Minutes -May 2, 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, May 2, 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. Matthew Ledet with Lighthouse Community Church led the invocation.

Delta Sigma Theta ladies led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Motion made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey to dispense with the reading and approve the April 4, 2023, minutes. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. Councilmembers Mamie Perry and Miranda Weinbach were absent.

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, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. Councilmembers Mamie Perry and Miranda Weinbach were absent.

Mayor asked public if there was anything on agenda they would like to speak about, there were no public comments.

Community Spotlights Awards were given out to the Patterson High School Lumberjacks Baseball team and the Patterson High School Lumberjill’s team. Senior Baseball players receiving certificates on the Lumberjack’s Baseball team are Alex Haven, Karson Paddie, Roy Jones, Josiah Jennings, and Thane Dinger. Senior Softball players receiving certificates on the Lumberjill’s Softball team are Rylie Chiasson, Kyla Samuels, Amaizn McGuire, and Samone Johnson. Chief Garret Grogan, Lumberjill’s Softball Coach was given a certificate and accepted Lumberjacks Baseball Coach certified since was not available.

Alexis Rack , President of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Franklin – Jeanerette Alumnae Chapter spoke on behalf of sorority. In attendance with Ms. Rack were members of Delta Sigma Theta. This month Delta Sigma Theta is celebrating red and white day in all municipalities of service area and the State Capitol in Baton Rouge. Ms. Rack wants to acknowledge the mayor and council how much they appreciate the work they are doing on behalf of the citizens of Patterson, and they stand in solidarity with the city in the efforts to improve the life and area of all citizens including children who represent. It was stated by Ms. Rack they have worked many years through projects with the city plus their projects that covers their 5-point program. Delta Sigma Theta thrust is Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, plus Political Awareness and Involvement.

Mrs. Pat Blanco with St. Mary Council of Aging was present for the signing of the Proclamation for “Older Americans” month. Mayor Grogan read and signed the proclamation. A motion was made Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and second by Councilmember Ray Dewey declaring the month of May as Older Americans. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. Councilmembers Mamie Perry and Miranda Weinbach were absent.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember DeMale Bowden to adopt Ordinance # 2023-03A amending rates for sewer service. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and Councilmember Ray Dewey voted yes. Councilmembers Mamie Perry and Miranda Weinbach were absent.

A motion was made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey to adopt Ordinance # 2023-03B levying a General Alimony Tax of 8.30 Mills for the 2023 Tax year of all property situated in the City of Patterson, Louisiana subjected to taxation therein, and authorizing extension by the Assessor of St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and Councilmember Ray Dewey voted yes. Councilmembers Mamie Perry and Miranda Weinbach were absent.

A motion was made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to adopt Ordinance # 2023-03C levying a 12.2 Mills for the year 2023 on all property situated in the City of Patterson, Louisiana, subject to taxation to pay for Public Improvement Bond for Waterworks issues of the City of Patterson, Louisiana, and authorizing extension by the Assessor of St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and Councilmember Ray Dewey voted yes. Councilmembers Mamie Perry and Miranda Weinbach were absent.

Mayor Grogan advised the council in their packets they have the introduction of the 2023 – 2024 budget. Advised that Reginald Weary, CFO gave a workshop for council plus presented this budget at last month’s council meeting. He also advised the public they have a month to look at budget for it will be posted on the City of Patterson website or they can come to City Hall and get a copy. Mayor Grogan asked for a motion to introduce the 2023 – 2024 budget. A motion to introduce the 2023 – 2024 budget was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey. Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and Councilmember Ray Dewey voted yes. Councilmembers Mamie Perry and Miranda Weinbach were absent.

Mayor Grogan read a proclamation for the late Mr. Willie Peters stating Mr. Peters served 25 years on the St. Mary Parish School Board, he was from the St. Joseph Community, but he benefited all through St. Mary Parish as a whole. A Motion was made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewy. Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and Councilmember Ray Dewey voted yes. Councilmembers Mamie Perry and Miranda Weinbach were absent.

Mayor Grogan announced we are in dire need of a grant writer. The mayor advised the council there are billions of dollars out there, but we have to have a grant writer to write grants for the City of Patterson to compete. Washington, D.C. advised the money is for the rural areas to catch up with the urban league and the larger cities. As per Mayor Grogan, we still have to compete. As of right now the City of Patterson has joined forces with the Town of Baldwin for a $3.5 million dollar grant in Washington, DC. By joining together with the Town of Baldwin and showing the need that will help us. We can no longer use our revenues; we are now at a 25% match due to showing we have money in this area, which is incorrect. A grant writer will benefit the City of Patterson because we are up for a new fire station plus we have to compete for the water sector. Mayor Grogan explained that a grant writer sits and constantly watches for grants on what we need and what will benefit this area.

C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering and Environmental Group LLC spoke on the rehabilitation of nine sewer lift stations. Mr. Franklin advised that he and Reginald Weary, CFO spoke on maybe moving some around and/or making them bigger and stronger in areas where it will make it better for the growth of the city, maybe not do all 9, we would need to see what will be best for the budget. There is data still being pulled on this, will need to get with Steve Bierhorst for there are certain stations that have no diagrams which is needed to get all the data on assessment where tanks can be moved too. Mayor Grogan advised this is reason we didn’t get the grant for we scored low due to Providence still needing all the data information. He also advised that right now there are 120 acres of land south of the rail, spoke with one congressional candidate and will speaking with others to see about getting an overpass at Red Cypress Road. One candidate advised we should go through DOTD for we do not have to go through infrastructure, we can go through what they consider as public safety. There was a house that burned down a few years ago across track due to a train was passing, our firefighters were on this side of track and could not get through. Mayor Grogan also advised that people are calling to put townhouses and hotels, but they will not do it without an overpass. When a train stops, they can be there for a while. Mr. Franklin advised he is willing to work with any grant writers we have and give them any information they may need. He also advises he is working on Block Grants; one is for the water and the other for a variety which is $50,000 each. Mayor Grogan announced that Patterson water score went from an 81 to a 94, asked Ms. Sharon Gillum, Water Plant Supervisor to stand, gave a round of applause for her hard work keeping our water safe. Mr. Franklin gave a shout out to our water operators and supervisors for giving the City of Patterson good quality water. Discussion on the Community Water Enrichment Fund where we could be eligible as city for up to a $50,000 grant to be used for improvement, rehabilitation, or construction projects for the water system. Mayor Grogan advised that $50,000 on water should be used for values that will shut off areas that need to be shut off for repairs when something happens instead of shutting off the whole city. As per Mr. Franklin, Barriere Construction has requested the Clear Lien Certificate from the courthouse . Mayor Grogan read the Resolution for the 9 lift stations rehabilitation from Providence Engineering. A motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle. Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and Councilmember Ray Dewey voted yes. Councilmembers Mamie Perry and Miranda Weinbach were absent.

Introduction of Ordinance #2023-05 by Mayor Grogan authorizing the city to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Acadian Ambulance, granting a right of use of the old city hall building, including term of right of use, consideration, and other terms and conditions. Mayor Grogan advised that Acadian Ambulance is located in the old police station, they are looking to downsize, and they are looking to rent. At present they do not pay anything at the old police station. Mayor Grogan and CFO, Reginald Weary has met with representatives from Acadian Ambulance about renting out one of the rooms at the old city hall; the representatives advised they just need somewhere to park their units, do paperwork, store equipment, get some rest. CFO Reginald Weary advised the city would rent out the front room and storage area. Mr. Weary advised they agreed on $400.00 per month for one room and a vault along with utilities. The only thing the city would have to do is put internet back in building plus put their own cameras on the outside. Acadian Ambulance will make minor renovations to accommodate their needs. A Motion was made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewy. Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and Councilmember Ray Dewey voted yes. Councilmembers Mamie Perry and Miranda Weinbach were absent.

Chief Garret Grogan had nothing to report.

City Attorney, Russel Cremaldi had nothing to report.

Mayor Grogan thanked Ms. Nancy Winslow and her daughter for finding a drainage system by Dollar General during cleanup for Beautification Day in the city that no one knew existed.

Scott Hutton, Fire Chief recognized Lieutenant Cade Suire and Captain Logan Samuels on completing the Officer’s Track Course at the FETA weekend Fire School. A round of applause was given to these two gentlemen.

Holden Murray thanked everyone for their participation in Beautification Day picking up trash in our city. Mr. Murray announced the upcoming Color Run this Saturday, starting at 8:00 a.m., there were over 25 sponsors, the route throughout the city will be posted on Wednesday, the t-shirts can be picked up on Friday at City Hall for those that want their shirts early. Last we received a grant from the National League of Cities which is to help with Economic Development. Mr. Murray advised he and Mayor Pro Tem were in Atlanta for this grant.

Ms. Carrie Johnson with Community Center advised the summer feeding program will start on June 12, 2023.

Mayor Grogan announced that Main Street will host Moonlight on the River on May 27, 2023, at Morey Park. The Patterson Garden Club ask that we help restore the flower beds at the entrance of Patterson and on Catherine Street, these two areas were cleaned up and look great.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle 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