The Mayor and the Council met on the above date for the Special Hearing at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC HEARING
To consider and vote on levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year’s maximum. The estimated amount of tax revenues to be collected in the next year from the increased millage is $2,125,402.00 and the amount of increase in taxes attributable to the millage increase is $29,585.57.
The Public Hearing is now open.
Mae Jean Cazenave, Oak Ave. urged the council to roll forward the millage.
Vivian Solares, W. Imperial spoke concerning the water bill – proposing a change in the minimum amount of gallons.
The Mayor said that the council will be taking that matter up later in the meeting.
The Public Hearing is closed.
Council Discussion:
None
A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Benton to adjourn the public hearing and continue on to the Regular August Council Meeting.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: None
MOTION PASSES

The Mayor opened the regular council meeting for August 29, 2016.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

MAYOR’S COMMENTS
August 12th, the Baton Rouge area and Denham Springs experienced extraordinarily heavy rainfall causing multiple rivers to crest and flood the surrounding areas. The resulting floods wreaked havoc, placing many in harms way, flooding thousands of homes, and leaving those affected desperately in need of resources.
The Harahan Fire Department under the supervision of
Chief St. Cyr assisted in recovery efforts in Denham Springs. The Harahan Police Department under the supervision of Chief Tim Walker assisted with the recovery in Baton Rouge. These departments contributed manpower, and equipment, but mostly importantly heart, immediately following the disaster.

Both of these departments responded admirably, and while providing assistance simultaneously kept our City completely staffed and safe.

Harahan residents have also contributed tremendously. Harahan Cares was established to collect specific necessary supplies from those willing to contribute. Harahan residents did not hesitate and their response was quite astonishing. This effort, led by Keith Moody, successfully brought many critical supplies to the very people who needed it most. The City will continue to collect supplies until August 31st. You can drop off your donations at city hall or the Harahan Police Department.

I would like to thank our community for giving their time and resources.

I have a special announcement:
The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada presented a distinguished Budget award to St. John the Baptist Parish Government. The reason I mention this is because the St. John's CPA is also Harahan's Administrator of Finance, Ms. Linda Lulue. With her efforts and professional judgment, their budget has won this award for the past 3 years. Only 15 of the 65 parishes in Louisiana won this award. I would like to congratulate Ms. Lulue for her accomplishments. Harahan is proud to have you on our team.

The City of Harahan has just completed the 2015 audit which is published on the City's website and the LLA's website. The audit demonstrates that the City is in a much better fiscal position and poised for progress.

These are some of the highlights.
- The deficit inherited by this administration was adjusted upward to $1,256,703
- The City decreased that deficit by 75% equaling $954,116, nearly 1 million dollars in just 1 year. We did this by imposing significant internal controls on spending and reporting.
- At the end of 2015, the remaining fund balance was $994,116.00, an increase of $869,914 from the prior year.
- The City's ability to pay down debt leaves the City's deficit at $298,109.00 for 2016.
- The City collected $122,640.00 in back taxes by June of this year by simply improving invoicing.
- The City will now comply with State Law by holding its first tax sale October 19th.
- For the first time, Harahan has a budget in the required format that complies with the Local Government Budget Act and follows Generally Accepted Accounting Practices.
- The City also adopted Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement for reporting pensions and contributions.

The city is better and stronger for the work we have done collectively. I appreciate the efforts of every department leader, government employee and councilmember credited with saving financial resources, smart management and
overall making sacrifices to protect the pocketbooks of our residents.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
The clerk read the presentations.
1. 2016 J.P.R.D. 12 under Softball Eastbank Champions. The team members were called up one by one and recognized for their accomplishment.
   Mayor Miceli commented that Mr. & Mrs. Blaise could not be here tonight, but we will be providing them the Proclamation.
   The City Clerk read the proclamation.
3. HPD Presentation
   Chief Walker recognized the officers of the HPD who offered help during the flood. They saved 219 people and numerous animals while facing many difficult obstacles. Chief Walker named the officers. He also read his report of statistics for the month of July, 2016.
   Chief Walker addressed the budget audit – he said he has serious problems with it. He is questioning grant money that did not come back to his budget. He does not have money in his budget to talk to Mr. Buras.

Mayor Miceli said we have a late addition to the agenda to consider an application for a high content alcoholic beverage license for Corner Pocket Management Group, LLC dba, The Curve Bar and Billiards, located at 6231 Jefferson Highway for Terrance M. Smothers and Shontee A. Smothers. She asked to amend the agenda to place this as item number 5 under new business.

Madam Clerk have you provided the council with a copy of the request?

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to amend the agenda as stated.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: None
MOTION PASSES

ADDRESS THE COUNCIL
Rhonda Bagby, Generes, announced a fund raiser for JCOA to be held at Chateau Country Club on Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 8 pm – 10 pm with a patron party from 7 pm ’til 8 pm. Tickets can be purchased by calling Liz Yager at 207-4691.
John Riehms, Renpass, thanked the Fire & Police Depts. for the flood recovery efforts. He then listed the complaints about the sand and concrete crushing by Wood Materials. The permit is not in Wood Materials name. They started crushing on Saturday and he doesn’t think they had the permit before they started. Citibusiness reported that Wood Materials had started a new haul road – but no progress of road building has been seen. He listed all the activities Woods.
A motion was made by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman Baudier to extend Mr. Riehms more time.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: none
MOTION PASSES
Mr. Riehms continued and asked what is Harahan doing to enforce
the particulate ordinance.
Darlene Schwartz, announced that Tues. Oct. 18 will be the National Night Out Against Crime at St. Rita – 6 pm till 8 pm. Live music, food and local agencies will be participating. Drug Take Back Day will be held in October also.
Evelyn Riehms, Renpas has videos and sound recordings of night time work at Wood Materials. 24 hour noise is intolerable. They have dredged 914,000 cubic yards of sand which is above their limit. With a new permit they are asking to dredge 1.5 million cubic yards of sand. Wood Materials has ruined our quality of life. This is a large industrial activity next to residential property. Residents need all ordinances enforced. She asked the Mayor to tell what is being done to fight this nuisance. The residents need to hear what is being done.
A motion was made by Councilman Huete and seconded Councilman Baudier to give Ms. Riehms more time.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: none
MOTION PASSES
Mrs. Riehms continued - it is a non-stop job talking to all the entities about this problem and they all want to know what the city is doing to address these problems. We want to be able to answer the different groups. We keep being told that the council makes the law and the Mayor enforces the law. With all the public records we can see this company is not telling the truth.
Jim Perrier, Riverside Dr. here to support John and Evelyn Riehms. He read the article in CitiBusiness about Haroleans and River Road. They moved closer to Bailey to have less people complain. They will continue to grow unless we stop them.
Kay Mitchell, Oak asked permission to use a chart to support the claim that Woods Materials will never help to reduce the deficit or add to the surplus. She asked that the city help us with our quality of life. They are destroying the quality of life and property values. Please help us.
Mr. Fox, Oak Ave. is here supporting Evelyn & John – today he noticed there is water seepage under the levee. We have been complaining for years and nothing was done. Woods is bigger now and the pits are deeper and he is asking if the water is coming from the pit area. He is worried about spring floods and the levee breaking.
George Ackel, 200 block of Jefferson Hwy. business owner and resident. He spoke about maintenance on his property because of the sand. It is deteriorating property values and the quality of life. Eric Chatelain, Colonial Club Dr. came to learn what's going on - there is a leak on River Road at Pecan coming from the levee, spoke on cleaning drains, clearing sewerage lines – need maintenance on everything. He congratulated them for lowering the deficit but maintenance needs to be done.
Vivian Solares, W. Imperial concerning the water bill. She proposed a change in the minimum water level from 6,000 to 4,000 with a $5.70 charge.
The Public Hearing is closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Benton to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the council meeting of July 21, 2016.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED

A motion to approve the minutes was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Benton.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston Wheeler
NAYS: None
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

COMMUNICATIONS
The Board of Adjustments did not meet in July
The Planning & Zoning Board did not meet in August.

RESOLUTIONS
PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2016 – 10
The following Resolution was offered unanimously by the council.
A Resolution adopting the 2016 adjusted millage rate(s).
The Clerk read the Resolution in its entirety.
Mayor Miceli asked Ms. Lulue to explain the resolution.
Ms. Lulue explained that every 4 years the Jefferson Parish Tax Assessor values the properties held in the Parish and tells everyone what their property is now worth. For the most part, historically, property values have increased. Which is good as people want their investment in their homes' values to increase. The Parish and the City collect taxes from the citizens based upon the property values.
Upon an assessment year, the City can choose to keep collecting the same amount of tax dollars, in which case the millage rates are decreased or rolled back, which is Ord 2016-10. This Ordinance must be adopted by a simple majority vote or the City will lose the millage.
The second ordinance allows the City to recognize and take advantage of the increased property values. This increase amounts to $29,585.57 more tax revenues collected in a year. The City has approximately 4,000 properties, so this breaks down to only $7.40 more per property per year. The increased taxes will continue until 4 years from now when the Jefferson Parish Assessor values the properties again.
So this additional $30k worth of taxes would mean an additional $120k for the City over the next four years. Just like the cost of living has gone up for each of us, there is an increase in the cost of running the government. The City has not increased the property taxes collected since 2008. Additionally, the City had lost both the sewer and police millage in the past. The City has made great strides in reducing its deficit, but the deficit still remains. In order to provide the basic essential services for its citizens, the City must find revenue sources. There are very few ways a government can bring in money and the City cannot afford to stay idle and allow this revenue opportunity to pass them by.

Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Benton to open the public hearing.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES
No one spoke.
Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to close the public hearing
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

Council Discussion:
Councilman Johnston asked Mr. Buras whether it should be by resolution or ordinance.
Mr. Buras said that a resolution was fine.
Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Benton to approve the resolution.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 11
The Clerk read the Resolution in its entirety.
The following Resolution was introduced unanimously by the Council.
A Resolution setting forth the 2016 adjusted millage rate(s) and roll forward to millage rate(s) not to exceed the maximum authorized rate(s).
Mayor Miceli explained that the Council can roll forward the millage to the previous year's rate, thereby keeping the millage rate.
Motion by Councilman Benton and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to open the public hearing.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES
The Public Hearing is now open.
Mae Jean Cazenave, Oak Ave. – spoke on the wrong resolution.
Chief St. Cyr addressed the millage problem. We should roll the millage forward. If you roll back the 5 mills adopted by the citizens it rolls back to 4.8 mills. Rolling forward helps the city keep up with the expenses. Smaller homes are being demolished and bigger homes are being built which burdens the fire department. We need to keep the milages at the current rate.
Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to close the public hearing.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

Council Discussion:
Councilman Huete assured the citizens that the increase will only be approximately $7 per house annually.
Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to approve the resolution.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
RESOLUTION PASSES

ORDINANCES FOR APPROVAL (Public Hearing)
The following Ordinance was introduced unanimously by the council.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO.: 2016-9 - Deferred
The Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.
An Ordinance to repeal and amend Ordinance No 1752, which amended Ordinance No. 1402, which amended Ordinance No. 53, Sewerage District No. 1 of the City of Harahan and Ordinance No. 26, Section 1, Sewerage District No. 1 of the City of Harahan and the Harahan Municipal Code, Chapter 22, Article II, Division 2, USER CHARGES, Section 22-46, "Schedule of changes", providing for a change of user charges for services rendered by the said Sewerage District.

The Mayor asked Ms. Lulue to speak about the matter before the Public Hearing.
Ms. Lulue explained that the City received a $4 million, 20 year loan from the DEQ in December 2014 to help the City pay for the much needed sewer renovations. The covenants of the DEQ Loan require that the City generate enough user fees to cover the following costs each year:

- Operating Expenses – which includes operating the sewage system, maintaining the sewer system and replacing the sewer system
- Debt Service Expenses – which includes funding the sinking fund, reserve fund and the contingency fund at the amounts required per the DEQ loan

In order to qualify for the DEQ loan, the City had to prove it’s ability to generate enough user fees to cover the above costs. This was done with Ordinance No. 1752 which was passed unanimously by the prior Council in 2013. These fees are supposed to be reviewed annually to ensure that the covenant is still being met. Through this loan agreement, the City is obligated to ensure that all covenants are met.
The DEQ loan covenant also states that the City shall prepare a report showing the review of the user fees being sufficient and shall furnish a copy of such report to the DEQ. To my knowledge no such report has been remitted. Additionally, the City received a letter from the DEQ in November 2015 where it states that the City is not in compliance with debt service requirements and to submit proof of such requirements. We have received 2 extensions on this deadline, pending this vote. The passed ordinance and the Exhibit 8, which shows the minimum fee schedule required, will be remitted to the DEQ.
Of additional concern to the City, we will have 2 audits for the year ending December 31, 2016. There will be the regular annual financial audit and a Single Audit. A Single Audit reviews all the Federal expenditures the City has made, which includes the DEQ loan. Therefore, this Loan and its covenants will be gone over with a fine-tooth comb at year end. The City risks audit findings, fines, penalties, decreased bond ratings and the availability of receiving future grants or loans from the government if it is found that the City has not lived up to these bond covenants. The City will need additional money in the future to finish bringing the sewer system up to standard, and having failed in meeting bond obligations, this money will not be forthcoming.

If the City cannot provide proof that enough revenue is generated by the USER FEES to cover the operating and debt service expenses, the City WILL BE IN DEFAULT with the Loan requirements. Being in default may most definitely cause the bond
to be called for full and immediate payment. To date, we have
drawn down $1,165,000 of the $4 million loan. We have paid back
$30k of principal. Therefore, should the loan be recalled, the City
would have to pay approximately $1,150,000, which includes
interest. This is just paying back what the City owes. There would
be fines associated with defaulting on the DEQ covenants, which
can amount to $50k per day. Not only can’t the City afford to pay
any of this, either the loan or the fines, but it would be an unjust
burden to the Citizens of Harahan. Such penalties would have to
be passed on to the citizens and the added insult would be the
sewer system would not be fixed, and a working sewer system
should be a basic right of every citizen. Lastly, in terms of
penalties, there is the chance that defaulting on the loan would
give the State of Louisiana reason to step in and take over the
running of the City. This is called a conservatorship and I’m sure
the Council would not like to see their fair City being administered
by outsiders.

Last week I provided various exhibits showing how much the City
must collect in User Fees to be able to meet it’s obligations with
regards to operating and debt service expenses. There is only 1
scenario which achieves this requirement, and it was provided to
the Council as Exhibit 8. The end result is an increase in user fees
to meet the bond requirements.

- For residential, current rate per 1,000 gallons of water is
  $2.50, we need $5.60 for the last two months of the year,
  which is an increase of $3.10.
- For commercial, current rate per 1,000 gallons of water is
  $2.75, we need $6.25, which is an increase of $3.50.

Additionally, there must be a 5% increase for both residential and
commercial each year, beginning January 2017 through January
2021.

For 2016, we estimate that a single person’s bill will increase
from $10.74 to $21.48 and a home of 4 will increase from $42.95
to $85.90 per billing cycle, which is every 2 months.

It is unfortunate that these rate increases must happen, but if we
do not meet the loan requirements, the consequences to the
residents of the City will be even more dire. Had the City been
reviewing the fees and expenses annually and made adjustments
accordingly, no one would be looking at same level of increase
now.

Tonight’s agenda shows how important sewer rates are. There
was a sewer collapse from a water main and leakage this month.
Ordinance 2016-13 tonight is proposing to dip into the Capital
Project Fund for $70k for this emergency repair. The Sewer Fund
is an Enterprise Fund, which means it is supposed to operate as a
business and make enough money to be self-supporting, including
for such unforeseen circumstances as this. Additionally, per the
DEQ loan, the Sewer Fund should be paying for such repairs.
Maybe in the future, once these rates are adjusted appropriately,
we could budget for a repayment to the Capital Fund for this $70k.

Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman
Benton to open the public hearing.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES
The Public Hearing is open
Mae Jean Cazenave, Oak Ave. urged them to pass the rate hike. Chief St. Cyr spoke to the issue. He is of the opinion that the sewer department should fund itself and not be dependent on the city to subsidize it. It has affected the Fire Department because they can't replace employees because of low funding. If the sewer dept. was self-sufficient we would not have that problem. Kevin Smith, Franklin – I will gladly pay whatever the cost to fix the sewer system so I don't have sewerage in my yard. Tracy Whittle, Gordon Ave. I understand we need to raise the money – but not by doubling the fees. Explain it better please. Vivian Solares, W. Imperial asked what is the amount of water for a minimum bill. The water department said the minimum is from 0 – to 6,000 gallons. I don't mind paying more but I want the opportunity to be in the lower group.
The Mayor called a 10 minute recess.
The Mayor called the meeting back to order at 7:23 pm.
Bryan Whittle, Gordon Ave. said even if you conserve water, the rates will go up.
Jeanmarie Murphy, Woodlawn – said that elderly residents on fixed income won't be able to pay this bill. If you double the price – it's too much.
Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Benton to close the public hearing.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

Mayor Miceli asked the city clerk when Ord. 1752 was adopted. The City Clerk answered March, 2013.
Mayor Miceli asked about the millage that expired and how much money it brought in.
Ms. Lulue answered $220,000, but we don't collect that anymore. Mayor Miceli then asked Mr. Buras about the terms and conditions of the bond ordinance for the $4,000,000 loan and the maintenance of the sewer system and plant.
Mr. Buras explained that it calls for the city to pay for all maintenance & running of the system, and bring in 110% of what the bonds will cost each year. He said the Sewer charge ordinance was updated in 2013 and mandated a yearly review which has not been done. The 2013 ordinance mandates that it be reviewed. The bond ordinance intends that the rate be set to bring in enough money to cover all costs plus 110% of the amount needed yearly to pay for the bonds. If other money is found that brings in enough then the rates can be reduced. The rate must be set to cover the bonds. The only other monies we can use would be grants or ad valorem taxes. At a bare minimum you must make sure rates are high enough to service the bonds. The annual review of the rate to be sure the money is covering all expenses must be done. You should make the dept. self-sufficient. Is it mandatory to cover all the indebtedness – the answer is yes. One letter has been received from the DEQ saying we are not funding it properly – so at one point will we be in default – the DEQ can take over the system and set the rates or they will go to court ordering the council to raise the rates rather than taking over the plant. The city's bond rating is good but you will jeopardize it if you do nothing.
Mayor Miceli asked Ms. Lulue if we have any other monies or millages to draw on to pay the bonds.

Councilman Huete answered and said we have a sewer millage that is dedicated to maintenance.

Ms. Lulue said that the maintenance millage lapsed in 2012 which brought in $220,000 and the other millage which is .8 mills is dedicated to construction and brings in approximately $75,000.

Councilman Huete said this matter should go to the public for a millage increase like we did for the Fire Dept. Then the citizens could vote. We can do it that way, right?

Councilman Johnston said that people could take the millage off their federal taxes as a deduction which they can't do with a service charge.

Mayor Miceli said she read the DEQ letter and it didn't look like we had a choice. She asked for an explanation from Mr. Buras. Mr. Buras said the bond must be funded or the city will face the consequences. Other monies can be used to cover operation, maintenance and every other obligation but the rates must be set as to cover the bonds, reserve fund, operation and maintenance.

Councilman Huete asked how did we get the loan if we had to prove to the lender we could pay it back when obviously we couldn't.

Mr. Buras said the previous council sent information to the DEQ. The ordinance said you would review the rates yearly and that gave them a comfort level.

Councilman Huete said that Ms. Lulue said we won't have enough to meet the repayment of the bonds until 2023.

Ms. Lulue said that the rates need to be reviewed every year. She explained the percentages for each year.

Councilman Johnston said that if we can pass a millage then the fees won't have to go up that much.

Councilman Huete said that exhibit 8 shows the sewer fees going from $2.50 to $6.25 in 2017 and in 2018 – it goes to $8.00. If we increase the millage we don't have to go up that high.

Mayor Miceli said that if we raise the rates to meet what we need – and then put up a millage and it passes – then the rates can be reduced.

Councilman Johnston said if we put up a millage and it passes the rates wouldn't have to go up that much. Everyone expects a 5% increase cap.

Councilman Baudier said that at 5% per year – it should legitimately be only 10% for 2016.

Mr. Buras said the contract for the loan stipulates that you shall increase the rate to cover the bond.

Councilman Johnston said if we adopt this rate increase we will have the highest rate in Jefferson Parish. He got calls and most people don't want this increase.

Councilman Benton said the city entered into the agreement with DEQ for the loan based on this criteria. We are renegoting on our part that we agreed to do. It's not a choice, it's mandated. We need to raise the money.

Councilman Johnston said he agreed with Councilman Baudier on the 10% because that's what the ordinance states. He wants a millage to be put up. He is not in favor of raising it this much.

Councilman Huete asked are we currently in default – are we not paying it.

Ms. Lulue said we have made one payment of principal of $30,000 plus interest. The next payment is due in 2017. And we
are not yet in default but not raising the rates could be considered as putting us in default.
Mayor Miceli said that in next year's budget the general fund is the only money that we could use for the sewerage dept. which means that other dept.'s may take a cut because there is no significant increase in revenues.
Councilman Johnston said a minor increase is fine - but this is too much.
Councilman Baudier said that it's not up to the council to decide how we are going to tax - it is up to a vote of the people.
Chief St. Cyr told the council - you took the responsibility to do what it takes to run the city - people need sewerage; and fire and police to come when they need them. Where do you get the money. The dept's. should be completely financed by ad valorem taxes. If it is not to be by ad valorem - then you need to put service charges. This is not a new problem - we do the best we can with what we have. One day we will get caught short - and it may cost lives. What you pay in Harahan for fire protection is ridiculous. Chief St. Cyr said he told Councilman Baudier when they put up the 5 mil tax for the Fire Dept. that they were about 20 mils too short.
Councilman Johnston said a minor increase is fine - but this is too much.
Councilman Huete - DEQ is a federal agency - can we respond with an action plan. She wants to tier the cost of the loan.
Ms. Lulue said that won't work because the bonds say you have to cover the cost each year.
Councilman Baudier - wants to go to the people. By not having the fire department adequately funded he asked if our insurance would go up.
Chief St. Cyr - said the rating will not remain a 2 which means home insurance will go up.
Mayor Miceli asked about the possibility of raising rates for fire and police.
Mr. Buras said if you increase rates for all services - then you could reduce the sewerage rates.
Councilman Huete asked for a definition of other money.
Mr. Buras said the ordinance says you will review the rates every year and you didn't. The contract says it will be funded by the rates established by the city. You need to make this system self-funded.
Mayor Miceli said it is mandated.
Mr. Buras asked Ms. Lulue if all is fully funded.
Mayor Miceli - said there are a lot of needs in the city besides the sewerage system that need to be addressed. If we fund the sewer system with General Fund monies - we won't have enough money to go around. A poor bond rating and possible fines of $35-$50,000 a day will further burden the city and its citizens.
Councilman Johnston asked the City Clerk about putting a millage on the ballot.
The Clerk said the Mr. Martin would have to be consulted because you can only put millage on the ballot in the spring and in the fall and we have missed the deadline for this year.
Councilman Benton asked if the millage is voted down - what happens.
Ms. Lulue said the fine would be $35,000 - $50,000 a day back to the day we were first declared in default.
Mayor Miceli said that 2014, 2015 & 2016 have been missed - so the minimum cap could be increased by 15% but that would not generate enough money. She continued - we can't burden the
taxpayers with fines and lawsuits because this is not adopted. This is a far-reaching and important issue — and this board must act.

Ms. Lulue suggested the board increase the charges — put the millage up for a vote and then reduce the charges if the millage passes.

Councilman Benton agreed saying I don’t think we have a choice. Mayor Miceli said the previous council adopted the ordinance that specified reviewing the rates each year.

Councilman Huete — can we adopt another ordinance increasing the user fees by 10%?

Mr. Buras said you could review the rates annually or more often as needed. You were a councilman then — you haven’t looked at the rates since then. That was the intent — but if you redraft another ordinance — you will be mandating yourselves to review annually.

Councilman Huete — we need to give a show of good faith and maybe they will accept that.

Mr. Buras agreed with Mayor Miceli that the council missed 2014, 2015, & 2016 so the minimum increase would be 15% but that was not enough to pay back the loan.

Mayor Miceli said the council can amend it to 15% and have Ms. Lulue go to DEQ and ask if that’s sufficient.

Councilman Johnston said that if the millage doesn’t pass — then we can raise the user fees.

Mayor Miceli said that the increase in 2013 — was a 200% raise — but the sewer millage of 1.78 was allowed to lapse which caused a reduction in collections. What does the council want to do?

The mayor asked for a motion to proceed with the vote.

Councilman Huete offered a motion to defer seconded by Councilman Johnston.

Councilman Johnston asked if they are looking to amend the whole ordinance or just the rate.

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: Benton

ABSENT: NONE

ORDINANCE DEFERRED

Mayor Miceli took a moment to explain the next 2 items on the agenda which pertain to amending the budget for increased insurance costs. There are two ways to amend the budget — Ordinance No. 10 provides that the money be taken from the General Fund Budget. Ordinance No. 11 provides that the money be taken from the Capital Fund Budget. If Ordinance No. 10 passes, Ordinance 11 can be withdrawn. Madam Clerk please proceed.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2016 – 10 (Insurance – Opt. 1)

The Clerk read the ordinance by title only. This Ordinance was proposed unanimously the council.

The Mayor asked Ms. Lulue to explain the ordinance to the Council.

Ms. Lulue said that the City's insurance provider is Humana and the coverage runs from July through June of each year. In our original budget, we had estimated our health care costs across all departments to total $336,356 for the fiscal year of January through December. There has been an increase in our policy, effective July 1st. I had provided the Council with a spreadsheet showing, by department, the original budget of health insurance for the year, where we stand as of June 2016, what our
estimated costs will be for July – December 2016, which, when added together gives us the revised budget expenditure of $358,728 for the 2016 year. This is a $22,372 increase.

As resolved at the July Council meeting, this additional expenditure maintains the City’s past coverage of paying 100% of health insurance for employees and 33 1/3% of health insurance for spouses and dependents.

- Schedules A - relates to the proposed ordinance 2016-10. We are presenting the Council with 2 options for amendments to the General Fund. Option 1 shows the increased amounts regarding resolutions 2016-6 and 2016-7 and the health insurance increase only. Option 2 shows the same figures as option 1, but includes a transfer in from the Capital Project Fund to fully cover the increased health coverage without further burdening the General Fund.

Currently, I have done the books through July 2016 for the General Fund, and we are currently showing a Net Income of $410k. As a benchmark, we are looking at 7 out of 12 months, or 58%. This means that our revenues and expenses should be sitting right about 58%. We DID OUR BUDGET WELL. Total revenues are right there at 57.7% and total expenditures are coming in under at 53.6%. So other than any unforeseen situations, the City’s General Fund is expected to stay right within budget overall.

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.
This Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Benton and seconded by Councilman Johnston.
An Ordinance amending Ordinance 1806, the annual Budget of Revenue and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2016, for the City of Harahan, Louisiana (General Fund Budget).

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Benton to open the public hearing.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

Chief St. Cyr urged the council to pass the ordinance. He would vote for Ordinance 10 & so would Chief Walker.
Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Benton to close the Public Hearing.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

Council Discussion:
Councilman Johnston said he did not push this off until this meeting.
Councilman Huete apologized to the city employees. They would never let $22,000 keep the employees from having insurance.
Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to approve the Ordinance.
PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2016-12
The clerk read the Ordinance in its entirety.
This Ordinance is proposed by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler.
An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 1806, the Annual Budget of Revenue and Expenditures for Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2016, by decreasing appropriations to Capital Expenditures by the amount of $6,000 and by increasing the appropriation to Budget Code 010-4-112-40320 relative to Police Department - Uniforms and Accessories for the specific purpose of the purchase of ballistic helmets; and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.
A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to amend the title from Ordinance No. 1806 to Ordinance No. 1805.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to open the public hearing.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

Chief Walker said that an officer's safety is paramount and he also needs two more police officers to make sure they are safe. Ballistic helmets are for SRT team.
A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to close the public hearing.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

Council Discussion: None.
A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to adopt the Ordinance.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ORDINANCE PASSES

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (First Reading)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2016-13
This Ordinance is proposed by Councilman Benton.
The Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.
An Ordinance adopting a Capital Projects Budget for the Sewerage Department of the City of Harahan, Louisiana.
OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS
1. St. Rita Pecan Festival Committee requests.
   ♦ Permission to sell beer and wine at the annual St. Rita Pecan
     Festival Bingo on Friday, October 7, 2016 from 5:00 pm until
     11:00 pm
   ♦ Permission to sell beer and wine at the annual St. Rita Pecan
     Festival on Friday, November 11, 2016 from 5:00 pm until
     12:00 am –
     Saturday, November 12, 2016 from 12:00 pm until 12:00 am &
     Sunday, November 13, 2016 from 12:00 pm until 9:00 pm
   ♦ Permission to block Bourg St. from Imperial Woods Dr. to
     Ravan Ave. during the hours of operation for the St. Rita
     Pecan Festival.
   ♦ Permission to block Ravan Ave. Saturday, November 12, 2016
     from 11:00 am until 6:00 pm. Ravan will be used to move the
     children from the school to Bourg St. for their classroom
     performances.

Council Discussion: None
A motion to grant the requests of the Pecan Festival Committee
as read by the Clerk by Councilman Wheeler and seconded by
Councilman Johnston.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
REQUESTS GRANTED

2. Change the date of the September Regular Council Meeting to
   September 22, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

Mayor Miceli explained that this meeting was delayed until
August 29th due to advertising requirements. Because of this
move, there will only be 2 weeks between meetings. However
the City Clerk will be on vacation the 3 days before the Sept.
regularly scheduled meeting and she will be out of town on that
date. She is asking that the meeting be moved to September 22nd
at 7:30 pm which will also give a full month between meetings.

Council Discussion:
Councilman Benton said she may not be here.
Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman
Wheeler to defer to last items on the agenda.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ITEM DEFERRED

3. High Content ABO application for Him Orr Her, LLC dba My
   Sister’s Table, located at 6901 Jefferson Highway, Unit A, for
   John A. and Dawn D. Orr.
Mayor Miceli asked Chief Walker, have all the requirements for
the permit been met by the applicant?
Chief Walker said they had.

Council Discussion:
Councilman Huete questioned there that ear two separate
businesses.
Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to grant the ABO.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

4. High Content ABO application for Yes or Orr No, LLC dba CC's of Harahan, located at 6901 Jefferson Highway, Unit B, for John A. and Dawn D. Orr.
Mayor Miceli asked Chief Walker, have all the requirements for the permit been met by the applicant?
Chief Walker said they had.
Council Discussion
Motion by Councilman Wheeler and seconded by Councilman Johnston to grant the ABO.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABO GRANTED

5. High Content ABO application for Corner Pocket Management Group, LLC dba The Curve Bar & Billiards, located at 6231 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA 70123 for Terrence M. & Shontee A. Smothers.
Mayor Miceli asked Chief Walker, have all the requirements for the permit been met by the applicant?
Chief Walker said they had.
Council Discussion:
Motion by Councilman Wheeler and seconded by Councilman Johnston to grant the ABO.

All in favor? YEAS _____
All opposed? NAYS _____
ABSTAIN _____ ABSENT _____
We have ___ YEAS, ___ NAYS  Motion (passes/fails)

Motion by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman/Benton to take up No. 2 from New Business.
Council Discussion: None
Mayor Miceli had explained the reason earlier in the meeting.
Motion by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman Wheeler to change the date of the September Council meeting to Sept 22 at 7:30 pm.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

ADDRESS THE COUNCIL- The public may now address the council.
John Rhiems, Renpass – Wood Materials – do you know what’s going on. He asked some kind of ribbon cutting ceremony for the new road.
Pat Peppo – sewer fees what do we have to pay back on the $4,000,000 loan. How much does it cost per water meter to pay back the loan. $6 a month per meter should do it.
Mayor Miceli asked him to come in and speak with her.

SECRETARY’S REPORT
REPEATS
Chief Walker gave his report earlier in the meeting. 9 vests replaced – 7 were paid for by donations.
Chief St. Cyr – gave his report for the month of July. He recognized the firemen who went to help during the flood in Baton Rouge & Denham Springs. Another fund raiser for cancer patients – shirts are $15 – Harahan Firefighters Association. Councilman Baudier said that schools in – slow down. His heart goes out to the people in Baton Rouge. He made donations to the people.
Councilman Benton - None
Councilman Huete – wished her great aunt who will be 99 – Happy Birthday
Councilman Johnston – no report
Councilman Wheeler - none
Mayor Micile asked Ms. Lulue about the sewer fees have to support the maintenance of the plant and lines & pay back the loan and the interest. It is an average fee, is not a constant fee because of repairs. We are actively trying to address the issue of Wood Materials – through police & fire departments and through the city attorney and we are in contact with all appropriate agencies. Any further deferment of the sewer charges will make the budget process very difficult. Police 2014 audit – has been closed as of Dec. 31, 2014 by Postlewaithe & Metterville. It was the appropriate move – but what should have happened was a budget amendment. In 2015 those allocations were reviewed – Ms. Lulue applied the insurance correctly. The budget amendment failed for a lack of a second. Allocations of resources – show the actual costs of each department.

PAY BILLS
Total Bills paid in July, 2016 are $327,261.80

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN
Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 P.M.
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
MOTION PASSES

A. The following matter involving pending litigation may be considered (Court, Case, Number, Parties):

B. The following matter involving prospective litigation for which formal written demand has been made may be considered.

C. The following matters involving discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of:
   Name: