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

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023 - 6:00 P.M.**

**ST. GABRIEL CITY HALL COMPLEX - 5035 IBERVILLE ST. – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**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 Kelvin York, Sr.

Councilman Ronald Grace, Sr.

Councilman Melvin Hasten, Sr.

Councilman Jeffery Hayes, Sr.

Councilman Ralph Johnson, 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.**

Ms. Grace Marcell – Topic: Announced she is running for council person, #16 on the ballad, and would appreciate everyone’s support.

1. **MOTION** **CONSIDERATION -** To Approve and Adopt Minutes of Regular Meeting dated February 16, 2023

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

1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION -** To Approve Resolution(s) of Condolence

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson and unanimously seconded by Council to amend the March 16, 2023 agenda to include agenda item IV. 4 was approved.

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

* + - 1. Family of – Mr. Russell Glenn Smith, Sr.
      2. Family of – Ms. Patricia A. Ross
      3. Family of – Mr. Ron Brady
      4. Family of – Johnny Holland

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

1. **DISCUSSION –** Establishment and implementation of a policy extending insurance coverage options to employees upon retirement from the City. Set a Public Hearing date for Thursday, April 20, 2023.

Mayor Johnson said since this was only a discussion item, a Public Hearing did not have to be scheduled. Council members were given a booklet prepared by Gallaghers, the City’s current insurance company, and a draft of an ordinance to study for discussion and decision making after the coming election.

City Attorney Bush said he had received advice from Executive Counsel for LMA, as well as the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, on what should be included in the ordinance. He said he had been advised to keep the ordinance as general as possible and have the specifics implemented by way of a policy.

1. **COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilman Grace:** Partnering with the Center for Planning Excellence who will be conducting a Weatherization Program at the Community Center on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for qualified participants based on income; COVID shots will be offered and $50 gift cards will be given to those receiving the shot; other healthcare providers will also be there; asked if there were estimates or costs for the sidewalks being installed and why Council had not received them (Mayor stated that there were three (3) bidders for the Besson Lane sidewalk project [he would forward the information to him] and that it was a Public Works project, so bidding information is not mandated to be reported to Council.); asked City Attorney Bush for an update on the public records request for tapes of council meeting minutes (Attorney Bush stated that the request would have to come from the Mayor). [The Mayor stated he has copies of several council meetings but is working on getting all requested tapes].

**Councilman Hasten:** Wished everyone a Happy Easter and asked everyone to go out and cast their vote on the 25th.

**Councilman Hayes:** Nothing at this time.

**Councilman Johnson:** Would like to add cameras to the park projects due to recent incidents; Bayou Breaux Bridge update: they are putting in metal forms and looks like the bridge is coming in on time, thinks it may be finished by the end of April.

**Councilman York:** Wondering why Bayou Breaux Bridge seems to be on a slant; noticed they are only putting in culverts on Maryland St. Project – thought it was supposed to be culverts, drainage, closing ditches in and then come back to do sidewalks. Are we changing all culverts first and coming back to do drainage covers? (Mayor said after 2021 flood, he and the Council had decided to slow down on covering up ditches – it was decided to grade, slope and ensure there was proper flow (it would also be done in sections) then come back and do sidewalks); would like to get with Spinks Construction about getting a sweeper – residents concerned about the mud being left on the road.

1. **MAYOR REPORT**

**Action Items:**

* **Pay App #1 payable to Spinks Constructors** (Sunshine Wastewater Treatment Plant -Screening Project **– $169,578.80**

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

* **Pay App #1 payable to Spinks Constructors** (Maryland St. Project) **– $170,395.28**

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

* **Pay App #4 payable to KTB Properties** (Bayou Paul Pavilion) **– $149,329.15**

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

* **Pay App #5 payable to KTB Properties** (Bayou Paul Pavilion) **– $63,429.20**

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

* **Pay App #4 payable to J Reed Constructors** (Municipal Building) **– $105,045.78**

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

**Announcements:**

* Nutrien will be having a turnaround from May 1st to June 15th.
* Mayor has commissioned a study on traffic. Looking at having digital road signs (possibly with cameras to catch speeders).

1. **ADJOURNMENT**