to report.

Scott Hutton, Fire Chief had nothing to report.

Mayor Rodney Grogan announced this Thursday, July 13, 2023, the water will be turned off at 10:00 p.m. to repair a water line, water will be turned off approximately 3 hours.

Sharon Gillum, Water Plant Supervisor had nothing to report.

Mayor Rodney Grogan commended Terry Space and Ronald Davis along with their crew working in the heat, he asked they stay hydrated, and notified the public to help the crew in this heat, they will be changing their schedules to 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; this is until the fall. Mayor Grogan also stated that someone will be on call between 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in case something happens.

City Attorney, Russel Cremaldi had nothing to report.

Mayor Rodney Grogan gave an update on the parks. Morey Park is 90% finished so the monies received from Motel/Hotel taxes and so forth, the city will start on another park in Patterson. This was agreed upon prior to this council that the next park would be Park Street Park. Senator Brett Allain was able to get the city $15,000 as per Mayor Grogan. As per Steve Bierhorst, Public Service Manager stated at this

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time what is being done is material back the field by chopping it up, put a laser level on field, turtleback the field, they are still working on field, waiting for a good rain to see how it sets. Mayor Grogan advised that after the field is finished the old fence will come down, new fence put up, there will be 15 Elm trees planted to create a green space for shade. We also have another $25,000 that will be available to the city on August 1, 2023. The lights will be moved to the other side of the field and the type of lights that will be put up will project into the Housing Authority area and will provide better lighting. Afterwards where we go next on this park will be a walking trail, restrooms and so forth. As of right now, we are getting ready to restore Park Street Park.

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

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Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk Rodney A. Grogan, Mayor