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REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 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 Melvin Hasten, Sr.

Councilman Jeffery Hayes, Sr.

Councilman Ralph Johnson, Sr.

Councilman Kelvin York, Sr.

Councilman Ronald Grace, 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. **ACTION ITEMS**
   * 1. **MOTION** **CONSIDERATION** - To Approve and Adopt Minutes of Regular Meeting dated April 20, 2023

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

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION –** To Approve Resolution(s) of Condolence
       1. Family of Mr. Brian Lodge
       2. Family of Mr. Eddie Frazier
       3. Family of Mr. Benjamin Frazier

A motion was made by Councilman Johnson, and unanimously seconded, to amend the May 18, 2023 agenda to add agenda item III. The addition of item III.B. was approved.

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

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

* + 1. **MOTION TO ADOPT** - Plaquemine Post as City’s Official Journal for 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

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

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** – To set a special meeting for Thursday, June 1, 2023 to discuss the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget.

A substitute motion was made by Councilman Hasten to change the meeting date from June 1, 2023 to June 8, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilman Johnson.

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

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

On a motion by Councilman Hasten, seconded by Councilman York, motion was approved.

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** – To set a special meeting and public hearing for Tuesday, June 13, 2023 to solicit comments regarding:
       1. A Resolution to Adopt the adjusted millage rate(s) for 2023
       2. A Resolution to set forth the adjusted millage rate(s) and roll forward to millage rate(s) not exceeding the maximum authorized rate(s) for 2023

On a motion by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman York, motion was approved.

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** – Discuss and Approve

1. Mexichem Fluor, Inc. Board of Commerce and Industry Approval Notice (“Notice”) Tax Exemption Application #202300016-ITE

Mr. Eric Comeaux, Director of Operations for Koura, gave an overview of the refrigerant (R134A) that they produce and the company’s impact on the local community. They will also be starting a new scholarship/mentorship program.

On a motion by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Hayes, motion was approved.

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

2 NAYS [Councilman York, Councilman Grace]

2. Mexichem Fluor, Inc. Board of Commerce and Industry Approval Notice (“Notice”) Tax Exemption Application #202300017-ITE

On a motion by Councilman Hayes, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion was approved.

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

2 NAYS [Councilman York, Councilman Grace]

1. **NON-ACTION ITEMS**
2. **INTRODUCTION** **–** 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget

Mayor stated that other than capital outlay, everything will basically remain the same.

Jacob Waguespack stated revenue is fine – sales and properties taxes continue to grow; expenditures allows each department an approximate 5% increase on personnel line; everything is increasing – salaries, insurances, utilities and fuel; Police Department budget is included in this budget; must call for a public meeting on June 15th at the next scheduled council meeting.

**MOTION CONSIDERATION –** To hold a public meeting on the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget on June 15, 2023 at the next scheduled Council meeting.

On a motion by Councilman York, seconded by Councilman Hasten, motion was approved.

1. **COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilman York** – Congratulations to everyone on the second round of elections; everyone invited to our Back Street Bash at William Street Park on Memorial Day weekend.

**Councilman Grace** – No report.

**Councilman Hasten** – Would like to meet with AT&T and see if they can relocate the tower – maybe closer to Railport or somewhere else, because the community really needs it.

**Councilman Hayes** – Said it was good to see all the local hires at the meeting and he would be at-bat for them; local leaders met regarding purposed $84 million dollars to dredge Bayou Manchac; there is also a water shade initiative that should help alleviate the surrounding area.

**Councilman Johnson** – This will be the 4th Juneteenth Freedom Ride celebration; celebration will be held Friday, June 15th at the Community Center; everyone is welcome to participate; Bayou Breaux Bridge will be closed sometime in June (anywhere from four days to possibly a week)

1. **MAYOR REPORT**

**Action Items:**

* **Pay App #2 payable to Spinks Construction** (Marilyn/Ointment/Morris Project) **– $205,514.23**

On a motion by Councilman Hasten, seconded by Councilman York, motion was approved.

* **Change Order # 1** (Marilyn/Ointment/Morris Project) **$23,226.00**

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

**Announcements:**

* Thursday next week will be the Seniors’ May-Day Program
* Juneteenth Celebration – 3rd Friday in June – commitments from Nutrien and Syngenta
* Inaugural activities are targeted for June 30th
* July 2nd is targeted for annual July 4th activities
* FYI – Mayor in communications with the demographer about revisiting redistricting
* Commissioning an economic profile study regarding a grocery store in this area

1. **ADJOURNMENT**