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REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 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 Melvin Hasten, Sr.

Councilman Jeffery Hayes, 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**

Mayor Johnson led with a prayer, 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.**

* Mr. John Morgan – Topic: Introduced himself as a candidate for Iberville Parish School Board
* Ms. Grace Marcell – Topic: Against tax exemptions for industries
* Ms. Lorraine Johnson and Ms. LaToya Wilson – Topic: Request for clean-up at 2040 Jake Lane, Sunshine, LA
* Mr. Dave Byland – Topic: Speeding in St. Gabriel

1. **MOTION** **CONSIDERATION** - To Approve and Adopt Minutes of Regular Meeting dated July 21, 2022

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

1. **NON-ACTION ITEMS**
2. **REPORT – Planning and Zoning**

Mr. John Chumba reported on the three (3) agenda items scheduled for the 8/10/2022 Planning and Zoning meeting:

1. Introduction of preliminary plat for St. Gabriel Catholic Church. They want to divide property from LA 75 to LA 30 into four (4) sections. Public hearing set for 9/14/2022.
2. Public hearing held for Mayeux property – 618 acres to be subdivided into two (2) portions. Planning and Zoning voted unanimously to approve.
3. Public hearing held regarding subdividing property at approximately the intersection Bayou Paul Lane and River Road into five (5) lots for residential development. Planning and Zoning voted unanimously to approve.
4. **ACTION ITEMS**
   * 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION –** To Approve Resolution(s) of Condolence

A motion was made by Councilman York and seconded by Councilman Grace to amend the August 18, 2022 agenda to include agenda item V. A-6 was approved.

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

* + - 1. Family of Ms. Tyna Wilson
      2. Family of Mrs. Rose and Mr. Jimmy Marchand (mother and son)
      3. Family of Mr. Royal Fleming, Jr.
      4. Family of Mrs. Earline Schultz
      5. Family of Mr. Daniel Williams
      6. Family of Mr. Cleveland York, Jr.

On a unanimous motion and unanimous second, motion was approved.

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** – Ratify employment of police personnel

Officer James Breaux Hire Date: 6/13/2022

Officer Andre Redditt Hire Date: 6/27/2022

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

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** – Discuss and take appropriate action authorizing Mayor Lionel Johnson, Jr., on the behalf of the City of St. Gabriel Police Department, to negotiate and enter into a contract with C&A Associates, Inc**.** for an evidence system and currency counter.

On a motion by Councilman Hasten and a second by Councilmen Hayes, motion was approved.

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** – To Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on the recommendation to condemn and demolish dangerous or dilapidated building with noxious weeds located at 2040 Jake Lane, Sunshine, LA 70780.

On a motion by Councilman Johnson and a second by Councilman Grace, motion to have the city clean the property, haul off debris and allow property owner 90 days to take care of any applicable business, was approved.

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

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** - To adopt a resolution adopting the 2022 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire in fulfillment of requirements for financial audit of local government agencies

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

* + 1. **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT**

1. PCS Nitrogen Fertilizer, LP Board of Commerce and Industry Approval Notice - Tax Exemption Application #20220104

On a motion by Councilman Johnson and a second by Councilman Hayes, motion was approved.

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

2 NAYS [Councilman Grace, Sr., Councilman York, Sr.]

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

On a motion by Councilman Hayes and a second by Councilman Johnson, motion was approved.

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

2 NAYS [Councilman Grace, Sr., Councilman York, Sr.]

1. **COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilman York** – Asked police chief about the left turn traffic light arrow for turn onto Bayou Paul; asked whether light at Hwy. 3115 and Hwy. 30 has a timer.

**Councilman Grace** – Happy to see movement on Bayou Breaux Bridge bypass, but still unhappy with the situation they put the community in.

**Councilman Hasten** – Asked police chief to assign officers to help with speeding; said sheriff will assign a couple of deputies to patrol the area.

**Councilman Hayes** – Wants to recommend a more progressive, forward way of enriching, educating and improving the City of St. Gabriel – Mayor will talk more about it; yielded the remainder of his time to Felicia Williams and Lyntores(?) Williams, co-owners of the Greater Bridge Academy.

The Greater Bridge Academy, an early learning center, co-owners stated they have a location in Baton Rouge are about to open a site in COSG, located at 2195 Besson Lane, for children ages six (6) weeks and up; their mission is to bridge the educational gap from home to school; offering affordable rates, affordable care and jobs to the community.

**Councilman Johnson** – Need to establish a talent pool of people wanting to work in industrial facilities; informed industries that council is lobbying for jobs for residents and expects to get them; Bayou Breaux bypass bridge update – pushed hard to get DOTD secretary to put in bypass since the bridge will be out until 2023 – it has be out since December 9, 2021, which is unacceptable; bypass bridge should be ready by end of next week; will get with chief regarding traffic on the bridge; commended Public Services Director for the work they do for the senior citizens.

1. **MAYOR REPORT**

**Action Items:**

* **Pay App #2 payable to L. King Co. LLC – $224,618**

On a motion by Councilman Hastens with a second by Councilman Hayes, pay app was approved.

* **Pay App #7 payable to KTB Properties – $25,308.80**
* On a motion by Councilman Hayes with a second by Councilman Hastens, pay app was approved.

**Announcements:**

* Time to take annual Ethics Training for 2022
* Successful school re-openings; fellowshipped with teachers at East Iberville and MSA; starting to see the growth manifest in our school system.
* National Senior Citizens’ Week – thanked Mr. Snowten and Ms. Stewart for the effort put forth for our seniors who had a grand time.
* Had an all-stakeholders’ meeting with LCIW about three (3) weeks ago; issued a cease and desist on building of new prison; they must assure him the 40 acres they are taking up will not negatively impact (primarily) Legion Road, Homesite, and behind Police Dept.; holding the state to the same standards residential developers are held to.
* Have a meeting next week with contractors and DOTD regarding the widening of Hwy. 30.

**Projects:**

* Finally seeing motion on Bayou Breaux Bridge. Eighteen-wheelers will not be allowed to use bypass; no one will be allowed to use it once construction begins again on Bayou Breaux Bridge.
* Municipal Building has been delayed due to rain.

**Information:**

* Compliments to Public Services staff – they have been on call 24/7 for the last two weeks due to rain.
* The City’s parks are open to the public, not just a particular community.
* Drainage is not perfect, but we continue to work on it to make it better.
* Hurricanes – City will continue do what they always do when staging equipment.
* Councilman Hayes has a proposal for council to put a plan in place for the new abatement money so that certain percentages will be allocated to certain activities/categories.
* Mayor and Councilman Johnson will work with Ms. Desiree to establish a talent pool for industrial jobs.
* MM&E (manufacturing, machinery & equipment) Exemption will expire in October 2022 – City will start to receive more money.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

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Constance Barbin, City Clerk Lionel Johnson, Jr., Mayor