Minutes -August 6, 2024

Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

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

August 6, 2024. The meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. in the council meeting room at 1314 Main Street.

Mayor Rodney Grogan presided over the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle led the invocation.

Councilmember Mamie Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Councilmember Mamie Perry made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle, to dispense with the reading and approve the July 2, 2024, minutes. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

There were no public comments.

Robert Williams – did not show up.

Dee Hymel, Christie Theriot, and Colleen Hammonds spoke on behalf of the Roots & Ribbons Foundation, a nonprofit organization serving St. Mary Parish residents undergoing breast cancer treatment or screening. This organization’s mission is to spread awareness of early detection and to offer some financial support to those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Roots and Ribbons requested approval to host their 2nd Annual “Puttin on the Pink” 5K Race / 2-Mile Walk at Morey Park in Patterson. This would occur on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. A motion to approve this event was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Holden Murray showed a PowerPoint presentation on the city’s new Health Dashboard, “Empowering Cities to Create Thriving Communities.” The APP for 2024 is “Put Us on the Map Challenge.” Out of 51 chosen cities, Patterson was the only city selected in Louisiana and the 4th in the Southern region. The website to access the dashboard to view is [www.cityofhealthdashboard.com](http://www.cityofhealthdashboard.com); it is now live if anyone would like to view it. Mr. Murray stated that acquiring data for this Health Dashboard can take up to 3 years. With this data, the city can apply for grants and do other research to help our citizens with high blood pressure or other health issues. Mayor Grogan thanked Holden Murray and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle for all their hard work with the National League of Cities for the City of Patterson, winning Honorable Mention for “Shop Patterson” at the Louisiana Municipal Association Annual Conference. A round of applause was given to Mr. Murray and Mr. Condolle.

Councilmember Mamie Perry moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle, to introduce Ordinance 2024-08, increasing Utility and Public Works Service Fees. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, 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 introduce Ordinance No. 2024-08A authorizing the City of Patterson to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Town of Berwick for the sale of gas. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Pam Washington gave an update on the city’s financials. Ms. Washington advised that she and Monica Mabile, Accounting Clerk, met with Police Chief Garrett Grogan and Fire Chief, Scott Hutton to see what their department may need. They will put the numbers together by departments to see what the city can or can’t afford, as this will be a part of the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget, which started July 1, 2024. Councilmember Ray Dewey asked Ms. Washington if we were on track to making a budget. She replied

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that she couldn't answer that question now, and it depended on the findings. At this time, they have to go in and run detailed reports, going over every line item in the budget to see what was spent in previous years, whether it was a one-time expenditure, whether it would be a recurring expenditure, or whether it is just what we need to do at this time. Ms. Washington said they would try to have the budget read by October.

Mayor Grogan advised the council that our September council meeting is set for Tuesday, September 3, 2024, the day after Labor Day. With the council's permission, he stated we can move the meeting to September 10, 2024. The council said they would like the meeting to continue on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, instead of moving it to September 10, 2024. The meeting will stay as is on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

Mayor Grogan made the following announcements. The Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2024. The Shrimp and Petroleum Festival Coronation Ball will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2024, at the Morgan City Auditorium, and the Ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Thursday, August 29, 2024.

Chief Grogan had no comments.

Fire Chief Scott Hutton had no comments.

Steve Bierhorst had no comments.

Ronald Davis stated that there were complaints of a gas smell on Cleveland St. Pipeline Integrity will be in to sniff out the gas smell and find the leak.

Sharon Gillum, Water Plant Supervisor, had no comment.

Terry Space had no comments. Mayor Grogan commended Terry Space and his crew for a great job on the grass-cutting.

C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering advised that they are still waiting for some pumps for the Lift Station project. As for the money the city is waiting on from the parish, Mr. Franklin advised that they have sent over all the information that was requested to Jenny with the parish so she can access the portal to get the money. He will follow up with her in the morning. Feucht has received the application for payment No. 3 backup documents, which are being reviewed.

Introduction of Ordinance #2024-08B levying the General Alimony Tax for 2024. The introduction of this ordinance levies a tax of 8.10 mills for the tax year 2024 of all property situated in the City of Patterson subject to taxation, authorizing extensions by the Assessor of St. Mary Parish, LA. A motion was made by Mayor 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.

Introduction of Ordinance # 2024-08C providing for the tax of 10.90 mills for the year 2024 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 motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mrs. Pat Blanco with St. Mary Council of Aging announced their annual fundraiser on Saturday, August 10, 2024. The event will include a bake sale, arts and crafts, and a Spaghetti dinner. All proceeds will go to the Activity Center.

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Holden Murray advised that he and Mayor Grogan have joined the Mayor’s Alliance to end Childhood Hunger. Mayor Grogan is the 39th mayor of all 50 states to join this alliance. The alliance fights to end childhood hunger because as the children return to school, sometimes the school provides the only meal they have. They will be working on trying to end childhood hunger in Patterson, so in the next few weeks, they will be working to give a back-to-school food box that will have a variety of food items like breakfast food, after-school snacks, chips, and other food items to help parents defray the cost because of the cost to get these children ready for school. If you are a City of Patterson resident with children, you will be entitled to a food box. You will need to register and provide information; limited boxes will exist. The city will be looking for sponsors, and this will be once a month. Grants from the National League of Cities will cover the funds for this alliance.

With no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilmember Mamie Perry motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle. The Council unanimously agreed. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. Councilmember Ray Dewey was absent.

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Rodney A. Grogan, Mayor

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Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk