Minutes -September 5, 2023

Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

The meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Patterson, Louisiana was held on Tuesday, September 5, 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 Ronnie J. Foret with Lighthouse Community Church led the invocation.

Chief of Police 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.

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

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach to dispense with the reading and approve the August 1, 2023, minutes. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

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

Bo LaGrange announced his candidacy for State Senate District 21.

Angelena Brocato announced her candidacy for St. Mary Parish Council at Large, District 10.

Charles “Butchie” McKinley announced his candidacy for St. Mary Parish Council, District 5.

Timothy LeBlanc announced his candidacy for St. Mary Parish Council President.

Les Rulf announced his candidacy for St. Mary Parish Council, District 5.

Jim Harvey announced his candidacy for the 2024 Presidential election.

Reginald Weary announced his candidacy for the St. Mary Parish Council at Large, District 10.

Katie Bourgeois, PHS Project Graduation – did not show up.

Linda Simmons – Band Booster – approved for can shake on Sunday, November 12, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Heath Leet – did not show up.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey to reintroduce Ordinance #2023-09 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 to use, consideration, and other terms and conditions. This reintroduction of the Ordinance is due to the terms has changed only, nothing else has changed.

Holden Murray, Human Resources spoke on the handbook policy update which the topic is Medical Marijuana. Mr. Murray stated that medical Marijuana is now legal in most of the states and the District of Columbia plus recreational marijuana is legal in most states, the current trend in the United States at this time is to legalize medical Marijuana for municipal purposes or any purpose and to decriminalize Marijuana. In Louisiana the Governor has signed an act stating if a state employee has been found with traces of marijuana or THC in their system they should not have to suffer any adverse punishments, they

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can’t be fired, suspended, or any punishments if medical Marijuana that is legal in the State of Louisiana is found in their system. We, the City of Patterson need to be proactive. Any employee who works in the gas department or Police department by Federal law can’t use any type of marijuana. When it comes to the Americans Disability Act (ADA) if a person has a disability you can not discriminate against them, however, the ADA does not approve of Medical Marijuana. By becoming proactive, if an employee has been licensed to use Medical Marijuana they must bring in their Medical Marijuana license in, have a copy made to be put into their employee folder and they can’t be impaired during working hours. A medical doctor has to prescribe the Medical Marijuana license and the person with the license will be registered with the Department of Health and Hospital so this part is the responsibility of the doctor, not the employer. Mayor Grogan advised that we move forward with changes in the handbook regarding gas employees and law enforcement employees ASAP. As for the other employees, make sure it is valid and they have the legal paperwork. Holden Murray stated he would add a Medical Marijuana clause in the handbook.

Mayor Grogan announced that Bo Duhe, District Attorney called him and other mayors wanting to meet with them regarding Lead-Cable litigation and looking at entering into a lawsuit where they need the parish and local government to commit. Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle attended this meeting, at this meeting it stated that “with your claims against various entities including AT& T for all claims you have for damages arising out of contamination from lead-wrapped cables collectively referred to as Claims, and the prosecution of those Claims. Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle stated everyone is on board with this and the attorneys taking the lead in everything to see what we can get out of it. Mr. Condolle also advised that everyone has to be on board and to make sure everyone in the parish is included. The cable itself has lead in it, this is underground, and traces of lead have been found. Bo Duhe asking that we consider joining in litigation. Steve Bierhorst advised that some of the people working on the PFAS litigation are working on the Lead-Cable litigation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to adopt a Resolution to commit all funds over the $5,000,000 General Obligation Bond Priority I State funds necessary to satisfactorily complete the project scope for Water Plant Improvements, Planning, and Construction (FP&C Project No. 50-MM9-23-01) and City will commit all funds over the $2,395,000 General Obligation Bond Priority 1 State funds necessary to satisfactorily complete the project scope for Rehabilitation of Nine Sewer Lift Stations (FP&C Project No. 50-MM9-23-02). Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Reginald Weary, CFO spoke on a contract with James Purpera Governmental Consulting to assist the City of Patterson with new funding and with ongoing/funded State Capital Outlay projects. The cost for this consulting firm is $4200 per year. Mayor Grogan stated to the new council that Mr. Purpera was a former Legislative Auditor and he would be the best person to have to control the $7,000,000. A motion to move forward with accepting a contract with James Purpera Governmental Consulting was made by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach and seconded by Councilmember DeMale Bowden. Mayor Rodney Grogan did a roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Chief Garrett Grogan stated that the Patterson Police will be hosting Night Out Against Crime on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Steve Bierhorst had nothing to report.

Sharon Gillum had nothing to report.

C. J. Franklin with Providence Engineering reported on lift stations that they are about 60% completed on preliminary plans and specs to have a meeting in the next 2 weeks. Mr. Franklin advised that Gabriel's lift station will need a submersible.

Holden Murray announced the Fall Festival is being held on October 14, 2023. During Fall Fest the Community Affairs Dept will be holding a Cornhole Tournament where proceeds will help with the Patterson Community Center

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along with a 5K Run with registration starting tomorrow, Wednesday, September 6, 2023. Truck or Treat will be held on October 31, 2023, at the Patterson Community Center, to register you can contact Holden at City Hall. Shop Patterson starts next week and on December 9, 2023, Community Affairs will be hosting a business seminar through the National League of Cities grant that was awarded to the City of Patterson.

Scott Hutton, Patterson Fire Chief announced on Saturday, October 7, 2023, the fire department will be hosting their open house from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. There will be games, serving jambalaya, and

Beverly Domengeaux, St. Mary Council on Aging announced on October 16, 2023, at the Senior Activity Center will be serving jambalaya, white beans, and a roll for $10.00, and on October 18, 2023, the annual meeting for the St. Mary Council on Aging will be held at Bayou Bend Wellness Center.

Mayor Rodney Grogan announced Chez Hope has their gala on September 28, 2023, at the Cypress Bayou Casino Pavilion.

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