***A blue and yellow seal with a pelican

Description automatically generated with low confidence***

**MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**St. Gabriel Council Chambers**

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

**Thursday, December 21, 2023 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.**

* No comments.

1. **ACTION ITEMS**
   * 1. **MOTION** **CONSIDERATION** - To Approve and Adopt Minutes for Regular Meeting dated November 16, 2023

On a motion by Councilman Hasten, and second by Councilwoman Smith, minutes were approved and adopted.

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION –** To Approve Resolution(s) of Condolence
       1. Family of Mrs. Rhonda Johnson Grace
       2. Family of Mrs. Bernice Ross
       3. Family of Mrs. Dell Cecil Martin

On a unanimous motion by council, resolutions of condolence were approved.

* + 1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** – Election for Mayor Pro Temp for 2023 Election Term

City Attorney Dallon Bush asked for nominations for Mayor Pro Temp position. Councilwoman Smith nominated Councilman Melvin Hasten, Sr. and Councilman Hasten accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made.

On a motion by Councilman Hasten, and second by Councilman Hayes, motion to nominate Councilman Hasten as Mayor Pro-Tem was approved.

Upon an unanimous vote, Councilman Hasten was elected Mayor Pro Tem for 2023 election term.

**ROLL CALL**: **5 YEAS** [Councilman Cushenberry, Councilman Hasten, Councilman Hayes, Councilman Redditt, Councilwoman Smith]

1. **POLICE DEPARTMENT**
2. **ACTION ITEMS**
3. **MOTION CONSIDERATION –** Ratify employment of police personnel

**Name Hire Date**

Stacy Paul 3/6/2023 (full time)

Breon Bell 12/11/2023 (full time)

LaDondreia Nabors 11/27/2023 (full time)

Emma Crotwell 11/15/2023 (part time)

A motion to ratify employment of police personnel made by Councilman Hasten, and second by Councilman Cushenbery, was approved.

1. **PD REPORT**

* The first of 8 license plate reader cameras has been installed.
* Police Chief requested Council authorize Mayor, with legal concurrence, to negotiate and sign a contract with the Lafayette Parish Government to house juvenile offenders.

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

* Hosting a suicide prevention class on February 20 & 21, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at the Community Center.
* Hosting, along with the library, two self-defense classes: 1/11/2024, 3:45 p.m., for young adults; 1/13/2024, 10:00 a.m., for adults.
* On 12/5/2023, four officers attended SRT (Special Response Team) training.
* Chief Kimbel from Morse PD is thankful for help to his department regarding tasers.
* Attorney Bush is reviewing the draft PD policy manual; stated once policies are adopted, it’s prudent that officers are trained on them; identified potential company to assist the PD in establishing policies, procedures and training.

1. **MAYORS REPORT**

* Ret. Col. Herb Fritts - overview of Sustainability Partners, a public benefits company that focuses on investment and infrastructure.
* Elisa Willis - support for the Ms. Louisiana USA Pageant.
* Grace Marcell - Bobby Dunbar book signing at library on 1/6/2024.

**Action Items:**

* **Pay App #12 payable to J Reed Constructors** (Municipal Building) **– $209,238.58**

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

**Discussion:**

* Recognized staff for events participation, assistance
* Recognized E. Iberville, Inc., Syngenta, Koura, Nutrien, St. Gabriel Buffalo Soldiers, Progressive Lodge #3, Walmart, Honeywell, Total, Carville Energy, Anchor Chapel and E. Iberville Christian Center.
* CDL classes update
* Bayou Breaux Bridge update
* Carville Pavilion update
* Audit ongoing
* Retail ventures, healthcare analysis and economic profile priority in 2024
* Increase in contribution for Police retirement
* Tax deadline 12/31/2023
* Beer and liquor license renewals due by 12/31/2023
* Occupational license renewals due by 2/29/2024
* As of today, $2,200,000 collected in property taxes.
* Recognized Council members for participation with projects

1. **ADJOURNMENT**