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

**St. Gabriel Council Chambers │5035 Iberville Street, St. Gabriel LA 70776**

**Thursday, October 17, 2024⎪6:00 p.m.**

**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 William Cushenberry, Jr.

Councilman Melvin Hasten, Sr.

Councilman Jeffery Hayes, Sr.

Councilman Randall Johnson

Councilman Hoza Redditt, 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 COMMENT** – Please register with the City Clerk prior to the beginning of the meeting indicating your topic of discussion. Topics should be on agenda items.

* Joan Carter – Topic: 18-wheelers damaging residents’ property on Bayou Paul
* L. Burnett & L. Lacey – Topic: Restitution for damages to home caused by sewer backup.

1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** - To Approve and Adopt Minutes for Regular Meeting dated September 19, 2024

On a motion by Councilman Hasten, and second by Councilman Redditt, minutes from September 19, 2024 were approved and adopted.

1. **PUBLIC HEARING**
   1. **BEGIN Public Hearing** To approve an ordinance establishing compensation for elected officials for work performed in preparation for and in the aftermath of Hurricane Francine

Agenda item died for lack of a motion. Because agenda 4a. died, agenda items 4b. and 4c. were rendered mute.

* 1. **END Public Hearing and Return to Regular Meeting**
  2. **APPROVE** Ordinance to establish compensation for elected officials for work performed in preparation for and in the aftermath of Hurricane Francine

1. **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**
2. To amend City of St. Gabriel Code of Ordinances Section 7.08 M2: Heavy Industrial District

On a motion from Councilman Hasten and a second from Councilman Redditt a public hearing is set for the next public meeting (11/21/24) for motion consideration to amend City of St. Gabriel Code of Ordinances Section 7.08 M2: Heavy Industrial District.

1. To amend City of St. Gabriel Code of Ordinances Chapter 66 Comprehensive Zoning Article I Section 1.19 Fees

On a motion from Councilman Johnson and a second from Councilman Hayes a public hearing is set for the next public meeting (11/21/24) for motion consideration to amend City of St. Gabriel Code of Ordinances Chapter 66 Comprehensive Zoning Article I Section 1.19 Fees.

1. To amend City Policy manual and Employee Handbook, Section: Political Activities

On a motion from Councilman Hasten and a second from Councilman Hayes a public hearing is set for the next public meeting (11/21/24) for motion consideration to amend City Policy manual and Employee Handbook, Section: Political Activities.

1. **RESOLUTIONS**

a. Establishing trick or treat hours for 6pm - 8pm on Thursday, October 31, 2024

On a motion by Councilman Hasten, and second by Councilman Johnson, resolution establishing trick or treat hours for 6pm - 8pm on Thursday, October 31, 2024 was granted.

b. Declaring City of St. Gabriel a Purple Heart City in recognition of local Purple Heart Medal recipients.

On a unanimous motion, and unanimous second, resolution Declaring City of St. Gabriel a Purple Heart City in recognition of local Purple Heart Medal recipients was granted.

**ROLL CALL**: 5 YEAS [Councilman Cushenberry, Councilman Hasten, Councilman Hayes, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Redditt].

c. Support for the Office of Community Development’s Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) for FY 2024-25 grant application

On a motion by Councilman Hasten, and second by Councilman Redditt, resolution for Support for the Office of Community Development’s Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) for FY 2024-25 grant application.

d. Resolve of Mayor and City Council to enforce nuisance infractions (abandoned and dilapidated buildings, weeds, junked vehicles) beginning January 1, 2025

On a motion by Councilman Johnson, and second by Councilman Hasten, accepted the resolution to Resolve of Mayor and City Council to enforce nuisance infractions (abandoned and dilapidated buildings, weeds, junked vehicles) beginning January 1, 2025.

1. **MAYORS REPORT**

Motion Consideration to amend the agenda to include item 7a. Declaration of Emergency – Community Center boiler

**ROLL CALL**: 5 YEAS [Councilman Cushenberry, Councilman Hasten, Councilman Hayes, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Redditt].

1. Motion Consideration to give the Mayor a Declaration of Emergency – Community Center boiler

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

**Action Items:**

* Pay App #20 – J. Reed Constructors $178,507.59 Municipal Complex

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

**Updates:**

* Continuing to move on Jake Lane cleanup initiative
* Getting bids on University Club South man-hole issues
* Making great progress with speed humps, signage and striping
* Wrapping up drainage project on Bayou Paul
* Morris Street pavilion will be going out for bids soon
* Mt. Carmel drainage project notice to proceed signed
* Morris Street sidewalk in planning phase
* Homesite curb and sidewalk project is underway

**Initiatives:**

* Will have discussions on Finance Committee
* City recently advertised for the finance and tax positions and will be advertising for an economic development specialist.
* Minister Alex Robinson will be the City’s chemical industry liaison
* CAP meeting (Emergency Notifications) on November 7th at the Community Center
* Internal work group of employees created to come up with recommendations to attack issues with sewer.

**Discussion:**

* Several parents want to meet regarding forming an independent school district.
* Internal auditors gave an up-to-date overview of the budget
* Thanks to the Councilmen for responsiveness to 18-wheeler incident
* 18-wheeler incident: had a conversation with Entergy CEO and their governmental affairs; talked to Cox CEO and will work with them to review height of utility poles; talked to COX and AT&T about their cross utility poles; talked with University South regarding golf facility and working to create an ordinance to restrict access on Bayou Paul Lane.

**Events**:

* East Iberville homecoming tomorrow, 10/18/2024
* Auction on Saturday, 10/19/2024
* Ghostly Get Together on October 31st
* Fall Fest on November 7th and 8th at Community Center
* City Hall closed November 4th for Employee Enrollment and Empowerment Day
* Monday with the Mayor is October 28th at 6:30 at Community Center

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a unanimous motion by Council, the meeting was adjourned.