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

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

**Thursday, April 17, 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 6:05 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, Sr., 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.

* Ms. Susan Landry – Reflectors at intersection of Hwy. 30 and Bayou Paul Lane; lights in Meadow Oaks subdivision; air quality/foul odor near Chatsworth Plantation.

1. **MOTION CONSIDERATION** - To Approve and Adopt Minutes for Regular Meeting dated Thursday, March 20, 2025 and Special Meeting dated April 3, 2025.

On a motion by Councilman Hayes, and second by Councilman Johnson, minutes from March 20, 2025 and Special Meeting dated April 3, 2025 were approved and adopted.

1. **RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE(S)**

Charley Givens Edward Porter

Ronald Jones Patrick Nelson, Jr.

Tracy York

On a unanimous motion and second, motion was approved.

1. **PRESENTATION –** Iberville Parish Library

Ms. Jennifer Seneca thanked the Mayor and City for supporting the library and stated the vote for the library millage renewal (4 mils, 15 year millage) is May 3rd. She gave an overview of the library’s plans for the future – including a master building plan that involves all 8 locations and moving the system forward (including new technology and other services).

1. **CODE ENFORCEMENT –** Notification to correct or appear for dilapidated structures

1. 2180 Jake Lane – Dilapidated Structure

Property owner has no objections. Move forward.

1. 2095 Jake Lane – Abandoned Vehicle

No response from property owner. Place notice.

1. 2070 Jake Lane – Dilapidated Structure

Property owner has no objections. Move forward.

1. # Jake Lane – Dilapidated Structure

Property owner has asked for an extension. Granted.

1. 1875 Jake Lane – Dilapidated Structure

Property owner has no objections. Move forward.

1. 1780 Jake Lane – Dilapidated Structure

No response from property owner. Place notice.

On a motion by Councilman Hasten, with a second by Councilman Johnson, motion to accept recommendations for 6a – 6f as stated in record was approved.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTERS**
2. Motion to Begin – Executive Session

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

Attorney Dallon Bush explained that Council and the Mayor were in executive Session to discuss personnel matters regarding City employees.

It was explained that Councilman Redditt had to leave the meeting.

1. Motion to End – Executive Session and Return to Regular Meeting

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

1. **MOTION TO APPROVE**
2. Resolution endorsing Mayor as member of local ITEP committee as established in Executive Order JML 25-033 Section 5

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

1. Resolution authorizing Mayor to end School Resource Officer contract between City of St. Gabriel and Iberville Parish School Board.

Attorney Dallon Bush stated that Chief Ambeau wanted on the record that he would like to end contract or renegotiated for better terms.

On a motion by Councilman Cushenberry, with a second by Councilman Johnson, motion was approved.

**ROLL CALL**: 4 YEAS [Councilman Cushenberry, Councilman Hasten, Councilman Hayes, Councilman Johnson]

1 ABSENT [Councilman Redditt]

1. **DISCUSSION/INTRODUCTION**
   1. Ordinance to amend City of St. Gabriel Code of Ordinances Section 2- 2: Municipal Vehicles and set public hearing for Thursday, May 15, 2025.

Councilman Johnson requested a draft of the proposed ordinance amendment by May 5, 2025.

On a motion from Councilman Hasten, and a second from Councilman Johnson, motion was approved.

* 1. Ordinance to establish 4 single-member and 1 at-large voting districts to be implemented by Spring 2027 municipal elections and set Public Hearing for Thursday, May 15, 2025.

On a motion from Councilman Hasten, and a second from Councilman Johnson, motion was approved.

* 1. Resolution amending COSG policy handbook to affirm Hiring Process

On a motion from Councilman Hasten, and a second from Councilman Johnson, motion was approved.

Motion to start matrix and drug screen for 2 applicants.

**ROLL CALL**: 4 YEAS [Councilman Cushenberry, Councilman Hasten, Councilman Hayes, Councilman Johnson]

1 ABSENT [Councilman Redditt]

It was discussed that the Chief and Captain have the authority to send PD staff for a drug screen after an accident.

* 1. Resolution amending COSG policy handbook – Fleet management structure.
  2. Resolution amending COSG policy handbook – Mandatory Debriefing and Therapy following Tragic Incident Policy.

1. **PLANNING AND ZONING**
2. Introduce and set public hearing for the application for rezoning from R1A – (Low Density Residential) to M1 Light Industrial.

Name of Applicant: Christian Baynham (on behalf of East West Land Co. LC)

Parcel #: 8401364000 Track C

1. **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

* Capt. Boutte gave an overview of the PD calls/complaints during the month of March.
* Checking on street light issues.
* Seeking approval to start matrix and drug screening for 2 applicants.

1. **MAYOR’S REPORT**
   1. Presentation – Chemical Liaison, Alex Robertson

Mr. Robertson stated he is working on getting air monitors put up in the area, but in the meantime, with approval, portable monitors can be obtained. He will get copies of area facilities’ emergency protocols. He is working to get people registered for the emergency call-out system and would like to have a community safety meeting during the summer. He’s working with school system to include local students in Iberville Parish’s summer work program in the chemical plants –30 kids signed up so far.

Pay apps

* Pay App #2 – Luster Group $11,250.00 O’Neal Park Pavilion

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

* Pay App #1 – Luster Group $31,300.00 Sunshine Park Pavilion

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

Bid Acceptance

Consider bids for Community Center expansion

On a motion by Councilman Cushenberry, with a second by Councilman, Hayes recommendation to accept the lowest bid, made by Sage Construction, was approved.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

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