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REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022 - 6:00 P.M.

ST. GABRIEL CITY HALL COMPLEX - 5035 IBERVILLE STREET - ROOM 32

ST. GABRIEL, LOUISIANA

**MEETING MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL – PRAYER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Mayor and City Council was called to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilman Ronald Grace, Sr.

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: Debra Ausbon, Deputy City Clerk

**PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Johnson led with a moment of silence followed by a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **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.**

No comments

1. **ACTION ITEMS**
   * 1. **MOTION** **CONSIDERATION**  To Approve and Adopt Minutes
        1. Special Meeting dated February 1, 2022 - (Rescheduled January 20, 2022 regular meeting)

On a motion by Councilman York with a second by Councilman Hayes, minutes were approved.

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION –** To Approve Resolution(s) of Condolence
       1. Family of Ms. Mary Helen Wilson – St. Gabriel native

On a motion by Councilman York with a second by Councilman Hayes, resolution was approved.

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** – Ratify employment of police personnel
       1. Mr. Shawn Williams Hire Date: 1/24/2022

On a motion by Councilman Johnson with a second by Councilman Hasten, motion was approved.

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** – To approve a resolution authorizing Mayor Lionel Johnson, Jr. on the behalf of the City of St. Gabriel and its police department, to negotiate and go into a contract with Project NOLA

On a motion by Councilman Johnson with a second by Councilman York, resolution was approved.

1. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS**
2. **MOTION TO BEGIN – A Public Hearing**
   * + 1. An ordinance authorizing the establishment of single member and/or at-large districts for the 2023 City of St. Gabriel Council member elections and other matters related thereto through presentation of Dr. William Blair of Strategic Demographics LLC

On a motion by Councilman Grace with a second by Councilman Johnson, motion was approved.

1. **MOTION TO END** – **A Public Hearing and RETURN to Regular Meeting**

On a motion by Councilman Hayes with a second by Councilman Grace, motion was approved.

1. **DISCUSSION**
   * 1. Police Department Business – Police Chief Kevin Ambeau, Sr.

Police Chief Ambeau expressed concerns regarding: his department’s budget; non-payment of invoices; current insurance company; acquiring new police vehicles; external influence on PD spending; employee handbook vs PD handbook; bank password tampering; 2/3 tax; school board billing; Pd responsibility for mosquito abatement, animal control, coroner’s office, and 911 payments; dialog with City Clerk.

* + 1. 2021 Mid-Year Budget Update presented by Mr. Jacob Waguespack of Faulk and Winkler, LLC

Mr. Jacob Waguespack of Faulk and Winkler, LLC gave an overview of the City’s mid-year finances and where St. Gabriel stands as a city.

1. **COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilman Grace** – reiterated that he is here to work for and with the public. For any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions, call or email him. His contact information is on the City’s website.

**Councilman Hasten** – said he spoke with Public Works Director about keeping the road on Hwy. 75 clean. He knows it had been cleaned but would like it checked periodically to make sure it stays clean.

**Councilman Hayes** – no comment.

**Councilman Johnson** – informed that parish council passed an ordinance to increase the levels of property on the east side, unincorporated area; yielded the remainder of his time to DOTD so they could update on the Bayou Breaux Bridge, which he has been following for last 69 days.

Aaron Elisar, DOTD gave the following update on project: currently on day 45 of a 125-day contract; should be 36% completed, but contractor is only16.8% completed; contractor waiting on crane and pile hammer; having trouble getting hammer to remove concrete pile for bridge – may have to get another size, causing more down time; once started, will take about one month period for driving all piles; project duration is 6 to 8 months, once 1st pile is driven; project is a working day contract (5 day continuous workdays – not to include Saturdays and Sundays, holidays or poor weather days) unlike a calendar day contract (number of days are set); contractor will be accessed $1,500 per day if late.

Councilman Johnson stated he had attended the meeting with state officials and asked that they push back start date because no materials or equipment was on site; talked to DOTD Administrator and Secretary of DOTD who reports to the governor; requested hard barricades; requested sign be changed from bridge closed to road closed.

**Councilman York** – they are doing a good job with the drainage even where the bayou goes through MSA and behind St. Gabriel Plantation, south of Margaret Drive from Hwy. 30 to Hwy. 74 where they have dug out, cleaned and widened the bayou. This should give some relief with flooding. Also let Mr. Snowten know they did a good job by moving barricade closer to the hall. Less traffic going back there.

1. **MAYOR REPORT**

**Action Items:**

Pay App #1 – $11,250.00

On a motion by Councilman Hastens with a second by Councilman York, motion was approved.

**Announcements:**

2020 - 2021 Audit underway.

* Policies and Procedures are needed for three areas: ATM at Police Department; reconciling the bank statement; making bank deposits when the designated person is not available

**Past events:**

* Valentine’s Day Celebration for the seniors
* Recognized band director Hosea Redditt and the band
* Update on Juneteenth Flag
* Drainage meeting – parish modified their ordinance for building to match BTR elevation (Councilmen Johnson and Grace were also in attendance)

**Future events:**

* Will introduce ordinance to modify the City’s ordinance as it relates to flooding at next meeting
* February 28th deadline for council members to register for the NLC conference
* March 15th Geaux Jobs job fair – possible scholarship will be given

1. **ADJOURNMENT**