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**MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**St. Gabriel Council Chambers**

**5035 Iberville St., St. Gabriel LA 70776**

**Thursday, January 18, 2024 MINUTES 6:00 p.m.**

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 William Cushenberry, Jr.

Councilman Melvin Hasten, Sr.

Councilman Jeffery Hayes, Sr.

Councilman Hoza Redditt, Sr.

Councilwoman O’Kedria Smith

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. Alexis Kador – Emergency shelters/hubs for power outages; annual self-defense classes; recreational activities and transportation for the youths; community talent show on 3/13/24.

1. **ACTION ITEMS**
   * 1. **MOTION** **CONSIDERATION** - To Approve and Adopt Minutes for Regular Meeting dated December 21, 2023

On a motion by Councilman Hayes, and second by Council Redditt, minutes were approved and adopted.

1. **PRESENTATIONS**
2. **Koura**

Eric Comeaux said Koura has a new scholarship program, Empower Scholarships. It can be found at brafscholarships.org. Baton Rouge Area Foundation (BRAF) works with all local universities and community colleges. There are 10 scholarships: 8 for any community college programs that can be used in an industrial environment and 2 for 4-year university programs that can be used in an industrial environment. Additionally, there are 2 opportunities for individuals who want to go into crafts and work in their maintenance division. They will send these two individuals to NCCER to obtain certification. Non-traditional students can also apply. To help everyone succeed, they are offering help to complete applications, mentoring, coaching, help completing homework, etc. St. Gabriel residents have 1st priority, Iberville parish have 2nd, Asension and BR have 3rd and the remainder of Louisiana has 4th. If more than 10 applicants apply, Koura will send their applications to other companies who have similar programs and are seeking applicants. Deadline is February 28th. Ms. Robinson will be going back to the schools to talk to the students again about the program.

1. **Louisiana Youth Challenge**

Lt. Col. Barry Riley and his staff presented Mayor Johnson with the Louisiana Distinguished Civilian Service Metal Award for exceptional, meritorious and distinguished civilian services rendered as the Mayor of the City of St. Gabriel.

1. **MAYORS REPORT**

**Action Items:**

* **Pay App #4 payable to Spinks Construction** (Morris Street culverts) **– $386,639.61**

On a motion by Councilman Hasten, and a second by Councilwoman Smith, pay app was approved.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT –** Certificate of Substantial Completion

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

**Discussion:**

* LCIW Beam Signing Ceremony postponed – future date to be announced.
* Annual audit completed.
* Occupational license renewal deadline is 2/29/2024.
* Mid-year budget is in February.
* $4.86 million in ad valorem taxes collected.
* Thank you to Koura for scholarships.
* Thank you to National Guards for award.
* Congratulations to City Clerk – featured in LMA’s November magazine.
* Thank you to Council members.
* Have targeted some names and addresses of properties for the Clean-up Program.
* Reminder: Congressional City Conference National Leage of Cities is coming up.

1. **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

* Waiting for permits to install remainder of traffic cameras.
* Ready for Mardi Gras
* Mobile phones will be used for communications.
* Inspecting light poles.

1. **COUNCIL REPORT**

**Councilwoman Smith** – Mardi Gras parade Sunday, 2/11/24, at 1:00 p.m.

**Councilman Redditt –** New contractor working onBayou Breaux Bridge; should be completed in about 4 months;

1. **ADJOURNMENT**