

**CITY OF HARAHAH**  
6437 JEFFERSON HIGHWAY, HARAHAH, LOUISIANA  
**MAYOR AND HARAHAH CITY COUNCIL**  
January 15, 2015

The Mayor and the Council met on the above date for the regular meeting at 7:30 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Mayor called the Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Miceli, Councilman Baudier, Councilman Benton, Councilman Huete, Councilman Johnston, Councilman Wheeler, Municipal Clerk Nicole Lee, Police Chief Tim Walker, Fire Chief Todd St. Cyr, City Attorney Courcelle.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Miceli congratulated the newly elected council and had the department heads introduce themselves.

Todd St. Cyr, Fire Chief

Jeff Charlet, Regulatory Director

Edwin Lauricella, Maintenance Director

Mary Helen Koscho, Clerk of Court

Robert Hienz, Finance Director

Stu Foley, Recreation Director.

Mayor Miceli read her inauguration speech into the record:

Thank you for that kind introduction. Today, I stand before you humbled and enthusiastic. Humbled that the people of Harahan have chosen me to be its servant leader for the next four years.

This trust will serve as a daily reminder, that you, the people of this great city, are the reason that we hold these positions. As we move forward, it must always be clear that what motivates us – is “You”.

Being the Mayor is an incredible honor and an awesome responsibility for this daughter of an immigrant with a third-grade education and his young modest wife. And I accept it.

In the history of Jefferson Parish, there is a prominent place for this gem by the Mississippi River. With its beautiful trees, green spaces, and charming neighborhoods, Harahan represents a slice of Americana that most people can only dream of. We are blessed to have it.

But those idyllic scenes would be meaningless without the people who give it life. The people of Harahan represent love of family, strong values, and serve as jealous guardians of its rich culture and way of life. This little gem, where people feel safe and never want to leave, holds a unique place in the history of Jefferson Parish.

Now, we have an opportunity to embrace that history and direct our future in a way that lets Louisiana know that Harahan is so much more than just a small bedroom community. As I begin my time working for you, there are three things that we will do together:

1. First, we will let everyone know that Harahan is open for business the right way. We will let those who wish to open businesses in the city know that we have rules, regulations, codes and standards, and laws that are designed to protect our citizens and neighborhoods while allowing businesses to coexist and prosper in our city. We will make clear that in Harahan the playing field is level and just for everyone.
2. Second, my desire is to begin an on-going dialogue with proven and seasoned leaders in our region and see how we can work together to make our cities even stronger. We will create relationships and partnerships with surrounding communities that will allow us to benefit from their existing contracts and expertise. Harahan cannot be an island all unto itself if we intend to provide the services that you deserve.
3. Third, we will have a paradigm shift.

I will always be the first person to stand in defense of our small town appeal. But I will also be at the forefront of a search for new ideas and more progressive ways to operate the city. I believe you can walk the streets and feel like you are living in a quaint small town but when you walk into City Hall you must feel like it is operates with the efficiency of the most profitable

**Fortune 500 Corporation. This means that operations will be streamlined, budgets will be maintained, waste will be eliminated, and customer service will be outstanding. My philosophy is simple, we will be accountable to our shareholders – you, the citizens of Harahan.**

**The most dangerous thing about history is that it is often repeated in spite of the lessons we should have learned. We should always cherish the memories of the good ole days but never let it stymie our growth and progress. When I think of Harahan, I think about our most cherished assets in life – family, friends, neighbors and our community.**

**This will be my sole motivation to provide Harahan the best quality of life and safest community that is possible. My vision is that Harahan be a true model for this region and even the state and that we are proud to call it home. Thank you, God Bless You, and let's get to work!**

**She thanked the maintenance crew for freshening up the council chambers. She said they are reviewing all contracts and soon will put them on-line. Training on the Encore software is scheduled for employees.**

**She announced the Fire Dept. millage election on March 28 and encouraged everyone to vote for it. She called Chief St. Cyr to the podium to explain the need.**

**Fire Chief St. Cyr asked for the support of all the council and the chief of police to help pass the millage for the dept. This millage originated 20 years ago when they promised to buy new equipment, hire new employees and in return the citizens would get a better rate from their insurance companies. They kept those promises. The firemen will be knocking doors again to gain support. There will be an open house at the fire station on Hickory on March 14<sup>th</sup> between 2 and 4 pm for all citizens to come see the fire equipment. He explained that one mil brings in \$77,000 and this money is imperative for the continued operation of the dept. He has compared our department to neighboring departments which get an average of 27.9 mils while Harahan is asking for only 5 mils. He explained the amount an average homeowner would pay as \$50 and the average business would pay \$100. He explained that this is a renewal and not a new tax.**

**Harrison Trepagnier was recognized as a Cheerleader from Brother Martin selected to participate in the London New Year's Day Parade.**

#### **ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

**Michael Ryan, congratulated the Mayor and Council.**

**Kirk Talbot, State Representative, also congratulated the Mayor and Council. He is looking forward to working with them.**

**Paul Johnston, Councilman of Jefferson Parish is also looking forward to working with them.**

**Dale Simoneaux, Macque St. formed a neighborhood watch. He is sharing from a citizen's perspective. Last year a business in a neighboring area caused concern. He wanted everyone to understand how to form a neighborhood watch. There are signs at both ends of the street. He thanked the various depts. and the police dept. for their help.**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Councilman Baudier and seconded by Councilman Huete to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the December 18, 2014 Council Meeting.**

**The Mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:**

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

#### **MOTION APPROVED**

**A motion was made by Councilman Baudier and seconded by Councilman Huete to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2014 Council Meeting.**

**The Mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:**

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

#### **MOTION APPROVED**

**A motion was made by Councilman Baudier and seconded by Councilman Huete to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the December 22, 2014 Council Special Meeting.**

**The Mayor** called for the vote, it was as follows:

**YEAS:** Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION APPROVED**

A motion was made by **Councilman Baudier** and seconded by **Councilman Huete** to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2014 Council Special Meeting.

**The Mayor** called for the vote, it was as follows:

**YEAS:** Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION APPROVED**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS**

A motion was made by **Councilman Baudier** and seconded by **Councilman Huete** to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the December 17, 2014 meeting of the Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

**The Mayor** called for the vote, it was as follows:

**YEAS:** Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION APPROVED**

A motion was made by **Councilman Wheeler** and seconded by **Councilman Benton** to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2014 meeting of the Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

**The Mayor** called for the vote, it was as follows:

**YEAS:** Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION APPROVED**

The Planning & Zoning Board did not meet in January.

**ORDINANCES FOR APPROVAL (PUBLIC HEARING)**

The following Ordinance was proposed by **Councilman Huete** and seconded by **Councilman Baudier**.

**The City Clerk** read the Ordinance in its entirety.

1. An Ordinance providing for the transfer of Capital Project Funds, to the City's General Fund, to be utilized for operating expenditures of the City.

**The Mayor** opened the Public Hearing.

No one spoke

**The Mayor** closed the Public Hearing.

**Discussion:**

**Councilman Huete** asked the city attorney to explain that the legislative auditor had guided the council through the process.

**Attorney Courcelle** read the email from the legislative auditor concerning the uncommittment of the capital projects funds.

**Councilman Johnston** said he was not involved with the ordinance and is not in favor.

**The Mayor** called for the vote, it was as follows:

**YEAS:** Baudier, Benton, Huete, Wheeler

**NAYS:** Johnston

**ABSENT:** None

**ORDINANCE PASSES**

**ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (First Reading)**

The following Ordinance was proposed by **Councilman Johnston**.

**The City Clerk** read the Ordinance by title only.

1. An Ordinance to enact budget procedures.

The following Ordinance was proposed by **Councilman Johnston**.

**The City Clerk** read the Ordinance by title only.

2. An Ordinance to require online posting of City budgets.

The following Ordinance was proposed by **Councilman Johnston**.

**The City Clerk** read the Ordinance by title only.

3. An Ordinance to require online posting of contracts.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Appointment of City Clerk/Tax Collector**

**The Mayor nominated Nicole Lee as City Clerk/Tax Collector.**

**The Mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:**

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**APPOINTMENT APPROVED**

**The Mayor asked City Attorney Courcelle to swear in Nicole Lee as City Clerk/Tax Collector.**

**2. Appointment of City Attorney**

**The Mayor nominated Steve London as City Attorney.**

**The Mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:**

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: Huete**

**ABSENT: None**

**APPOINTMENT APPROVED**

**3. Appointment of Magistrate**

**The Mayor nominated JoAnn Mantis as Magistrate.**

**The Mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:**

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: Huete**

**ABSENT: None**

**APPOINTMENT APPROVED**

**4. Appointment of Prosecutor**

**The Mayor nominated David Courcelle as City Prosecutor.**

**The Mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:**

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: Huete**

**ABSENT: None**

**APPOINTMENT APPROVED**

**5. Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem**

**A motion was made by Councilman Huete and seconded by Councilman Johnston to appoint Councilman Baudier as Mayor Pro Tem.**

**The Mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:**

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION APPROVED**

**ADDRESS COUNCIL**

**No one spoke.**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Secretary's report for December, 2014**

**The Mayor announced that the Secretary's Report will be ready in February**

**REPORTS**

**Chief Walker gave the police report for December, 2014.**

**Councilman Baudier is looking forward to the next 4 years.**

**Councilman Benton – no report**

**Councilman Huete – looking forward to next 4 years. She applauded the inauguration. She explained her vote on the legal team nominated by the Mayor. She wanted someone who lives in Harahan. She does not make quick decisions.**

**Councilman Johnston thanked the voters for his election. He wished his wife Happy Anniversary.**

**Councilman Wheeler thanked the voters and her family for her election. Looking forward to working with the new Council and Mayor.**

**PAY BILLS**

**Bill's paid for December, 2014 in the amount of \$573,738.29.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**ADJOURN**

A motion was offered by Councilman Baudier and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to adjourn at 8:20 pm.

The Mayor called for a vote. The vote was:

**YEAS:** Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION APPROVED**

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**Tina Miceli, Mayor**

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**Nicole Lee, Municipal Clerk**

**A. The following matter involving pending litigation may be considered:**

- 1. Phillip Canella vs. Arch Ins. Co., City of Harahan, Todd A. St. Cyr and Allstate Ins. Co.; 24<sup>th</sup> JDC, Case 744-961, Div. "I".**
- 2. Susanne K. Scalise vs. City of Harahan, LA, Anne Gordon, Louise Slayden, Ronald Gordon, Gail Gordon; 24<sup>th</sup> JDC, Case 744-986, Div. "O".**

**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:**