Minutes -May 6, 2025

Council Meeting

City of Patterson, Louisiana

The Mayor and Council of the City of Patterson, Louisiana, met on Tuesday, May 6, 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 Patrick Jones with Good Hope Baptist Church led the invocation.

Chief Garrett Grogan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Grogan asked for a moment of silence for the residents of Patterson who passed away and for Pope Francis.

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

Councilmember Mamie Perry made a motion, seconded by Councilmember DeMale Bowden, to dispense with the reading and approve the April 1, 2025, 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 DeMale Bowden and seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry to accept the financial statement submission. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan asked to amend the agenda to allow Dr. Melancon to speak regarding Cleco cutting oak trees. Councilmember Mamie Perry motioned to amend the agenda, seconded by Councilmember DeMale Bowden. Mayor Grogan did roll call. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle were present.

There were no public comments.

Dr. Eric Melancon advised the council that he received a call from Cleco about cutting the oak trees on the right of way; they will be cutting off the whole front half of his trees. Dr. Melancon advised the mayor and council that he has a licensed arborist who takes care of his trees, all the trees on his property are registered, with the youngest being a little over 200 years old. According to the Metro Arborist Society, the oldest is around 500 years old. He said at least 11 trees along Main Street in Patterson are registered, of which four are on his property. He doesn’t have a solution and is asking the mayor and council to help with this matter. It is against the law to have an unlicensed person cut these registered trees; it has to be a licensed arborist, which Dr. Melancon uses, Johnny Lancon, who is licensed. Mayor Grogan advised Dr. Melancon that Willie Bergeron with Cleco is our representative for this area; he will contact Mr. Bergeron and have Mr. Bergeron contact Dr. Melancon.

Tina Johnson, PHS Education Rising club and student Issac requested a can shake for May 31, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to earn money to compete in a national competition in June 2025. This can shake on May 31, 2025 was approved by the council.

Charles McKinley, with Patterson Housing Authority, spoke on the Patterson Housing modification on the homes, such as painting each house's interior and changing the flooring. He said they had just returned from the Louisiana Housing Conference in Baton Rouge, where they learned quite a lot and will be making good progress.

There was no unfinished business.

Jeremy Meaux with Darnall, Sikes & Frederick Auditing Firm presented the FY 2024 – 2025 audit report. Mr. Breaux went over their professional standards and conducted the City of Patterson’s audit by the Government Auditing Standards. The auditors found a deficiency in internal control that was considered a material weakness. The schedule of findings was discussed along with the responses. Management’s Corrective Action Plan for the current year's findings for the year ending June 30, 2024, was discussed. Mayor Grogan thanked Jeremy Meaux and Alyssa Cart for their excellent job on the audit.

Page 2

May 6, 2025

Council Meeting

Monica Mabile, Accounting Clerk, was absent, so Mayor Grogan asked Councilmember Miranda Weinbach to read the letter from Monica Mabile, Accounting Clerk, on the Introduction of the FY 2025 – 2026 budget. Miranda Weinbach motioned to introduce the FY 2024-2025 budget, seconded by Councilmember Mamie Perry.

Introduction of Ordinance #2025-05 levying the General Alimony Tax for 2025. The introduction of this ordinance levies a tax of 8.10 mills for the tax year 2025 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 Councilmember DeMale Bowden and seconded by Councilmember Miranda Weinbach. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Introduction of Ordinance #2025- 05A providing for the tax of 9.2 mills for the year 2025 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 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.

Councilmember DeMale Bowden made a motion that the Resolutions of Respect for Mr. Byron “Red” Adams, Sr., Ms. Pearly Lightfoot, Mrs. Mary Ann Grogan, Mr. Herman Richardson, Sr., Ms. Sandra Grogan, Mr. Larry Griffin, Sr. and Mr. Melvin Vinning be adopted and accepted with copies giving to the families. Councilmember Mamie Perry seconded this motion. Councilmembers DeMale Bowden, Jr., Ray Dewey, Mamie Perry, Miranda Weinbach, and Mayor Pro Tem Lee Condolle voted yes.

Mayor Grogan congratulated Mrs. Beverly Domengeaux for being a Helping Hearts honoree, which was very well deserved.

Mayor Grogan stated that he could not attend the National Day of Prayer. Still, he watched it live, said he heard it was heartfelt, and thanked the East Ministerial Alliance for ensuring the National Day of Prayer took place.

Steve Bierhorst, Public Works Director, stated the manhole on Mike Drive has been replaced. Mr. Bierhorst noted that the sewer lift station rehab project is going well, with minor hiccups. They have been doing some ditch cleaning with the upcoming weather, plus stated that there have been no Mill Road problems.

Chief Grogan told the council that the PHS Seniors want to do a Golf Cart ride on Main Street on the last day of school. After speaking with Mayor Grogan, they will allow this golf cart ride. The golf carts will be offloaded at City Hall; there will be a police officer escorting the Seniors to the school and into the parking lot at the school safely. This will be on Thursday, May 8, 2025.

Mayor Grogan advised that our billing clerk has left; Andrew Bienvenu, a meter reader, has moved into the billing clerk’s position. It was stated that Andrew will still be reading meters; he knows where the problems are in the community, so with two positions in office now, one person is handling this position. Mayor Grogan stated that Andrew is doing a great job.

Scott Hutton, Fire Chief, advised the council that he had a third party come in to inspect the fire hydrants. Mr. Hutton went on to state he was not quite satisfied with some of the work this company did; he did get a report from the company that inspected it. Hence, Mr. Hutton said he will be going around to each hydrant to double-check, plus if the weather permits, they will start painting all hydrants.

Sharon Gillum, Water Plant supervisor, advised the mayor and council that the filters are holding up; it's not 100%, but it is much better. As per Mrs. Gillum, the CR report will be in the newspaper this Friday and on the website by the end of the week.

Page 3

May 6, 2025

Council Meeting

Virgil Watson advised that 10 or 11 parish-owned lines were found, and the city also provides water. As per Mr. Watson, they don’t use much water, but over the years, they have had good usage; a few are hooked directly to the main line, so you cannot calculate usage. Mayor Grogan said he would need to meet with the parish and let them know that we would need to put a meter on there and start charging for usage. Once these lines were found, we need to act on this matter. Mr. Watson advised that this is for Wards 4 & 5. On another note, Virgil advised that he went through all pending jobs, which are down to one.

With no further business before the Mayor and Council, Councilmember Mamie Perry motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember DeMale Bowden. The Council unanimously agreed; Councilmember Mamie Perry was absent.

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Rodney A. Grogan, Mayor

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Midge Bourgeois, City Clerk