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REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 - 6:03 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 6:03 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: JoAnn York, Assistant to the Mayor

**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.**

* Mrs. Jan Drinkwater – Topics: Introduced herself as a candidate to become a District A school board member; thanked the City for its commitment to lifelong learning and the opportunity to be Mrs. Santa Claus for the City of St. Gabriel.
* Mrs. Polly Higgins – Topic: Introduced herself as a candidate to become a School Board member at-large, parish wide.
* Mrs. Grace Marcell – Topic: East Iberville Library is offering free GED and HiSet tutoring by appointment.

1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION**- To Approve and Adopt Minutes of Regular Meeting dated August 18, 2022

On a motion by Councilman Grace, seconded by Councilman York, minutes were approved and adopted.

1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION –** To Approve Resolution(s) of Condolence
   * + 1. Family of Lucille Alexander
       2. Family of Pastor Alfred Thomas, Sr.
       3. Family of Donald Raye Lawson, Sr.

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

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

Mr. John Chumba reported that Planning and Zoning held a public hearing on September 14, 2022 regarding the subdivision of property owned by St. Gabriel Catholic Church. Property is located between LA 75 (River Road) north all the way to Hwy. 30 (zoned residential) and a portion (zoned C) going north of Hwy 30. The church intends to subdivide the125 acres into four (4) tracks. Planning and Zoning Committee approved the subdivision.

* + 1. **INTRODUCTION** – An ordinance to amend City of St. Gabriel sales and use tax ordinances to provide for interest rate on unpaid taxes in compliance with the amendment to LA. R.S. 47:337.69 contained in ACT NUMBER 87 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session

Mayor Johnson explained this is to align the City’s ordinance with state law. He asked Mr. David Hall, Sales Tax Director with Iberville Tax Department to give an overview. Mr. Hall explained that during the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature, Bill 242 (which became ACT NUMBER 87) was passed. The Act mandates that beginning January 1, 2023, the interest rate for unpaid taxes cannot exceed 1%. Currently, the City collects at a rate of 1.25%.

**MOTION CONSIDERATION** – To set a public hearing for Thursday, October 20, 2022 on an ordinance to amend City of St. Gabriel sales and use tax ordinances to provide for interest rate on unpaid taxes in compliance with the amendment to LA. R.S. 47:337.69 contained in ACT NUMBER 87 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session.

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

* + 1. **RESOLUTION** – A budget resolution appropriating and authorizing spending of future revenues collected from Tax Exemption Application #20220171

A discussion was held regarding appropriating and authorizing spending of future revenues collected from Tax Exemption Application #20220171. Council will conduct a public hearing in the future.

1. **ACTION ITEMS**
   1. **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT** – A resolution requesting the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry terminate the industrial tax exemption program Contract No. 20180424-ITE as it relates to the City of St. Gabriel Ad Valorem tax millage

On a motion by Councilman York, seconded by Councilman Grace, Resolution of Support was approved.

1. **COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilman Hasten** – Residents should be careful using the temporary bridge; would like to see when the council members can get together to discuss the spending of future revenues collected from Tax Exemption Application #20220171.

**Councilman Hayes** – Fall basketball camp scheduled for October 22, 2022 (E. Iberville High School gym); camp will consist of two (2) age groups: 6 – 9 (30 kids) and 10 – 13 (30 kids); detailed information will be released next week; residents please be wary of deception, seek out the truth.

**Councilman Johnson** – Big thank you to Dr. Shawn Wilson, DOTD Secretary, for granting my request to build the Bayou Breaux bypass bridge; requested signage for 18-wheelers to refrain crossing bypass bridge; bridge has been open since August 25th, 22 days; ceded the remainder of his time to Ms. Desiree Lemoine to discuss talent pool created for persons interested in working for plants.

Ms. Desiree said they have been working hard to create a website that will be a talent pool or job portal for City of St. Gabriel residents; website shell made, but not published; website address is www.localplantjobsla/stgabriel; will meet in three (3) weeks to come up with uniform application that all plants will accept; will get with the City to ensure it is what the City wants and the plants can use; in the meantime, anyone interested in getting a job can email their resumes to her at desiree.lemoine@thetjcgroup.com or Tim Johnson at www.tim.johnson @thetjcgroup.com and they will enter information manually.

**Councilman York** – The temporary bypass bridge is beautiful, but it should have been done before the project started; everyone using the bridge should be careful because folk are running the light; asked when new bridge would be done (April 2023); hopes the bridge is completed quickly so things can get back to normal.

**Councilman Grace** – Asked for either City attorney Bush or Mr. Chumba to explain how to go about getting some of the zoning changed; feels there are enough chemical plants in the area and would like to do something with some of the M2 zoned properties (Mr. Bush stated the council has the ability to undertake the master plan and address the direction the City will go in, including addressing zoning as it stands and zoning in the future); told Mr. Bush that one night when Mr. Bush was not there, he felt pushed by the guy to vote on the budget or face penalty – wanted to know what Mr. Bush thought about not passing the budget on time; wanted to know process for changing master plan.

1. **MAYOR REPORT**

**Non-Action Items:**

* The Mayor yielded part of his time to James Taylor, with Franklin Associates, consultants for DOTD.

Mr. Taylor explained that the segment of interstate to be under construction does not pass through this area; however, residents will be impacted because of the eventual traffic congestion that will be caused by construction. Wants to make sure residents are aware.

**Action Items:**

* **KTB Construction – Bayou Paul Pavilion**

Lowest Bid Acceptance and Approval – $413,627

On a motion by Councilman Hayes with a second by Councilman York, bid was accepted and approved.

**Announcements:**

* Everyone must do a better job of protecting the City’s image.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Councilman Johnson, with a second by Councilman Hayes, meeting was adjourned.