

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021 - 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 6:06p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilman Ronald Grace, Sr.

Councilman Jeffery Hayes, Sr.

Councilman Melvin Hasten, Sr.

Councilman Ralph Johnson, Sr.

Councilman Kelvin York, Sr. (ZOOM)

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**

Mayor Johnson led with a moment of silence acknowledging the Insurrection on the US Capitol January 6, 2021 and the loss of Ms. D’Audrey Redditt, followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM** – **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.**

George Jackson –Railport Development concerns

Felicia Leal – Status of impact report from DR Horton; trash in ditches and location of playground in Magnolia Springs Subdivision

Randall Johnson – Questioned content of agenda

**MOTION** **CONSIDERATION**

* + 1. To approve and adopt minutes for Regular Meeting dated December 17, 2020

On a motion by Councilman Grace to reintroduce Agenda Item III. from the December 2020 Regular Council Meeting with no second, motion died for lack of a second.

On a motion by Councilman Johnson to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Hayes, motion was approved.

* + 1. To approve and adopt minutes for Special meeting dated January 13, 2021

On a motion by Councilman Grace to readvertise Agenda Item I. from the January 13, 2021 Special Meeting, with no second, motion died for lack of a second.

On a motion by Councilman Johnson to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Hasten, motion was approved.

**MOTION TO APPROVE** - Resolution of Condolence

* + 1. Family of Ms. D’Audrey Redditt – native and resident of St. Gabriel
    2. Family of Ms. Tiffany Populars – native and resident of St. Gabriel
    3. Family of Ms. Barbara Harris - native and resident of St. Gabriel
    4. Family of Ms. Audrey Johnson Mosby - native and resident of St. Gabriel
    5. Family of Ms. Shirley Ward Boutte – native of St. Gabriel

On a unanimous motion from the council, motion was approved.

**MOTION TO APPROVE** – A Resolution for East Iberville High School for making it to the 2020 LHSAA Football Playoff

On a motion by Councilman Johnson seconded unanimously, motion was approved.

**INTRODUCTION –** An ordinance authorizing the issuance of not to exceed Seven Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($7,250,000) of Taxable Public Improvement Sales Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2021, of the City of St. Gabriel, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, terms and conditions of said Refunding Bonds, designating the date, denomination and place of payment of said Refunding Bonds, providing for the payment thereof in principal and interest; confirming the sale and delivery of the Bonds to the Underwriter; and providing for other matters in connection therewith

Mr. William Bradford of Blanchard, Walker, O’Quin & Roberts, PLC – gave an overview of the ordinance and a timeline for executing the refunding bond

**PRESENTATION** - 2020-2021 City mid-fiscal year budget update presented by Jacob Waguespack of Faulk and Winkler, LLC

Jacob Waguespack of Faulk and Winkler, LLC – presented update on 2020-2021 budget and where the City stands

**MOTION TO ADOPT -** An Ordinance to Amend Operating Budget for the Year Ending June 30, 2021 to increase the annual salary for Elected Officials by 5%.

On a motion by Councilman Hasten, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion was approved.

ROLL CALL: 3 YEAS [Councilman Hasten, Councilman Hayes, Councilman Johnson]

2 NAYS [Councilman Grace, Councilman York]

**COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilman Grace** - concerns with Railport development

**Councilman Hasten** - no comment

**Councilman Hayes** – no comment

**Councilman Johnson** – City procedure should the Mayor become inaccessible or incapable of performing his duties; better/more frequent communication between Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem; Railport development not an agenda item, therefore not addressing; City’s understanding of the Cares Act; questioned who Councilman York was referring to with his “we” remarks regarding the Refunding Bond; Grand Rising Restoration Project update

**Councilman York** – concerning Councilman Grace’s motion to Agenda Item I. A, stated that he seconded that motion but could not be heard on the ZOOM call; inquired about the legality of the advertisement related to Agenda Item 1. A from the January 13, 2021 Special Meeting reflecting differently than that presented as Agenda Item IV. during the January 21, 2021 Regular Meeting; stated “we do not want to keep the City from saving money but we just want to make sure it is done legally”; Councilman York stated his agreeance with Councilman Johnson that Mayor Pro-Tem needs to better communicate with Mayor Johnson; concerns with Railport development

**MAYOR REPORT**

**Announcements**

-Department of Health and Hospitals conference call concerning COVID-19 vaccine; partnering with Health Clinic for vaccine administration

-Upcoming changes with staff at City Hall; new responsibilities for Public Services Director and City Clerk

-Policy change to reflect (5) 8-hour workdays (Monday-Friday) on the week of a holiday

-No Mardi Gras due to ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic

-Council to consider change in start time of council meetings

-Acknowledged the many ways he can be reached by the Mayor Pro-Tem and the City Council and that he has open door policy

**ADJOURNMENT**