Minutes -March 7, 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, March7, 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 Steve Porter from Patterson United Methodist Church led the invocation.

Councilmember Ray Dewey 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, Captain Clyde Phillips and C. J. Franklin from Providence Engineering were in attendance. Chief Garrett Grogan absent.

Motion made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Pro Tem Lee Condolle to dispense with the reading and approve the February 9, 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 Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry 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 for substantial completion for variant for the 2022 – 2023 road project. Mayor asked for a motion to amend agenda. Mayor Pro Tem made the motion to amend the agenda and seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach. Mayor then asked if there were any public comments in reference to amending the agenda, there were no public comments. 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.

Marty Harden with Bethel Pentecostal Church of Patterson spoke on behalf of the East St. Mary Parish Ministerial Alliance declare the week of April 2, 2023 through April 7, 2023 the week of “A Week in the Word Campaign of the New Testament” . Pastor Harden read the public proclamation of “ A Week in the Word Campaign of the New Testament” then presented Mayor Grogan a framed copy of this proclamation. Mr. Harden advised that the week before Easter there will be a public reading of the word of God each day in a different place. It will start in Morgan City on Monday, April 2, 2023 and finish in Franklin at the St. Mary Parish Courthouse on Saturday, April 7, 2023. On Wednesday, April 4, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. the reading will be outside city hall in Patterson.

Reginald Weary, CFO, discussed the continuation of the water/gas meter project. Advised we have concluded the analyst of the three vendors for the project. Had a five member panel, this panel consisted of Reginald Weary, Steve Bierhorst, Councilmember Ray Dewey, Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and Melanie Caillouet with Providence Engineering. They came up with a scoring pattern, which was finalized last Thursday, March 2, 2023. The two vendors that were chosen were Aqua Metric and Core & Main. Each vendor will present to the council a presentation. The panel looked at a variety of elements, advised that we do not need to take the lowest bid, plus wants to make sure we get something that lasts the term. Mr. Weary would like to do a special call meeting prior to next month council meeting and hopefully next month a recommendation can be made which company the City of Patterson will go with for the meters. He also advised that it is best to get everyone the information so the council can make the best decision on project for the future. Mr. Weary spoke with both vendors on Monday, they are just waiting to hear back from Reginald Weary for a date and time. Reginald will advise tomorrow of the dates of the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle advised these vendors to be detailed with information. Mayor Grogan advised with a Special Call meeting the public will be invited and can give their input.

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C.J. Franklin with Providence gave a report that the substantial completion inspection was conducted on February 13, 2023; a punch list was developed. Mr. Franklin provided a resolution for the city to accept the project minus the punch list items , where they will have 45 days to complete once the resolution is signed.

Mayor Grogan read the Resolution providing for the acceptance of work performed by Barriere Construction Company LLC in accordance with the Certificate of Substantial Completion for 2022 Street Improvements – Rebid. Mayor Grogan asks for a motion. Motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Steve Bierhorst discussed Declaration of Surplus on old fire truck. Mr. Bierhorst advised the council back in 2016, and an old fire truck was put up out for surplus bid, no bids were received. The Children’s Museum in Thibodeaux approached the city about the fire truck and wanted to place it on their playground. The gentleman from Berwick in charge of this project never brought the old fire truck to the museum, he housed it on someone else’s property uncovered for a few years. The owner of the property contacted city hall and wanted truck off her property. We need to get rid of the truck because the truck was parked after picking it up, it is on the driveway where the fire chief wants to set up training for the fire department. Truck is not worth a lot, doesn’t run. We need to surplus it so we can put it out for bid again. We need a resolution declaring this fire truck surplus and also authorizing the mayor to sell to the highest bidder. The minimum bid will be $800, will advertise once in paper, and bids will be accepted until 6:00 p.m. at next month's council meeting. Mayor Grogan asked for motion to declare fire truck as surplus. The motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Reginald advised of an ordinance prepared by City Attorney Russel Cremaldi amending rates for sewer. Mr. Weary advised that we are following in line with what the sewer district is doing. Their rates have increased by $1.39 per 1000 gallons and we will do pretty much the same. If we do not raise our rate, the city will absorb about $15,000 per month. Automatic increase (CPI) goes into effect on January 1, 2024, the rest goes into effect immediately, in fact, March 1, 2023. We are on a waiting list to have a rate study done with rural water, where they will do this for free. We need a current rate study done for other projects that the city may do. Projects will require current rate studies. Mayor Grogan asks for motion to introduce Sewer Ordinance #2023-03A amending rates for sewer service. A motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle.

Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Jr advised being appointed chairman to the cemetery board along with Councilmember Ray Dewey, he did a some research first to see if Patterson has an established cemetery; in research, Mr. Bowden found the property that Patterson is proposing to be a cemetery is not registered by the Louisiana State Board of Cemeteries. The council was advised that in their packets is a copy of the application of what the cemetery board is requiring in order to have a cemetery that is registered with the Louisiana State Board of Cemeteries. With city attorney, Russel Cremaldi’s guidance, we can begin processing to submit the Certificate of Authority form, once approved, then we can legally move forward to accept payments for cemetery plots plus move on to other ideas of the cemetery board. The city attorney, Russel Cremaldi advised in packets is the list of the first thing you would need to apply for Certificate of Authority for publically owned cemeteries such as charter, deed to property and more. Mr. Cremaldi advised the deed of property, in itself, can be a little confusing or we may need a little more work to perfect the ownership of the city. This also calls for a certificate of whoever has the zoning authority over the property saying the property can be used for a cemetery. An Act of Declaration will need to be done, but advised we hold off on that until we get all the requirements in place, if we were to hit a road block then we would have to undedicated property if not used for a cemetery. As per Mayor Grogan the property was surveyed by Providence Engineering. City attorney Russel Cremaldi advised we would need a land survey that lays out the cemetery layout, all gravesites, roadways, and so forth along with list of items needed. Mayor Grogan advised that at last

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month’s meeting he announced that Councilmember DeMale Bowden was involved and instrumental in development of cemetery in Franklin, La. He chose Councilmember Bowden to spearhead this project.

for he is a mortician and State Funeral Home inspector, he is at disposal to get this project moving forward. They will need to get a board formed, then will be working with CFO Reginald Weary to come up with a budget, infrastructure, drainage and other items, how to govern, which is a whole lot involved. A board will be formed and then line up everything up with what will be required.

Mayor Grogan advised the council that we need to take action on the Opioid Class Action lawsuit. A representative came before all municipalities 7 years ago to see if they wanted to participate in this lawsuit. This lawsuit was brought together by numerous defendants. ; City of Patterson participated in lawsuit, this will be some money to come to city for roughly 10 years. City Attorney, Russel Cremaldi explained more in detail regarding the Opioid lawsuit. This year, 2023, a settlement involving CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart. This particular lawsuit is for several billions of dollars and Louisiana is involved in the participating public bodies of Louisiana, so the state of Louisiana will get a portion to them over many years. Parish wide plans will need to be submitted, if plan is accepted, it will be funding. By joining settlement, the city is waiving their right to sue CVS, Walgreens and Walmart individually. Mayor Grogan asked for a motion for settlement. 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.

Reginald Weary advised the council that he met with representatives from Acadian Ambulance leasing space at the old city hall. As of now they are housed at the old jail free of charge. Recently the old city hall was vacated by the Berwick Library since renovations of their new library are complete. Now that the old city hall is available, Acadian Ambulance would like to lease part of the old city hall; they would just need a bathroom, kitchenette, place to do paperwork, place to rest, parking for vehicles. There are a few cosmetics that need to be done before anyone can move in. The mayor advised Mr. Weary that they along with any councilmember who wants to go walk through the building can in a few days. It is the city’s intention to rent out the building to several other agencies also.

Mayor Grogan advised he received a call from Washington, DC asking what we have shovel ready

C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering advised that he received the information from Mayor Grogan regarding the capping off water lines, and the teardown to remove fire station, old police station, and build a new fire station. Mayor Grogan advised he received a call from Washington, DC asking what we have shovel ready

Reginald Weary, CFO explained the introduction of Ordinance #2023-03B, General Alimony Tax. The introduction of this ordinance levying a tax of 8.3 mills for the tax year 2023 of all property situated in the City of Patterson subject to taxation, authorizing extensions by the Assessor of St. Mary Parish, LA. Mr. Weary advised the tax will stay the same as in the year 2022 but a public hearing will be held at next month’s council meeting. Mayor Grogan asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #2023-03B. A motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Jr. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Reginald Weary, CFO explained the introduction of Ordinance #2023-03C, Public Improvement Bond. The introduction of this ordinance is providing for the tax of 12.2 mills for year 2023, slightly higher than year 2022, on all property situated in the City of Patterson subject to taxation to pay for Public Improvement Bond for waterworks issues of the City of Patterson and authorizing extension by the Assessor of St. Mary Parish. A public hearing will be held at next month’s council meeting. Mayor Grogan asked for a motion to introduce Ordinance #2023-03C. A motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Major Clyde Phillips with Patterson Police Department had nothing to report

Steve Bierhorst had nothing to report.

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Mayor Grogan advised he received several calls with many street lights out around the city. He asked Major Phillips if officers notice lights out to please get address and report back this issue.

 Steve Bierhorst asked if the officers could get the street address and they can tie a yellow ribbon around the pole, then he can go out there, do assessment, get a number off pole then he will report to Cleco. Major Phillips advised he will have officers report information to him then he will get information to Steve Bierhorst.

Terry Space had nothing to report.

Fire Chief Scott Hutton had nothing to report.

Holden Murray had nothing to report.

Mayor Grogan stated that we were supposed to have the PHS girls Basketball team as guest tonight but they left today to go support the PHS boys Basketball Team in Lake Charles. He then asked to keep everyone on the road going to the game and the team in our prayers. The game is in Lake Charles starting at 5:00 p.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering gave his report. Funding must be done this year. We have to make sure whatever projects that we pick will be completed this year. Next project will be sewer lift stations but will need the mayor’s approval to work on specs. Mr. Franklin advised he can have them done. Mayor Grogan asked the council for approval to work on sewer lift project; council approved. Mr. Franklin advised the mayor and council that Barriere Construction completed the project for the 2022 Street Improvements almost two months prior to the substantial date of March 31, 2023. The council needs to adopt a resolution for the acceptance of work performed by Barriere Construction. This is a change order to add a culvert in the cul-de-sac on Shady Grove. The change order price was $24,529.09. Contract price prior to change order was $654,102.69 and the current contract price including change order is $678,631.78. Mayor Grogan asked for approval on the change order. A motion was made by Pro Tem Lee Condolle and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Russell Cremaldi, City Attorney had nothing to report.

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