Minutes -March 5, 2024

Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

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

March 5, 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.

Pastor Wendell Howse with Bethel Pentecostal led the invocation.

Councilmember Ray Dewey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Grogan for a moment of silence for Sheriff Blaise Smith and Lance Corporal Nicholas Maurice Dural, grandson of former Patterson Police Chief Patrick LaSalle.

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, Holden Murray, Chief Garrett Grogan, and City Attorney Russel Cremaldi 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 February 6, 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 Ray Dewey 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.

Jean Picou with the Patterson Knights of Columbus requested permission to hold a Tootsie Roll drive on March 16, 2024, and March 23, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. until noon. A motion was made by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to approve the Tootsie Roll drive. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Alfreida Edwards with DPEC (Democratic Parish Executive Committee) advised that there are 2 Democratic party committees in St. Mary Parish, she advised the Democratic State Central Committee and the St. Mary DEPEC committee which she is a member of. Ms. Edwards stated the reason she was at the council meeting was to bring awareness and attention to the citizens of the parish and Patterson about the importance of voting. The election coming up on March 23, 2024, is the Presidential Primary preference election.

Holly Davis advised the council and public she was to present two heroes who saved her son Kalen Davis in a bonfire accident on December 29, 2023. Kalen was burned over 60% of his body. Ms. Davis stated that she thanked everyone from one end of the parish to the other end of the parish who reached out to her family and prayed for her family but she never thanked the two heroes. The heroes were Ms. Davis's other son, Cameron Davis, and their neighbor, Roy Jones. She shared with both of these gentlemen as a mother, what they did was incredible and there are not enough words to thank each one of them for their heroic response to saving Kalen. She thanked them for their courage and most of all for giving her baby back to her. Cameron Davis and Roy Jones were each given a certificate as being heroes. The audience gave both young men a standing ovation for their heroic actions.

Holden Murray announced there are two Community Spotlights. The first spotlight goes to the Patterson High School Lumberjills Basketball team for going to the playoffs and the second spotlight goes to Vista 21 Nutrition who was one of the first businesses to participate in the Shop Patterson program.

Page 2

Minutes - March 5, 2024

Council Meeting

A motion was made by Councilmember Ray Dewey and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle to introduce Ordinance No. 2024-03 authorizing the city to lease the Old Field House building, including term of lease, consideration, and other terms and conditions. Mayor Grogan did a roll call. Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Councilmember Ray Dewey, Councilmember Mamie Perry, Councilmember Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem voted yes.

A motion was made by Councilmember Demale Bowden and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry to introduce Ordinance No. 2024-03A to amend the “Side Depth” provision of Subsection 4.101 of the Zoning Code to reduce the required side depth from 10’ to 5’. Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Councilmember Ray Dewey, Councilmember Mamie Perry, Councilmember Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem voted yes.

A motion was made by Councilmember DeMale Bowden and seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey adopting a Resolution authorizing Mayor Rodney A. Grogan as the Official Project Representative for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program. Councilmember DeMale Bowden, Councilmember Ray Dewey, Councilmember Mamie Perry, Councilmember Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem voted yes.

Mayor Grogan announced that at the February meeting, Councilmember Miranda Weinbach wanted to discuss the Senior Feeding program. Councilmember Weinbach wanted to make clear to everyone that she does not want to cut out the Senior Feeding program completely, but she feels like with the budget issues this is a good time to take a temporary break for a period or so, revigorate donors, rebuild relationships with previous donors from the past and build volunteers up. She went on to say that as we all know donations have plummeted a lot over the last period. Councilmember Miranda Weinbach suggested that the feeding be cut back bi-weekly or monthly and asked if there is a way we tracking if these residents are from Patterson only and not from other areas. Councilmember DeMale Bowden asked how many people are fed weekly basis. Nina Singleton, Outreach Senior Program director stated they feed anywhere between 250 – 300 people each week and her cost per week doesn’t go over $200.00. People used to pick up 4 to 5 plates, now only 2 plates per person. Ms. Singleton advised they have already made adjustments once she took over the feeding program, her goal is to serve every week 200 people but if you tally up what was spent it was under $1.00 per person. C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering inquired how one goes about donating to such a program. Ms. Singleton advised that the donation can be brought to City Hall and given to the City Clerk, Midge Bourgeois, or if donations are given to her during the feeding, she then brings all donations to Holden Murray (Human Resources) or Midge Bourgeois (City Clerk). Ms. Singleton went on to say she makes copies of the donations, she keeps a copy for her records, and a copy is turned in with the donations. Councilmember DeMale Bowden asked if we are only feeding the residents of Patterson. Mayor Grogan advised we all know that we are not just feeding the residents of Patterson. Mayor Grogan asked Councilmember Weinbach and Reginald Weary, CFO that we have 4 months left in this fiscal year. What will 4 months do? Mr. Weary advised that this is part of the tough decisions to make, if he has to choose to pay a bill or feed the residents, he would need to choose to pay a bill. Holden Murray advised that he started the feeding program, it was only twice of month but then we had one donor who requested to pay for a feeding one of the weeks and another donor to pay for a feeding another week, this is how it went to 4 feedings per month, if a month has 5 weeks then there is no feeding that 5th week. Councilmember Bowden asked how many feedings going on throughout the parish. Mayor Grogan advised that AARP in Morgan City once per month, there is one in Franklin once per month, plus Council on Aging “Meals on Wheels” daily but even the Council on Aging budget is strapped. C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering advised he would like to make a personal donation of $2000 towards the Senior Feeding program and Pastor Patrick Jones with Good Hope advised they would make a yearly donation of $1000 towards the program. Councilmember Ray Dewey and Mayor Pro Tem also offered to give donations to the feeding program. Mayor Grogan asked Councilmember where she stands, she advised she would not like to cut. Moving forward there will be two meals per month.

Mayor Grogan asked that we merge the commissioners of the Patterson Community Center Board with the Patterson Recreation Board which is obsolete. Mayor Grogan advised you have a board appointed by the previous council at the Patterson Community Center, they are an active board but you have a Recreational Board that governs all the parks that are not active so they would like to merge and just make the board over the Community Center be over the Recreational Parks and the Community Center. The Community Center Board consists of Holden Murray, Sandra Turner, Renee Broussard Stelly,

Page 3

Minutes - March 5, 2024

Council Meeting

Terrence Johnson, Ed Jones, Regina Leonard, and C.L. Grogan. City Attorney, Russel Cremaldi advised that this should be on next month's agenda.

Patrick Jones, Sr, Executive Director of the Patterson Housing Authority asked for a gas key to fill up two trucks monthly. On average they are spending $350.00 for gas in two trucks to go pick up parts and so forth. With the grass-cutting season coming up, the cost will go up. Mr. Jones advised he would like to pay the city that money instead of the business they fill up their trucks. Mr. Jones also asked to contact one of the city’s gas meter readers to read the Housing Authority individual meters, the reason being to keep it transparent as well as ethical so no one is saying HUD is cheating on the residents' gas usage. This way HUD will have an outside source that is certified to read gas meters. He advised Morgan City is paying an outside contract person to read their meters. Russel Cremaldi, City Attorney will contact Morgan City Housing Authority to check into this further.

Chief Garrett Grogan had no announcements.

Councilmember Miranda Weinbach gave an update report on the issue at Howard Parker’s residence on Mill Road. A smoke test was done on February 27, 2024, on Mill Road, Bridge Road, and McGee Dr.. It was shown a few leaks were found at the trailer park across the street from the residence on Mill Rd that had the issues but there were no issues on the city’s end as for the issue at Howard Parker’s residence. This resident had a clogged vent. Steve Bierhorst advised that breaches were found in 5 services, 2 of the 5 have been repaired already, pressing for the other 3 to be repaired immediately and they plan on doing another smoke test.

C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering advised that LDH (Louisiana Dept of Health and Hospitals) approved the SLS upgrade design, once completed, the contractor will submit a confirmation letter to LDH stating that the project was constructed by the plans and specifications that LDH approved. Mr. Franklin advised that the Construction Agreement contract was sent by Federal Express and asked if the city received it yet. City Clerk, Midge Bourgeois, advised the contract was received, the Mayor signed all 5 copies as of today and the contract will be Fed Ex back to Desiree with Providence Engineering first thing in the morning.

City Attorney, Russel Cremaldi had no announcements.

Mayor Grogan announced that at the LMA Board meeting last week, it was announced to pay close attention to House Bill 37, for this bill will remove sales tax from groceries. We survive off sales tax, therefore, we all need to contact our Senator and our Representative to stop this bill from passing through for we can not afford to lose this money. Mayor Grogan also stated that the Night Bike Ride was a great success, they most likely try to hold a night bike run twice a month until it gets warm. There were about 37 riders.

Holden Murray stated on behalf of him and Mayor Pro Tem they wanted to thank everyone for Shop Patterson, it will conclude this Saturday with one more release with the Liquor Factory tomorrow. Shop Patterson was a great success with 280 active participants with over 1200 transactions. The grant money can not all go to Shop Patterson therefore some new fun things will be coming up. There will be a Shop Patterson II with new things. The National League of Cities is celebrating its 100th anniversary and organization where each key advisor for the National League of Cities to work with. The City of Patterson was chosen as one of the National League of Cities to work with. We also won the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Help Community grant that starts now. Our first flyer is out, Patterson Beautiful Inside & Out – we support a healthy and litter-free community! Mr. Murray invited everyone to take a picture with the new sign and he will post it on the City of Patterson’s page.

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.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk Rodney A. Grogan, Mayor