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**REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023 - 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 Jeffery Hayes, Sr.

Councilman Ralph Johnson, Sr.

Councilman Kelvin York, Sr.

Councilman Ronald Grace, Sr.

Councilman Melvin Hasten, 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.**

None registered.

1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION –** To Approve and Adopt Minutes Regular Meeting dated January 19, 2023

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

1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION –** To Approve Resolution(s) of Condolence
   * + 1. Family of Mr. Ervin Labostrie III – son of City employee, Mr. Ervin Labostrie, Sr.
       2. Family of Mr. Aaron K. Lodge, Sr. – brother of Mayor-Pro Tem, Ronald Grace, Sr.

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

1. **COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilman Johnson** – Working on a few projects: (1) obtaining a schedule for the various sirens from local industries (so our citizens can know whether or not there is an issue); (2) the Grand Rising Project; (3) Morris Street sidewalks; (4) getting equipment in the parks for physically challenged children.

**Councilman York** – Wants a meeting (along with Mr. Snowten and other councilmen) with Spinks Construction contractors regarding Maryland Street Project (they are not doing a good job and area looks like a pig pen).

**Councilman Grace** – Reached out to parish council/president to establish an early voting precinct, but found out he needs to go to the Secretary of State (will continue to pursue for the future); weatherization program is coming up with Center for Excellence to provide free weatherization to the citizens (application assistance will be provided on March 7th from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. and actual registration is March 18th from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

**Councilman Hasten** – Piggybacking off of Councilmen Johnson and York: (1) things are getting done on Morris Street and (2) prior to holding a meeting with Maryland Street contractors, can we get them to use a sweeper to clean the road after work to reduce the mud and slipping hazards; please be cautious and safe at Mardi Gras parade and if you see something, say something.

**Councilman Hayes** – No report.

1. **MAYOR REPORT**

**Non-Action Items:**

* Meeting with the contractors for Maryland/Morris Streets projects set for Wednesday, 2/22/2023. Not happy in terms of movement. All councilmen are invited to attend.
* Regarding the sidewalks for Besson and MSA – No ordinance within the City’s limits regarding the distance from the road - but will work to correct that; we are using the state ordinance, which is four (4) feet from the road.
* Amended agenda provided tonight because one (1) item was taken off – the introduction of healthcare for retirees; Mayor working with the City’s counsel to complete a draft of the plan but would like the council’s input on the different choices before completion; healthcare ordinance will be introduced next month.
* Sunday, 2/19/2023, will be the first time holding a Mardi Gras parade in three (3) years; encourages everyone to participate and be safe.
* Responded to Councilman Grace that the funding for the sidewalks for Besson and MSA is coming from capital outlay and being used as a Public Works project.

**Update from Ms. Desiree:**

* Local hiring update from five (5) of the fifteen (15) local plants: There have been sixteen (16) locals hired from 2022 to today; she will return when she has updates from all 15 plants and include detailed information.
* Informed Councilman Johnson she had emailed a report that included all available information on all the sirens to him today.
* The Mayor asked her to schedule a meeting with the three (3) plants on Hwy. 3115 to strengthen communications on being alerted when there is an event on the Ascension parish side of the plants. Ms. Desiree said she would set that meeting up.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a unanimous motion by Council and a unanimous second, meeting was adjourned.