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**CITY OF ST. GABRIEL, LA**

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 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 6:18 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilwoman Deborah R. Alexander

Councilman Ronald Grace, Sr.

Councilman Melvin Hasten, Sr. /Mayor Pro-tempore

Councilman Kelvin York, Sr.

Councilman Freddie Frazier, Sr.

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

Presiding: Mayor Lionel Johnson, Jr.

Recording: Debra V. Ausbon, Deputy 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.**

None

**Motion to Move Agenda Item**: Item **XI. (A.)** Mayor’s Report **PRESENTATION –** East Iberville Girls and Boys Basketball Teams to agenda item **III (B.)**

On a Motion by Councilman Ronald Grace and second by Council Kelvin York with a unanimous decision, item **XI. (A.)** Mayor’s Report PRESENTATION **–** East Iberville Girls and Boys Basketball Teams was moved to item **III (B.)** The request was made to give the team an opportunity to leave after the presentation if desired.

**MOTION TO APPROVE** – Minutes for Regular Meeting dated February 21, 2019

On a Motion Councilwoman Deborah Alexander and second by Councilman Melvin Hasten minutes for regular meeting dated February 21, 2019 were approved.

An addition, clarification by Councilman Ronald Grace to firmly state that no permits will be permitted for the River Stone project. *Hearing None.*

**Presentation – East Iberville Girls and Boys Basketball Teams**

Mayor Johnson expressed that this year particularly has been an extraordinary year for East Iberville Basketball and MSA Athletics. The Football team went several rounds in the playoffs. The girl’s volleyball team excelled on the court. The youth won the super bowl for the third year in the row. Mayor Johnson stated that he was extremely excited to follow the students across the state of Louisiana as they journey through the playoffs and during the regular season as well. The team went to the Top 28/ Marsh Madness. The girl’s basketball team in particular made history. This was the first girl’s team to make it to the Semi- Finals and/or Finals. The Mayor stated that he thought that this was an extraordinary feat and thought that they should be recognized. They are being seen beyond the walls of East Iberville and that the community is behind them. Other presenters included principal Dr. Nichols, Girls Coach Mark Temple, Boys Coach Jason Marks, and Chief of Police Kevin Ambeau all congratulated the team on their won.

**PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT**

Mayor Johnson invitedJohn Chumba for Planning and Zoning report. Mr. John Chumba knowledge the variance request by Charles Dawson of Geo Surface of 7080 St. Gabriel Avenue. Mr. Chumba stated there was an introduction by Planning and Zoning Committee and City Council. A public hearing was held at the Planning and Zoning meeting on March 13, 2019 where members of the Planning and Zoning Committee voted unanimously to approve a variance for the applicant. This is in reference to a new office and storage building on 7080 St. Gabriel Ave, currently there is one building on that sight. The applicant is requesting 10 foot side yard setback and 5 foot rear side yard setback requested. The site remains as is MIP. Ben Moran is the representative for Geo Surface.

**MOTION CONSIDERATION**– **To BEGIN Public Hearing**

On a motion by Councilman Ronald Grace with a unanimous second a public hearing began for an

Application For Variance – 10 FOOT SIDE YARD SETBACK AND 5 FOOT REAR SIDE YARD SETBACK Requested By Applicant Mr. Charles Dawson Of Geo Surfaces, Inc.

*Public comments or questions: Hearing none*

**MOTION CONSIDERATION** – **To END Public Hearing Session and RETURN to Regular Meeting**

On a motion by Councilwoman Deborah Alexander and second by Councilman Kelvin York; public hearing ends.

**MOTION TO APPROVE -** Application for Variance – 10 FOOT SIDE YARD SETBACK AND 5 FOOT REAR SIDE YARD SETBACK Requested By Applicant Mr. Charles Dawson of Geo Surfaces, Inc.

On a Motion by Councilwoman Alexander and second by Councilman Hasten with a

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: 5 [Deborah R. Alexander, Freddie Frazier, Sr., Ronald Grace,

Melvin Hasten, Sr., and Kelvin York, Sr.]

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

ABSTAIN 0

Motion to approve Application for Variance – is approved

**INTRODUCTION –** The Office of the Mayor is reviewing new methods for the accumulation process for sick and

annual leave for all city employees.

Due to internal issues and employee frustration with the accumulation process, Mayor Johnson along with Department

Heads have discussed the possibility of total leave accessibility beginning July 1 (beginning of the fiscal year) with leave ending June 30th. The belief is that fiscal year method will be easier for all.

**PRESENTATION –** SSA Consultants - An organizational and management consulting firm will assess the city’s compensation and benefits.

Mayor Johnson gave a brief introduction for Cody of SSA Consultants. SSA Consultants (specialize in compensation and benefits studies). SSA Consultants will look at all employees for the City of St. Gabriel compare their job duties and responsibilities with market and then come up with a fair salary range for all employees. They also look at benefits, annual leave, sick leave, health care, and retirement. This is a three month study to analysis the employees and compare it to the market value. All employees will answer a job analysis questionnaire which will allow the most up to date information about what employees do on a day to day basis to ensure accuracy with the market. Next is recommendation and implementation, this is done to make sure the employee is getting paid fairly and that the city is hiring qualified candidates in the future and that the new hirer is being compensated fairly. There were questions by council. Everyone will not get salary adjustment. SSA will not annualize the performance of the job. If anyone is above market, it is SSA recommendation that the employee does not receive a pay cuts, Cody explains that the market will eventually catch up. Councilman Hasten request that SSA give an update to the progress.

**PRESENTATION** – Louisiana Federal Credit Union

Monty Buckles, representative for Louisiana Federal Credit Union, formally invites the City of St. Gabriel employees and their families to be added to the overall field of membership. The process is not contractual to the City of St. Gabriel. There is no cost to become a member of the credit union. The credit union offers financial wellness through monthly workshops be it on credit and the importance of restoration, saving and budgeting, financial service representatives that can extend on sight on financial wellness, wealth management and retirement and or saving as well.

**BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Jacob Waguespack, CPA, of Faulk and Winkler presented budget information to council. The finance packet consisted of finance results for 6 months throughout the year or through December 31, 2018. Mr. Waguespack stated that things are looking well throughout the 6 months. Over all the major source of revenue is on track. No comments by council.

**MAYOR’S REPORT**

* Kristen George hire date, as it relates to supplemental pay, was originally identified as 1/4/2018. This date was not correct. The date has been updated in the official records as 4/4/2018.

Motion unanimously approved for Officer Kristen George; hire date changed from 1/4/2018 to 4/4/2018.

* Pay application (KTB) for Carville Levee Promenade in the amount of $86,464. 56. Unanimous Motion and Second approval for $86,464.56 for Carville Levee Promenade.
* Bids were accepted for City Hall renovation on March 7th.
* Mayor Johnson offered a resolution for the month of April as Fair Housing month.

Unanimous motion and second with all yeas.

* Other Business: Mayor Johnson thanked everyone for their participation in events. Especially Krewe of St. Gabriel for Mardi Gras, Monday with the Mayor and Public Forum.
* Motion to approve a Resolution of Condolences for Mr. Larry Jackson, LaDra Jones, Eulah Johnson, Gregory Pickett, Mr. Reginald Teddy Redditt, and Mrs. Vivian Goings. Motion and Second unanimous -all yeas- Resolution of Condolences are passed.
* City Hall will be closed April 19th in celebration of Good Friday. Good Friday celebration will take place at the First Mount Carmel Baptist Church on Good Friday.
* The City will receive $125,000 in value from Eastman through the cooperate office to renew the equipment room/exercise room of the Community Center.
* Councilman Grace had questions about the Public Forum. Monday March 25, 2019 @6:45 will be open for any candidate that would like to speak on that date. Mayor Johnson reminds everyone that Election Day is Saturday, March 30th.

ADJOURNMENT

On a unanimous Motion and Second with none absent the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

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Debra V. Ausbon Lionel Johnson, Jr.

Deputy City Clerk of St. Gabriel Mayor, City of St. Gabriel