Minutes -February 6, 2024

Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

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

February 6, 2024. 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.

Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle led the invocation.

The Council 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, Chief Garrett Grogan, and City Attorney Russel Cremaldi were in attendance. Holden Murray, Humar Resources was absent.

A motion was made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to dispense with the reading and approve the January 9, 2024, 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 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.

Linda Simmons with Patterson High School Band Boosters asked for approval to hold a can shake on Saturday, February 24, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. 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.

Howard Parker advised that every time it rains he can’t use his showers, flush the toilets, and so forth at his residence on Mill Road. He advised there Is a major problem with the sewer lines on Mill Road, this has been going on with several administrations. Mr. Parker stated the mayor has been great trying to get this straightened out when he has met with the mayor but is it a continuance issue and is asking the council when is he going to get help or how can he get help with this major issue? He went on to state that he has gone to the Police Department to try to file charges against somebody, he has spoken to the mayor and the mayor advised grants are coming to fix the sewer lift station. Mr. Parker also advised it has been over 700 days since they came to his residence to fix the outside where the plumbing was dug up and repaired but he is still having issues with sewer lines, they are still full of water, and this has been going on for 10 years. Howard Parker went on to say that on December 26, 2023 he had to wake up to sewage, toilet paper, and other trash at the end of Mill Road where Ronald Davis graciously came out to clean up. Mr. Parker asked what he have to do to get any help and does anyone appreciate this. He advised the sewer tops are vibrating ready to come off with all the pressure. Multiple times Mr. Parker asked to smoke test the lines but nothing has been done. Mr. Parker stated he has a video showing the manhole in his yard had 8” of water sitting on top, this is not a sewer problem, it's an infiltration problem. Mayor Grogan advised Mr. Parker that the sewer district is going to build a new sewer station which will help out. C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering and Ronald Davis will meet with Mr. Parker after the meeting tonight.

Mayor Grogan opened a sealed bid for a declaration of surplus. There was only one sealed bid turned in, the winning bid was J.J. Merchant Company from Purvis, MS whose bid was $277.77 for each vehicle totaling $555.54 for the two surplus vehicles. A 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.

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Pat Gordon with South Central Planning and Development stated a few months back the council approved Patterson Zoning Maps. An error was found on the setback showing side depth or side servitude was showing 10 ft where it should be a side depth of 5 ft. Mr. Gordon gave the correct version of setback depth to 5ft along with other changes. The change will need to be sent to Municode. City Attorney, Russel Cremaldi advised that he will prepare an Ordinance on this matter so that the council can approve it at the council meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry to declare the following police vehicles as surplus: a 2008 Dodge Charger, a 2011 Ford Crown Vic, a 2012 Chev Tahoe, and a 2012 GMC Savanna Van. These vehicles will be advertised in the paper. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Reginald Weary asked the council for approval to transfer funds from a couple of accounts to the operating account plus a couple of certificates of deposits, one CD matures next week, and the other CD will mature in April He would only take what is needed. These funds will get us through the short term, still a lot of work long term as long as we keep on track moving forward. Mr. Weary advised the council if they look at the financial report we are better this month compared to last month. This fund transfer will put us in the right direction to paying vendors. He advised once he gets the final numbers, he will only take what he needs to pay outstanding bills. Mr. Weary has access at the moment of about $350,000. Mayor Grogan stated at the Louisiana Municipal Association meeting last month it was stated, the financial advisors for the state advised that we are sliding into a soft recession and experiencing it this June. Mayor Grogan also advised that when Reginald Weary, CFO set the budget up last year, he set up a projection at one price for chemicals but as with everything else, chemicals have almost doubled if not more. We are not the only municipality going through a deficit. Louisiana Rural Water wants the city to do another rate study because they believe the rates are too low. Mayor Grogan also advised that we have a new budget that needs to be introduced by May and approved by June 30, 2024, to be able to roll by July 1, 2024. Mayor Grogan asked for a motion to get approval to make a bank transfer to the operating account. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and seconded by Councilmember Weinbach. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Councilmember DeMale Bowden asked Reginald Weary, CFO how the city is moving forward with recommendations to help make the financial numbers better. Mr. Weary stated that, for the most part, we are getting there, the overtime has gone down drastically, and the chemicals at the waterplant were discussed with Sharon Gillum but stated a couple of repairs need to be made to make the plant run as efficiently as possible, we can’t cut off services so the offset of that the chemicals are being used due to running the plant longer to make the same type of water and to keep safe. It was also stated last month the plant had to run extra hours. Mayor Grogan stated to Councilmember Bowden that Bayou Vista was feeding us water, we were feeding Centerville water, and Centerville was feeding us so this is where some of the time was coming in due to when we had all the breaks we had to depend on them and likewise when they had the breaks but overall there has been change. Reginald Weary stated that we are moving in the right direction. Mayor Grogan did advise that the on-ground storage tanks as discussed at last month's council meeting will cut down, but right now we do not have the storage capacity. Mayor Grogan did state that once on-ground storage tanks are in place we will be fine, he did advise that Sharon Gillum has to keep the water tower at a certain level.

Councilmember Miranda Weinbach advised Reginald Weary, CFO that she feels like we are coming along with all the recommendations that he has given the council and she stated to Mr. Weary that she commends him on all the work he has been doing but Councilmember Weinbach did want to make a recommendation on the Senior Feeding, after doing the numbers and research on expenses and donations, whereas the donations have plummeted the last few months, would like to drop the feedings to once per month until the city gets back on feet and can revisit the feeding program in July when this fiscal year is over. Councilmember Weinbach went on to say that sometimes great ideas are great at the moment but sometimes timing is off and at this moment it is not the right time to put forth this. Mayor Grogan advised the council this issue will need to be placed on next month's agenda for it is not on the agenda for tonight and you can’t vote on something that is not on the agenda. The council was asked by Mayor Grogan how they feel about this. Councilmember Ray Dewey advised he has mixed feelings.

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Chief Garret Grogan stated met with Reginald Weary plus Councilmember Ray Dewey in his office and advised they working on things on their end at the Police Department trying to get things minimized, if they don’t need it then they don’t get it. He advised that they have cut the majority of the overtime, and they took in more revenue for the month for $28,876.

C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering announced he was able to find the new project manager for the lift stations and has received the plans, LDH (Louisiana Department of Health) approved the SLS upgrade design on January 26, 2024, and Mr. Franklin stated he has been working on the backside to see how he can get match taking care of plus trying to get their guys to see if they can get is all forgiven, waiting for a phone call. Mr. Franklin advised he would look for reports from 3 years ago about Mill Road issues but advised that was before his time and would do what is right.

Mayor Grogan advised that he spoke with Tyrone Glover on a grant from Clay Higgins's office. This grant will be one for community facilities, this will be for a whole overhaul at the Community Center such as air conditioning and roofing.

Ms. Beverly Domengeaux with St. Mary Parish Council on Aging announced they are hosting their Mardi Gras Ball on Friday, February 9, 2024, at the American Legion Hall.

Russel Cremaldi, City Attorney had no announcements.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, Councilmember Mamie Perry 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