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

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

**Thursday, November 21, 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 6:06 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, Deputy 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.

* Susan Landry – Topic: Activities for senior citizens

1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** - To Approve and Adopt Minutes for Regular Meeting dated October 17, 2024

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

1. **PUBLIC HEARING**
   1. **BEGIN Public Hearing**
2. To amend City of St. Gabriel Code of Ordinances Section 7.08 M2: Heavy Industrial District
3. To amend City of St. Gabriel Code of Ordinances Chapter 66 Comprehensive Zoning Article I Section 1.19 Fees

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

* 1. **END Public Hearing and Return to Regular Meeting**

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

* 1. **APPROVE**

i. To amend City of St. Gabriel Code of Ordinances Section 7.08 M2: Heavy Industrial District

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

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

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

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

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

1. **ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS**
2. To establish an ordinance setting wastewater fees for commercial use

On a motion from Councilman Hayes and a second from Councilman Hasten a public hearing is set for the next public meeting (12/19/24).

1. MOTION CONSIDERATION – To BEGIN Executive Session

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

1. MOTION CONSIDERATION – To END Executive Session and Return to Regular Meeting

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

1. To amend City of St. Gabriel Code of Ordinances Section 2- 2: Municipal Vehicles

Motion from Councilman Hasten and a second from Councilman Hayes to set a public hearing for the next public meeting (12/19/24).

**ROLL CALL**: 2 YEAS [Councilman Hasten, Councilman Hayes]

2 NAYS [Councilman Cushenberry, Councilman Johnson]

1 ABSTAIN [Councilman Redditt]

Motion failed due to a lack of votes.

1. **MAYORS REPORT**

* Parish President Chris Daigle: happenings in the parish, term limits for parish president, early voting, new salary structure for parish employees, acknowledged St. Gabriel Mayor, Council members and Police Chief.
* Mayor introduced Dr. William Blair, Director of Demographic Services for the state legislature who presented redistricting options for the city.

**MOTION CONSIDERATION** – To amend the agenda to add agenda item 6a. To create 4 member districts and 1 at-large.

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

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

a. **MOTION CONSIDERATION -** To approve 4 member districts and 1 at-large.

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

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

* According to Standards and Poor’s, the City has an A rating; the City is going for an A+.
* Condolences for Mr. Charles Phillips, Mr. Curtis Johnson, Mr. Alfred Shelton. Ms. Valencia Jones and Mr. Louis Holland.
* Recognized and congratulated Officers Khristopher Grace and Michael Hanks for completing post certification.
* Congratulated Officer Diane Gillis for achieving her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in forensics and working on her masters.
* Mayor recommended Jenell Todd Gee as the new Tax Collector for the City.

On a unanimous motion, and unanimous second, Ms. Todd Gee became the new Tax Collector.

* Welcomed Ms. Abigail Mystery as a new PT dispatcher
* Members of MSA East concert choir were selected for All-State honors.
* Mayor thanked everyone (Councilmen, Ms. Gillis, Police Dept., Ms. Ebony) on the team call today regarding annual toy drive – follow-up call in 2 weeks.

**Events:**

* 11/26/2024 Thanksgiving Lunch
* 12/5/2024 Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
* 12/20/24 Annual St. Gabriel Gala
* 12/22/24Annual Toy Drive
* 11/28/24 Thanksgiving Community Meal hosted by Iberville Christian Center (Pastor Hasten) from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Sunshine Park.

**Updates:**

* 12/31/2024 - tax deadline
* 12/31/2024 - beer and liquor license deadline
* 2/29/2025 - occupational licenses deadline
* 12/13/2024 Christmas celebration at Iberville Christian Center
* MSA East Concert Choir and MSA dancers will participate in the Christmas Tree Lighting on 12/5/2024.
* John Chuba gave an update on projects in the City limits: Council chambers is 90% complete; Morris Street Pavilion and Sunshine Pavilion are up for bid; Morris St. drainage project phase 2 up for bid and design; Maryland, Ointment, Landry, Williams, Smith, Monroe and Morris Streets’ overlay project about 90% complete; speed bump project – 32 installed with 8 remaining; Bayou Paul Park – 2 gazebos and walking trail completed; Bayou Paul Rd – patching and overlay done and north side sprayed with surface treatment to protect the asphalt integrity (south side will be sprayed also); cleaning ditches in various parts of the street completed; University Club – 3 manholes will be replaced; Homesite subdivision sidewalk project completed; Jake Lane sidewalk project should start next week.
* Mayor wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

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