Minutes -November 7, 2023

Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

The Mayor and Council of the City of Patterson, Louisiana meeting was held on Tuesday, November 7, 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.

Paster Mark Gowan, Sr. with Word of Life Fellowship Church led the invocation.

Councilmember DeMale Bowden 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.

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

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry to dispense with the reading and approve the October 3, 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. A motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach to accept the financial statement submission. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

There were no public comments.

Can shake for Patterson High School PTO was approved for January 13, 2024, between 0900 – noon. A motion was made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden and seconded by Councilmember Ray Perry. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan advised that the city was presented with quotes for Health Insurance from Frank’s Agency and Gallagher Insurance Company. The city decided to go with Gallagher Insurance Co. for health insurance for employees saving the city right at $220,000 per year. The package provided by Gallagher Insurance Company includes Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisana health insurance with vision and dental plans. A motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to move forward with a new company, Gallagher Insurance for health insurance. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Russel Cremaldi, City Attorney advised we just need a simple contract to enter into an agreement putting machines on city work sites, also stated that no ordinances are required. Mr. Russel advised that he can prepare a simple contract, minimum terms in the contract, and locations agreed upon by the city and vending machine company. A motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey to move forward 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 Lee Condolle voted yes.

The introduction of the Ordinance to authorize the city to lease the Old Field House building has been postponed.

The mayor read the annual evaluation letter regarding the St. Mary Parish tipping fees for landfill increase effective November 13, 2023, the parish council has approved a $2.50 per ton increase.

Page 2

Minutes – November 7, 2023

Council Meeting

Chief Garrett Grogan discussed signing a Correctional Communications Service Agreement between the city and City Tele-Coin Company, Inc. Chief Grogan explained that the old system now at the jail just supplies a telephone for the prisoners as they are trying to eliminate visitation to the jail. This new service would supply iPads in the cell to communicate with their family members and not have anyone come to the jail. The problem with coming to the jail is trying to prevent items from coming into the jail when they have contact with family members on the other side of the gate. This company will supply new phones and tablets for the prisoners to text or Facetime contact with family members. The tablets do not stay in the cells with prisoners, the prisoners will be allowed a certain amount of time on the tablet then it will be put back on the docking station. These are virtual visitations, as of now they have visits on Tuesdays and Thursdays but they may be able to visit more since it will be virtual visitations. Family members will put money on tablets just as they do on the phones and the police department will get a percentage of those funds. City Attorney, Russel Cremaldi stated this is strictly a services contract, so you do not need to use a public bid law whereas you only use the public bid law when you are purchasing equipment. It was stated again, that this would eliminate all visitation, this is not in violation for the prisoners will have contact with their loved ones through virtual visits. A motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey on moving forward with Correctional Communications Services Agreement. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan advised that he was contacted by Mayor Duval Authur of the Town of Berwick. There is a certain section, closer to Cameron Iron Works, inside of Berwick city limits that has low gas pressure. Mayor Duval Arthur would like to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Patterson to acquire gas as needed for the low-pressure area of the Town of Berwick. Mayor Grogan advised revenue wise would be good for the city and to get the ball rolling on this if the council is in agreement. City Attorney, Russel Cremaldi will draft up a Gas Sale Agreement between both parties to look over. After much discussion, Mayor Grogan asked the council if they were interested in going into an agreement with the Town of Berwick to provide gas on the low side. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle all stated they are very interested in going into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Berwick to supply gas to the low-pressure areas.

Mayor Grogan started a meeting with Ms. Gibbs and her associate from HUD. In the meeting were the HUD representatives, Clarence Robinson from Berwick Housing, Mayor Grogan, Holden Murray, Midge Bourgeois, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle. There was a discussion about whether to turn the Patterson Housing over to Berwick’s Board, which also governs Morgan City and let them handle Patterson Housing. Holden Murray stated that HUD gave their best-case scenario. HUD suggested keeping the housing in Patterson, getting an Executive Director ASAP, and letting Clarence Robinson mentor the board for 6 months. It will still be Patterson Housing, Patterson would still get the funding, and have an advisory board over the housing board. Councilmember DeMale Bowden motioned to accept Veronica Johnson's resignation with the Housing Authority Board and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Mamie Perry. Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem voted yes. Councilmember Ray Dewey voted no. The majority of the vote was accepted. A special Call meeting will be held on Monday, November 13, 2023, to take action on appointments to the Patterson Housing Authority Commission.

The motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey for a special call meeting and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to further discuss the Patterson Housing Authority. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry. Miranda Weinbach and Mayor Pro Tem voted yes. The special call meeting will be on Monday, November 13, 2023.

Mayor Grogan read a Resolution of Respect for the late Mr. Dean Lee Felterman. Motion made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey to adopt a Resolution of Respect for the late Mr. Dean Lee Felterman. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro-Tem voted yes.

Mayor Grogan read a Resolution of Respect for the late Mrs. Carolyn Johnson. Motion made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to adopt a Resolution of Respect for the late Mrs. Carolyn Johnson. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro-Tem voted yes.

Page 3

Minutes – November 7, 2023

Council Meeting

Chief Garrett Grogan had no announcements.

Fire Chief Scott Hutton had no announcements.

Holden Murray announced that many events are coming up such as this Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 3:45 p.m. The Veterans Day program will be held in front of City Hall and the Christmas tree lighting will be on November 19, 2023. Mr. Murray advised that on 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. Holden advised to please Shop Patterson, he and Mayor Pro Tem for he and Mayor Pro Tem have worked very hard on this project.

Mayor Grogan announced that Holden Murray was appointed to the board of the St. Mary Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Grogan announced that a certificate was dropped off at city hall and he was asked to present the certificate to Chief Garrett Grogan. This certificate was for the first French Bread Festival held in Jeanerette. Chief Grogan advised that he sent some of the officers to help in the area during the festival.

C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering gave a report, he asked for authorization for Providence Engineering to advertise the bidding notice with the newspaper. A motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry to permit Mayor Grogan to move forward with the bid process and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. A pre-bid meeting will be held on November 28, 2023, so that the bid opening be set for 10:00 a.m. on December 5, 2023.

Mayor Grogan advised on the issue on Facebook about a malnourished dog where the dog is being treated by a vet, there is no neglect of the dog. The ones posting on Facebook have spoken with the Chief of Police, and we have had the animal warden go out to check on the dog. The Facebook warriors were invited tonight to the council meeting. One of the people on Facebook replied to Mayor Grogan that he is out of state, and can’t attend the meeting. The owner has turned over copies of the paperwork from the vet stating the dog is going through treatment and has been going through treatment.

City Attorney Mr. Russel Cremaldi had no announcements.

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