

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 ad 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 or 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 theschool 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**