



REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019 - 6:00 P.M.
ST. GABRIEL CITY HALL COMPLEX - 5035 IBERVILLE STREET - ROOM 32
ST. GABRIEL, LOUISIANA

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Mayor and City Council was called to order at approximately 6:04 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilman Ronald Grace, Sr. /Mayor Pro-tempore
Councilman Jeffery Hayes, Sr.
Councilman Melvin Hasten, Sr.
Councilman Ralph Johnson, Sr.
Councilman Kelvin York, Sr.

5 of 5 Council Members were in attendance for a quorum.

Presiding: Lionel Johnson, Jr., Mayor

Recording: Constance Barbin, City Clerk

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of prayer was led by Mayor Lionel Johnson, Jr. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM – 3-minute limit (Please register with the City Clerk prior to the beginning of the meeting indicating your topic of discussion.) Topics should be on agenda items and/or city government concerns.

Tyrone Williams – Expressed pleasure for City and acknowledged abundance of R1 zoning within City. Spoke on timely posting of Council and Planning and Zoning agenda.

MOTION TO APPROVE – Minutes for Regular Meeting dated October 17, 2019

On a motion by Councilman Grace and second by Councilman Hasten, motion was approved.

INTRODUCTION - Nutrien proposal for participation in the Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP)

Jason Newell – Regional Director for Baton Rouge Chamber – Explained specifics of ITEP program and request for approval.

Kevin Lash – Director of Capital Projects for Nutrien – Explained project to expand ammonia production.

Councilman Johnson – Inquired about amount of ammonia production and safeguards.

Kevin Lash – Expansion includes (2) 30,000 short ton tanks that are enclosed with a double wall and ventilated

Councilman Grace – Inquired about 4 of the 5 council members not being included on prior meetings with Nutrien.

Councilman Hasten – Inquired about job training for local residents

Kevin Lash – There will be (15) Nutrien jobs. The Mayor and council will be notified of direct job openings and contracted job openings.

Councilman York - Inquired about process for moving product.

Kevin Lash – The bulk will be loaded by pipe to ships. May add loading by truck in the future.

Councilman York – Asked for explanation on possible move of Hwy 3115 during construction phase.

Kevin Lash – Stated that Hwy 3115 will not be moved.

Councilman Grace – Inquired about air monitors.

Kevin Lash – Nutrien is willing to provide financial funding toward air monitors.

Councilman Grace – Inquired about job training in St. Gabriel.

Kevin Lash – Nutrien has a grant for \$100k for job training programs that the City can apply for.

Mayor Johnson – Acknowledged that the Iberville Parish schoolboard receives money for job training type programs.

Councilman Hasten – Requested deputy assistance with traffic.

INTRODUCTION - Air Products proposal for participation in the Industrial Tax Exemption Program (ITEP)

Nile Barnes of Air Products, Regional Commercial Manager of Hydrogen – Elaborated on proposal, production processes and history of Air Products.

Councilman Grace – Inquired about community meeting (NPP). Suggested that the meeting be open to ALL.

Councilman Hayes – Inquired about partnering with subcontractors for apprentice jobs.

Councilman Johnson – Expressed concern about burning of hydrogen. Suggested soliciting names of individuals interested in jobs.

Councilman Grace – Expressed concerns with ITEP for lack of benefit to the City.

Jason Newell – Cited 20-year projection of monetary benefits of ITEP program to the City - \$7.1 million from Nutrien and \$4.1 from Air Products. Reiterated that the Nutrien and Air Products will be under contract with the City to ensure compliance.

Councilman Johnson – Requested that Mayor Johnson research language, requirements for ITEP

MAYOR'S REPORT

-Announced the school boards application for funds through Ready Start for daycare services. Would like City to take advantage and offer Tier 3 daycare services.

-Announced partnership with TJC Group to establish rapport with local plants through on-site meetings and a touring of each plant. City and Total meeting December 6th.

-Tree Lighting and Hayride, December 5th

COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Hasten – Requested street lighting on River Road between School and Bayou Paul Lane.

Councilman Johnson – Cited City's incorporation as 1994. Announced plans for Juneteenth event in 2020.

Councilman Grace – Expressed concerns about speeding and requested speed bumps. Requested signage for disabled/impaired youth. Suggested speaking with plants about job training during meetings.

Councilman Johnson – Suggested that the City get state of the art speed bumps.

ADJOURNMENT