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REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 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**

A moment of prayer was led by Mayor Lionel Johnson, Jr., followed by 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.**

* Ms. Katherine Williams – Topics: Hurricane evacuation plans; July 4th celebration; plant spill notifications
* Mr. Kyle Grace – Topic: Public budget meetings

1. **ACTION ITEMS**
   * 1. **MOTION** **CONSIDERATION** - To Approve and Adopt Minutes of Regular Meeting dated June 16, 2022 and Special Meeting dated June 21, 2022

On a motion by Councilman Hasten and seconded by Councilman Johnson, minutes were approved and adopted.

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** – To amend the July 21, 2022 agenda to include agenda item III. B-5

On a motion by Councilman Johnson and a second by Councilmen York and Grace, motion was approved.

ROLL CALL: 5 YEAS [Councilman Grace, Sr., Councilman Hasten, Sr, Councilman Hayes, Sr., Councilman Johnson, Sr., Councilman York, Sr.]

**MOTION CONSIDERATION –** To Approve Resolution(s) of Condolence

* + - 1. Family of Ms. Rosa Clark and Mr. Joseph Clark, Jr. (mother and son) – Natives of St. Gabriel
      2. Family of Mr. Trevor Williams – Native of St. Gabriel
      3. Family of Mr. Roland Fleming, Jr. – Native of St. Gabriel
      4. Family of Mr. Derrick Jones – Native of St. Gabriel, brother of former councilman Minister Andre Jones
      5. Family of Mr. Lee Alfred Jackson – Native of St. Gabriel, uncle of Councilman Melvin Hasten, Sr.

On a unanimous motion and unanimous second, resolutions were approved.

1. **NON-ACTION ITEMS**
   1. **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT** 
      * 1. PCS Nitrogen Fertilizer, LP Board of Commerce and Industry Approval Notice – Tax Exemption Application #20220104

PCS Nitrogen Fertilizer management staff gave an overview of proposed ammonia plant and prospective hiring practices.

* + - 1. Plug Power, Inc. Board of Commerce and Industry Approval Notice – Tax Exemption Application #20220171

Mark Hanafin, Director of Development for Plug Power, Inc., gave an overview of proposed hydrogen plant.

1. **PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT**

John Chumba reported on two (2) items introduced at the Planning and Zoning meeting held on July 13, 2022:

1. Application for preliminary plat to divide the Mayeaux property into two (2) separate parcels
2. Application for preliminary plat to divide 2.6 acres of land located at the intersection of Bayou Paul and River Road into five (5) one half acres tracts of land
3. **COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilman York** – No report

**Councilman Grace** – Event held at First Mount Carmel Baptist Church on July 10th was successful – gave away food boxes, baby formula and had a vaccination clinic; hope to partner with someone for a back-to-school event

**Councilman Hasten** – Talked to some of the plants regarding concerns about hiring local residents; thinks it would be a great thing if companies would get with the community to see what they want before coming to the council; schooling (such as PTEC) is good, but more on-the-job training is needed; everyone is trying to work together in their own way; overall, feels Mayor and Councilmen are doing a good job

**Councilman Hayes** – Two (2) T-ball teams finished their last games on Wednesday; started a youth football team for kids in East Iberville; asked the mayor to elaborate on movement at Bayou Paul Park

**Councilman Johnson** – Representative from Railport in Carville said everything they offered (employment, etc.) when they were trying to locate here still stands today; Railport should be open/running by August 1st; requested Mayor get together people who want to be employed by these facilities; Bayou Breaux bypass bridge should be up and running in eleven (11) more days – traffic will move in one direction at a time

1. **MAYOR REPORT**

**Action Items:**

* **Pay App #6 payable to KTB Properties LLC – $7,625.60**

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

* **Sprinks Construction – Maryland Street and Morris Street Drainage Project**

Lowest Bid Acceptance and Approval – $527,463.20

On a motion by Councilman Hastens with a second by Councilman Johnson, bid was accepted and approved.

**Announcements:**

* In the last two (2) weeks, Mayor placed a few posts on Face Book and received a plethora of responses and resumes; will get with Councilman Johnson to create a pool of applicants to have available for when jobs are ready
* Bayou Paul Park – In Phase I of three (3) projected phases to remodel the park; project may be completed by the end of this calendar year
* Told the chemical employers present (also meant for all chemical employers in the area) that at that moment he could name at least 10 of his former students who work in the chemical industry outside of St. Gabriel and who also live outside of St. Gabriel – maybe this example might give chemical industry employers a better understanding of the councilmen’s viewpoint
* Drainage update – Mayor met with the parish president this week. Both know the drainage situation in St. Gabriel is not perfect, but they are continually working on it. St. Gabriel needs help from Ascension and EBR parishes for Spanish Lake specifically.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**