Minutes -March 11, 2025

Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

The Mayor and Council of the City of Patterson, Louisiana, meeting was held on Tuesday, March 11, 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.

The council led the Pledge of Allegiance in unison.

Mayor Grogan asked for a moment of silence.

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

Murtado Mousa from Providence Engineering was in attendance; Police Chief Garret Grogan and City Attorney Russel Cremaldi were absent.

Councilmember Mamie Perry made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle, to dispense with the reading and approve the February 4, 2025, minutes. Councilmembers Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. Councilmember DeMale Bowden absent.

Mayor Grogan stated that there is an error or item 3 under New Business. It states an Introduction but is just a Discussion of the Electronic Traffic Enforcement Ordinance.

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.

Sandra Turner said she would like to commend and thank the following council members: Miranda Weinbach, Ray Dewey, and Mamie Perry regarding the Community Center. She stated that Councilmembers Miranda Weinbach and Ray Dewey met with her, the Community Center workers and Holden Murray to discuss the community center and ways to move forward with the community center.

Gracie Durapau with the Patterson High School Beta Club asked permission to hold can shakes for their place at the state level at three levels and now has earned the opportunity to travel to Orlando, FL, in June 2025 to represent Patterson High School and the City of Patterson at the National Beta Convention. The council approved the can shakes along with Chief Grogan for March 29, 2025, April 26, 2025, and June 14, 2025. They will call the office and speak with City Clerk, Midge Bourgeois, on a date for May.

Also, Emily Everett spoke on behalf of the Patterson High School Student Council and Beta Club to host a 5K Color Run on August 16, 2025, with an alternate date of August 23, 2025, if there should be a rainout. The council and the Chief of Police approved the 5K Color Run on these dates.

Monica Mabile, Accounting Clerk, stated in their packets that the financials are included. Ms. Mabile advised the council that the General Fund, due to the Police Department maintenance, was initially budgeted for $ 10,000, but they would need to amend it to $27,000 for plumbing work. She also stated that due to the Water Plant equipment repairs and maintenance, the Utility Fund was initially budgeted for $64,000 and would need to be amended to $95,000 for work to seal the filters.

Councilmember Ray Dewey provided an update on a recent meeting attended by himself, Councilmember Miranda Weinbach, Holden Murray, Community Center employees, and board members. He explained that their goal was to find common ground to operate and keep the Community Center open for at least one more year with the city's support. During the meeting, Councilmember Dewey mentioned that, based on the auditor's recommendation, they would implement a 2% cut in the cultural recreation budget, which amounts to nearly $19545.56. Last year, the Community Center's budget was approximately $90,800, but they plan to allocate a new budget of $70,000. Additionally, they are exploring various ways to make the Community Center self-sufficient. They identified a savings of around $5,000 by eliminating charges for equipment that was not being utilized. Councilmember Dewey noted that many constituents are concerned about the potential closing of the Community Center; however, he reassured them that they are not at that point yet and believes the center will eventually become self-sufficient. He encouraged the public to know that the Community Center.

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is open for business and seeking support. If anyone is looking for a place to rent, they should contact the staff at the Community Center. It was stated that Sandra Turner, a Community Center board member, would present the Community Center budget to the council at the April council meeting.

Councilmember Mamie Perry motioned to take the health insurance discussion out of the table, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Council. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. Councilmember DeMale Bowden absent. Councilmember Ray Dewey stated that the insurance discussion tonight is just a discussion and will not be voted on tonight. He did state to the council that, looking at the city’s finances, they have to do something; he also wanted to make it clear to the city employees that they are about six months out from open enrollment for insurance, and they need to start looking, just in case, for policy insurance for their family. Councilmember Dewey did advise there are some proposals where the city can save money, and we can reimburse the employee, where the employee would not take such a big hit, and where the city can help out toward their family insurance; plus, Councilmember Dewey stated there were four different ways they can do this. It was explained that our current insurance has a flex spending card, and the employee pays no deductions; when the insurance was changed in 2023, the city shopped for cheaper insurance but made sure it would cover existing conditions on employees, plus other matches.

A Resolution proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month was motioned by Councilmember Mamie Perry and seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach. Councilmembers Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. Councilmember DeMale Bowden absent.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry on a Resolution regarding the commitment of USDA funding. This funding is for the $1,500,000.00 from the USDA awarded in 2023, so we must get it to the portal to pull it down. Therefore, we have to pass this resolution for the commitment of funds; this is a grant from Clay Higgins' office. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. Councilmember DeMale Bowden absent.

Toye Taylor with MetaTraffic LLC discussed that they are a traffic enforcement company that uses technology to get speeding violators. Mr. Taylor stated it is an agreement where a community does not put up any funds; the company will put up all the equipment, and they do all the billing. The Mayor and Chief of Police would receive a printout; the Chief of Police would appoint an officer to review and sign off on the tickets, and the city would have to have due process of a mayor’s court. There would be a 60/40 split with MetaTraffic, where the city would receive 60%, and MetaTraffic would receive 40% of the revenue. This program is a civil matter, not a criminal matter, plus a sign warning the motorist would need to be put up. All funds are dedicated to public safety for Police and Fire Departments. Chief Grogan sent a message asking to wait until after the Police Conference in two weeks to make any decisions.

Monica Mabile, Accounting Clerk, advised the council that the General Fund, due to the Police Department maintenance, was initially budgeted for $ 10,000 but needs to be amended to $27,000 for plumbing work. She also stated that due to the water plant equipment repairs and maintenance, the utility fund was initially budgeted for $64,000, and it will need to be amended to $95,000 for work to seal the filters. Councilmember Ray Dewey motioned to amend the budget for the unforeseen maintenance of the plumbing at the Police Dept, the sealing around the water plant, and other incidental maintenance. Councilmember Mamie Perry seconded this motion. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes. Councilmember DeMale Bowden absent.

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

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

Holden Murray stated that after a year of hiatus, the Economic Community Development is back. There are a lot of things that are being worked on. On April 12, 2025, it's “Love the Boot” week. We will serve and clean up for the beautification of the City of Patterson. April is Autism Awareness Month, so a walk around the Community Center to show awareness to those with autism and their family that just because you process things differently, it does not make you less than anyone else. On May 3, 2025, at 8:00 a.m., our color run is returning, so registration will go live on our Facebook page and city website at the end of this week. This Friday, if you are a woman entrepreneur in the City of Patterson, a woman entrepreneur living in the City of Patterson, or would like to nominate someone, we will be doing something special in honor of Women's History Month. Mr. Murray stated on behalf of himself, the City of Patterson, Mayor Grogan, and Mayor Pro-Tem would like to thank the National League of Cities for selecting our city to be in the Southern Cities Economic Inclusion. Out of fifteen southern cities, the City of Patterson was chosen. We are going into the alumni section with new cities, whereas Mr. Murray stated he was selected for a position on the alumni faculty. Since Mr. Murray has accepted that position on the faculty, the City of Patterson has become a model city. The city will now receive a grant for Economic Resilience for $15,000.

Murtado Mousa with Providence Engineering spoke on the nine sewer lift stations project. It was stated that the project is going well, but there are a few minor issues that the vendor is aware of. Payout number 7 was submitted to the mayor, signed, and submitted to FP&C for reimbursement. Mr. Mousa asked if reimbursement was received; Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk, advised reimbursement was submitted on February 24, 2025, but as of today, this reimbursement has not been received from FP&C. Regarding the USDA Resolution, Mr. Mousa advised they met about a week or so with USDA, now they are ready to submit all paperwork to USDA. On the gas line project, Mr. Mousa stated that we were approved for 1,300,000.00 for the natural gas that goes through the city, and he noted that the grantors requested some environmental assessment documents. The documents were submitted, and they are waiting for approval before granting us the money.

Steve Bierhorst stated there were a few hiccups at the lift station rehab, but they are getting worked out. Mr. Bierhorst stated that Terry Space and his crew have been working diligently on moving and fitting the generator into the housing. They are almost ready to do a test run on the generator, and Mr. Bierhorst wanted to thank Terry and his crew for all the hard work, as they saved the city around $65,000. Also, Steve thanked Virgil Walton, who stepped up as supervisor for our water/wastewater and advised that he is catching up on things around town. They have been working together and are speaking daily about things happening and getting the work done.

Mayor Grogan thanked Sharon Gillum, Waterplant Supervisor, for assisting and meeting with Virgil Walton and his crew to ensure things are being taken care of around the city. Ms. Gillum gave an update on the status of the filters; as of today, 35 feet have been sealed, and 55 feet are left to seal. Hopefully, by the end of the week, everything should be completed.

With no further business before the Mayor and Council, Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach. The Council unanimously agreed.

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Rodney A. Grogan, Mayor

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Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk