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

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

**Thursday, January 16, 2025⎪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 6:02 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.

* No comments

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

On a motion from Councilman Cushenberry, seconded by Councilman Johnson – with the addition of the statement that Council was ending ratification and all employees of the PD and City that fit the criterial would be brought before Council before keys, badges, etc., are administered – minutes from December 19, 2024 were approved and adopted.

1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION –** To Approve Resolution(s) of Condolence
2. Family of Mr. Alfred Shelton, Jr.
3. Family of Ms. Philece Wilson
4. Family of Ms. Valerie Grey
5. Family of Ms. Anna Lanuate
6. Family of Ms. Shanna Wilson
7. Family of Ms. Betty Fletcher
8. Family of Bishop Eugene Harris
9. Family of Ms. Brenda Bush

On a unanimous motion, items 4a. through 4h. were approved.

1. **INTRODUCTION -** Application for Conditional Use permit for telecommunications facility exceeding 50 feet, and Variance Request for maximum building height over 60 feet.

Name of Applicant: Chips Lyons (of Baker Donelson on behalf of AT&T)

Mr. Lyons gave an overview of the purpose of the request.

1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION –** To set a public hearing for Thursday, February 20, 2025 to solicit public hearing comments regarding the application for Conditional Use for Telecommunication facility exceeding 50 feet and Variance request for maximum building height over 60 feet.

On a motion from Councilman Hayes, seconded by Councilman Hasten, motion was approved.

1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION – To BEGIN Executive Session –** Personnel and legal matters

On a motion from Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Hasten, motion was approved.

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

On a motion from Councilman Hayes, seconded by Councilman Hasten, motion was approved.

City Council explained Council discussed essential budgetary concerns; structure of departments to ensure they are fully staffed and ordinances enacted to ensure all policies and procedures are followed.

1. **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Cushenberry, seconded by Councilman Johnson to amend agenda item 8 to include 8.a-1, was approved.

**ROLL CALL**: 5 YEAS [Councilman Cushenberry, Councilman Hasten, Councilman

Hayes, Councilman Johnson, Councilman Redditt]

1. Personnel recommendation – Rebecca Shields (police officer)

A motion was made by Councilman Cushenberry, seconded by Councilman Johnson, to hire Ms. Shields effective January 16, 2025 with retro pay for time already worked, was approved.

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

Personnel recommendation – Jacob Tugwell (auxiliary police officer)

On a motion from Councilman Cushenberry, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion to hire Mr. Tugwell effective January 16, 2025, was approved.

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

1. 2024 Reports and Stats

Captain Boutte gave a review of the number and types of calls received by the PD in 2024 and provided a camera update.

1. **MAYOR’S REPORT**
   1. Pay apps and financial obligations

* Pay App #23 – J. Reed Constructors $298,871.75 Municipal Complex

On a motion from Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Redditt, pay app was approved.

* Per Tax Collector, City is close to having collected 100% of property taxes.
  1. Notification - dilapidated buildings and structures
* Motion to accept the list of 10 items as dilapidated buildings and structures and abandoned vehicles

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

* 1. Notification - resignation of Public Services Director
* Motion to accept resignation of Public Services Director

On a motion from Councilman Cushenberry, seconded by Councilman Johnson, motion was approved.

* 1. Announcements
* Mardi Gras Parade on Sunday, 3/2/2025 at 1:00 p.m.
* Tuesday, March 4th, City Mardi Gras holiday
* Commercial businesses will be sent letters regarding ordinance for new sewer fees to go into effect 3/1/2025
* Mayor has corresponded with the Parish President regarding Bayou Paul Colored School

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

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