Minutes -February 4, 2025

Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

The Mayor and Council of the City of Patterson, Louisiana, meeting was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. 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.

Pastor Lee Condolle with One Faith Fellowship led the invocation.

Council 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 and Chief Garrett Grogan were in attendance. City Attorney Russel Cremaldi was absent.

Councilmember Ray Dewey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry, to dispense with the reading and approve the January 7, 2024, minutes. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan advised that we are going into Public Comments, and anyone who wants to speak on any matter on the agenda should please come forward.

* Charles McKinley spoke on the Community Center and why it needs to be kept open, highlighting all the good this Community Center has served to the citizens of the City of Patterson.

Vickie Melvin spoke on how she had to pay a deposit of $550.00 for water and gas at her parents' home. Ms. Melvin advised that her mother died in 2020 and she has been paying the bills. She turned off the gas in the summertime because they didn’t need the heater, but when she was ready to turn the gas service back on, she was advised of the large deposit. Her parents only had a $5.00 deposit, so when services are turned back on at a deceased person's home, new deposits must be made, and the service must be in the name of the person living at the residence. Utility Clerk, Julia May, explained to Ms. Melvin and the audience why new deposits must be made.

Sharthine Gant – no show.

McKenzie Marcel—Patterson High School Cheerleaders would like to have a can shake on February 22, 2025, between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Catherine Street by Dollar General. Chief Grogan advised that the date and time were reasonable. Councilmember Mamie Perry made a motion to approve this can shake, which was seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Kaylin with the Krewe of Armani asked permission to hold the Krewe of Lundi Gras Parade on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Councilmember Mamie Perry made a motion to approve the Krewe of Armani Lundi Gras parade, which Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle seconded. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. Permission was then given to hold a block party after the parade. In contrast, Chief Grogan advised that he had no problem with a block party but would need to be shut down at 5:30 p.m. Councilmember Mamie Perry motioned to approve Krewe of Armani Block Party, which Councilmember Ray Dewey seconded. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Alyssa Cart with Darnall, Sikes & Frederick explained a line item under Liabilities called Overdraft Fees in the 2023 – 2024 audit report. Ms. Cart advised that these are not fees charged for overdrafts, and they are not negative at the bank. All this means there are outstanding checks that are more than what is in the bank, but this can be current checks, old checks that were never cashed, which were refunds to customers, and so forth. This will need to be cleaned up. Overdraft fees are listed on the Income statement.

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Mrs. Beverly Domengeaux with St. Mary Council of Aging, presented her annual report. Ms. Domengeaux stated that they delivered 12,500 meals and 500 heaters, and served 5000 meals to the seniors at the center, and their membership is up. Ms. Beverly said that the request for home delivery meals has skyrocketed, but they do not have the staff to help with these meals, so if you know of any seniors requesting meals, please tell them to be patient, there is a waiting list. Again, Ms. Domgeneaux thanked Mayor Grogan, the City Council and the citizens of Patterson for all their help and donations.

Monica Mabile advised the council that packets were emailed to them on Friday. She is contacting CSDC to add a column for Y-T-D Remaining on the Income Statements as per Mr. Bowden's inquiry.

Councilmember Bowden stated since last council meeting, he has taken the time to review some information from the Community Center about FY 2023 -2024. He advised that he requested some expenses but has not received the information he asked for as of today. He spoke on the salaries in FY 2024-2024, what the Community Center brought in, therefore he shows that the Community Center is operating in the negative for FY 2023 -2024, still after several requests for information, Mr. Bowden has yet to receive the requested information. Mr. Bowden went on to explain at last council meeting the employees and the Board of the Community Center stated they don’t have a budget set so now he advised as we sit here a month later, if any employees or board members of the Community Center here at meeting and can you answer if a budget was created. Board member Sandra Turner advised that a budget was not made. Councilmember DeMale Bowder went on to state since the center in operating in the red, no budget created then he recommends certain hours the center be open, since City Hall can not handle the books it is advised that Board members and employees of the center come up with a way to receive and process bookings promptly which examples were given by Mr. Bowden. It was also recommended that the employees pay an hourly pay of $12.00 - $15.00 per hour.

* Councilmember DeMale Bowden motioned to keep the Community Center open three days a week with only one employee working the hours. There were no second motions—this motion failed!
* Councilmember DeMale Bowden moved for the Community Center Board and employees to successfully receive bookings; Councilmember Bowden rescinded this motion.

Councilmember DeMale Bowden discussed the American Recovery Plan from a previous meeting, which former Accountant Reginald Weary presented on August 2, 2021, where he presented the breakdown plan over 3 years, this was about raises. Further discussions with additional pay cuts by tiers only to employees that received funds through the American Recovery such as if an employee received 18% over 3 years then they are cut an additional 7%, employees who received 2 years of raises will be cut an additional 3%, employees with 1 year will get 1% back. Employees who did not receive any raises from the American Recovery Fund will get their 5% back. Councilmember DeMale Bowden made a motion for these cuts; There were no second motions—this motion failed!

Mayor Grogan advised that before any further discussion on Health Insurance can proceed, this motion must be brought out of table since it was tabled last month by Councilmember Mamie Perry. Councilmember Mamie Perry declined to take insurance out of table.

Councilmember DeMale Bowden presented the a sample vehicle log and discussed City Vehicle Logs. Steve Bierhorst explained that every vehicle has a designated number and GPS in a system that tracks mileage, gas usage, and which employee filled the vehicle. This is for all city vehicles. Mr. Bierhorst went on to explain to all councilmembers that if they would get with him, he would be more than glad to show them the tracking system.

Mayor Grogan read a Resolution of Respect for Mr. James Duchane. Councilmember Mamie Perry moved to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan read a Resolution of Respect for Mr. Clarence Griffin. Councilmember Mamie Perry moved to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Councilmember Ray Dewey. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

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Mayor Grogan read a Resolution of Respect for Mr. Add Crosby, Jr. Councilmember Mamie Perry moved to adopt this Resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Sharon Gillum, Waterplant Supervisor gave an update and explained the TTHM Waterplant response. Ms. Gillum went into detail about the samples taken by the state, explained how they are taken quarterly, and explained the sample taps placed throughout the city and why it is essential to have these taps. Ms. Gillum advised that if anyone has any questions, she can be reached at (985) 992-8105 any time, day or night. You can also make an appointment to see how things are done. She stated that the City of Patterson’s water is safe; we have the cleanest and safest water.

C.J. Franklin with Providence Engineering advised that the point repairs work started on January 16, 2025. Signe St. and Tall Timbers began on January 27, 2025. Mr. Franklin suggested they were not told to hold off on the city’s Federal Funds.

Mayor Grogan asked that we keep Mr. Russel Cremaldi in prayers.

Mayor Grogan announced that Kim Guarisco, the city’s Billing Clerk, has retired after 23 years with the City of Patterson and that Kelly Jennings is our new Billing Clerk.

Councilmember DeMale Bowden asked to be removed from the financial committee.

Robin McGuff, a city worker, thanked Mayor Grogan, the council, Chief of Police, Steve Bierhorst, Terry Space, and Virgil Walton for allowing him to work for the City of Patterson to better himself and provide for his family.

With no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilmember Mamie Perry made motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle. The Council unanimously agreed.

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Rodney A. Grogan, Mayor

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Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk