

**CITY OF HARAHAH
6437 JEFFERSON HIGHWAY, HARAHAH, LOUISIANA
MAYOR AND HARAHAH CITY COUNCIL
April 16, 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, Fire Chief Todd St. Cyr, Captain Butch Adams representing Chief Walker, Police Chief Tim Walker, City Attorney Tommy Anzelmo, Jr.

A motion was offered by **Councilman Johnston** and seconded by **Councilman Huete** to amend the agenda to take up the matter of New Business – nomination of a city attorney.

Mayor Miceli nominated Thomas Anzelmo Jr. as her nominee for the position.

Discussion: None

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED

The Mayor introduced Thomas Anzelmo, Jr. and asked for a motion.

A motion was offered by **Councilman Johnston** and seconded by **Councilman Benton** to approve Thomas Anzelmo, Jr. as the City Attorney.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED

Mayor Miceli explained that the city's website has had a glitch, but the server issue has been resolved.

Mayor Miceli said that the Council felt that the Mayor was not communicating with them as much as they like. She apologized and said her door is always open and would like to meet with them monthly or weekly – depending on their schedule.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Senator Danny Martiny addressed the council extending his congratulations on their election. He offered his help to the city at any time. He congratulated the new city attorney Thomas Anzelmo on his appointment. The 11th legislative session is open, it is a budgetary session. Call if we need him. Every Tuesday there is a Jefferson lunch at the Capitol. He invited them to dine with him to discuss matters.

Kelly Daul, Daul Insurance – the city is proposing a move of the health insurance policy from Blue Cross to Humana and Mr. Daul will explain the plan. The two tier plan is a little less expensive for the employees. This move will save the city from \$120,000 to \$240,000 per year.

Harahan Elementary – Brenda Guidry presented the Harahan Police Dept. with a bullet proof vest.

Mayor Miceli & Chief Walker thanked Ms. Guidry.

Councilman Wheeler asked how much do the vests cost.

Chief Walker said that they cost about \$600 each.

Veolia – J.R. Parish said that the council has brought up the issue of odors from the sewerage plant. He presented a statement to the council with the history of the contract with Veolia. The contract with Veolia started in 1996 with Mayor Mosca. In 2002 shipments of the waste water began. The shipments were stopped in 2004. He explained the process. In 2005 under Mayor Paul Johnston the contract was renewed to bring the shipments back. The process is permitted and causes no problem. It was stopped in 2009 and restarted in 2010 with changes to the contract. Fees were set by Mayor Johnston – 65% going to Harahan @ 13 cents per gallon. This service has brought in \$80,000. Loads average 12 loads per month. The city receives a statement every month of the deliveries and monies received.

Councilman Johnston said he brought this up because of a strong odor being reported to him. He is doing research to find out where the smell is being emitted. He is trying to narrow the problem down. He asked about the days that the waste water was brought in.

Mr. Parish said there is no set date or time for delivery.

Fire Chief Todd St. Cyr said they had smelled the odor and had thought it was the sewer plant and then found out that it might be the waste water's smell. He asked if there was a solution to eliminate the odor.

Mr. Parish said he will look into the problem of adding a chemical to dispel the smell. He asked that they call the plant when the smell is prevalent. He said customer service is a priority.

Ben Plaia - Governor's Office of Homeland Security - recovery division.

Mayor Miceli said he would explain the recovery process for Hurricane Katrina and Gustav. She thanked him for bringing a team to inform the city about the process.

Mr. Plaia said that the review of the grants and their status. Harahan is still entitled to \$149,864 from Katrina and Gustav and + \$14,000 in administrative costs for Katrina, Gustav and Issac.

Mayor Miceli said there were missed opportunities and they want to learn the correct process so there are no problems in the future. She asked about an appeal process.

Mr. Plaia - over \$600,000 was spent on debris pickup for Ivan. The contract was not properly procured and there were some discrepancies. The cost analysis showed that \$200,000 was reimbursed but \$400,000 was not.

Mayor Miceli said they had talked about hiring a compliance contractor.

Mr. Plaia - FEMA pays for using a compliance contractor under administrative costs. He congratulated the staff in Harahan for their good work. A contractor keeps everything on track and it is very common for cities to hire one. Harahan is at risk for damage during a storm. FEMA demands insurance on buildings for their cost. Insurance may not be available or the city can't afford it. There is an exception the city can investigate. We may need an exception from the rule. A contractor

Councilman Huete asked about the project worksheets. She wants to know how many worksheets are open for each storm. She asked about an appeal.

Mr. Plaia said there was no problem except for Issac. He said that GOSEPH and FEMA work hard to recover money.

Councilman Huete asked about the \$114,000.

Mr. Plaia - corrected the amount to \$14,000 is administrative costs for Issac.

Councilman Huete - said that the only one open is Isaac.

Mr. Plaia said there is some missing documentation so money is being withheld. He said that someone needs to go thru all the documentation

Councilman Benton - if we hire the company, but FEMA decides not to reimburse - then the city would owe the contractor.

Mr. Plaia - suggested that the firm could be hired for the administrative costs or the firm could decide to waive the fee. The ceiling is \$40,000.

Councilman Benton asked is there an average amount that is paid out.

Mr. Plaia said there is not average - documentation is everything. Have a competitive contract process. It should never be the cost plus a % and the last is to document, document, document.

Plaia - the city needs to look into the insurance and apply to the insurance commissioner for an exception. Contracts need to be in place before a storm.

Benton said that we really don't know what the percentage of the \$149,000 we can get back.

Mr. Plaia- \$69,000 Katrina \$80,864 Gustave - \$149,864. We need to see how much is in each "bucket". This is important to a small city.

Councilman Baudier - how likely are we to collect the \$149,864.

Mr. Plaia the \$149,864 needs documentation and it will be collected. The lack of documents is a problem.

Mayor Miceli thanked Mr. Plaia for his presentation.

The city has sent out a proposal for special FEMA technical contractors. The submissions are being looked at by Councilman Wheeler, Rena Sanders and the Mayor. Department Heads:

Chief Walker gave his proposed budget to the Mayor and his report for March, 2015. He urged everyone to come to the budget meeting which is scheduled for 5:30 pm.

Fire Chief St. Cyr gave his report for March, 2015. He announced that the millage passed by 88% of the vote. He thanked the Mayor for the presentation by Veolia.

Edwin Lauricella – Maintenance Director said that rain is the big problem right now.

Mayor Miceli thanked Mr. Lauricella concerning complaints being handled promptly by the Maintenance Dept.

Stu Foley – Recreation Dept. – Sock Hop on May 2 – from 7-10 pm – for ages 9-13, \$10 a ticket. Rentals are now being handled by the staff at the gym. Baseball starts on the 21st. Parking is a major problem – handicap spot is being used by non-handicapped persons and double parking is a problem.

Councilman Huete – asked about the plan for the playset that is deteriorating.

Mr. Foley said that the intention is to replace it. The equipment is between 15-20 years old.

ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Jeff Merchant – a board member of Riverside Country Club, 329 Colonial Club Dr. He asked the council and mayor to join. Activities include tennis, swimming, movie nights, private party rentals, and picnic areas. JCCA competitive swim team – April 23rd is first meeting. They are offering \$50 off of the \$600 membership dues for a year.

Darlene Schwartz – Mindy Keller asked her to pass along info about a fundraiser on Sunday, May 17th. They offer counseling services for adults, kids for stress. The fund raiser will take place at Colonial Bowling Lanes from Noon to 3 pm. NFL football players will be in attendance. Bobby Hebert will be the Master of Ceremonies. Cost is \$20 and food and drinks are available. Call her at 418-2767 cell phone for more information. There will be raffles & a silent auction.

Rhonda Bagby – praised Chief Walker and the whole department. She thanked Mayor Miceli and said everyone had high praise for her.

Terry Valenti – also thanked the Police and Fire Chiefs and the Mayor. The election said that the people wanted change and you are delivering that change.

Ricky McGhee of 221 Gordon said that recent rains had flooded the street and water was nearly driven into the house by cars driving by. He called the police but all they did was a drive-by which did not help. He thanked the fire department for help when his mother needed it.

Mayor Miceli asked to meet with him.

Butch Adams, Harahan Police Dept. asked the council to look at the new insurance plan because the out of pocket increase is out of reach. Police Dept. insurance claims have changed \$9,250 – with co-pays low. Total out of pocket

Individual \$1,032 less but out of pocket is \$8,000 in network and \$24,000 out of network. Family plan out of pocket is \$12,700 in network and \$38,000 out of network per year. His family is unique. His daughter and wife have health problems and the total out of pocket must be paid.

Money saved each month but total out of pocket cost more. Why cut the budget for insurance and are there better options? What is the total amount saved at the expense of the employees?

Tim Baudier wants to add this to the agenda. Blue Flash and Pipeworks has been working for years and years with the city, but not anymore. His concern is that he touts promoting business and we should promote Harahan businesses. Regulatory Dept. is a question too since there is no full time regulatory officer at this time. Permitting is questioned. Why not use Harahan businesses. How are we controlling blight? He thinks the Mayor is proposing no full time regulatory director. His main concern is why we are not using Harahan businesses.

Mayor Miceli reached out to Mr. Baudier – but you don't want to meet with me or talk to me. She asked that he come to speak with her face to face so information is based on facts not rumors. She is addressing all of these problems.

Councilman Baudier – this is the City Council meeting – not the Mayor's meeting – never told he could not add anything to the agenda. He is passionate about issues and he wants it all on paper.

Mayor Miceli said she appreciates everyone's input from the council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by **Councilman Johnston** and seconded by **Councilman Benton** to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 19, 2015 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 Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2015 Council 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

The Board of Adjustments and Appeals did not meet in March.

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

The Planning & Zoning Board did not meet in April.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion to amend the resolution to correct the precinct numbers was offered by Councilman Huete and seconded by Councilman Benton.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

The following resolution was introduced unanimously by the Council.

The City Clerk read the resolution.

A resolution providing for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election held in the City of Harahan, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, March 28, 2015, to authorize the continuation of a special tax therein.

Discussion: None

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION APPROVED

ORDINANCES FOR APPROVAL (PUBLIC HEARING)

The following Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier.

The City Clerk read the ordinance in its entirety.

1. An Ordinance to enact budget procedures.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing. Huete/Wheeler

No one spoke.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing. Huete/Wheeler

Council Discussion: None

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE APPROVED

The following Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Huete.

The City Clerk read the ordinance in its entirety

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

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing. Johnston/Wheeler

No one spoke.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing. Johnston/Wheeler

Council Discussion: None

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE APPROVED

The following Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier.

The City Clerk read the ordinance in its entirety.

3. An Ordinance to require online posting of contracts.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing. Johnston/Baudier

No one spoke.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing. Baudier/Wheeler

Council Discussion: None

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE APPROVED

The following Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Huete.

The City Clerk read the ordinance in its entirety.

4. An Ordinance to require online posting of City bank account check register.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing. Johnston/Wheeler

No one spoke.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing. Benton/Wheeler

Council Discussion: None

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE APPROVED

Mayor Miceli asked that Councilman Johnston spearhead the process and work with the Finance Director for putting the information on-line.

Councilman Johnston said he would.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (First Reading)

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget Hearings

April 20 – 5:30 pm – Police and Fire

April 22 – 5:30 pm - for all other departments.

A motion was offered by Councilman Huete and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to hold the proposed budget hearings and waived notice.

The Mayor call for a vote, it was as follows:

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

2. St. Rita Dads' Club is requesting permission to sell beer at the 2nd annual St. Rita Dads' Club Crawfish Cook-Off, Saturday, May 16, 2015, after 11:30 am Mass.

A motion was offered by Councilman Wheeler and seconded by Councilman Baudier to approve the request.

The Mayor call for a vote, it was as follows:

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

3. St. Rita is requesting barricades and a police escort for the annual Eucharistic and May Crowning Procession, which is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2015, after 11:30 a.m. Mass.

A motion was offered by Councilman Benton and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to approve the application.

The Mayor call for a vote, it was as follows:

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

4. Carreta's Grill is requesting permission to set up booths and sell food and alcoholic beverages for a Cinco de Mayo celebration that will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. until 10:00 pm. There will also be live music at the event.

A motion was offered by Councilman Benton and seconded by Councilman Johnston to approve the request.

Discussion:

Councilman Johnston asked about the police dept. participation.

Chief Walker said that everything was handled.

The Mayor called for a vote, it was as follows:

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

5. High Content ABO application for Dock Quick Stop, LLC, located at 1927 Hickory Ave. for Nizar Faraj.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to approve the application.

The Mayor call for a vote, it was as follows:

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

ADDRESS COUNCIL

Louise Chapman asked about the pictures of former Mayors and Police Chiefs being put up.

Mayor Miceli said that maintenance will be installing them after the walls are inspected. She also said that a new map that is more accurate.

Mr. Merchant gave a new date – May 23 – Saturday – Open House 11 am – 10 pm Riverside Country Club.

Ms. Nicole Rizzo – said that the new insurance plan that will be implemented on May 1st – saving \$73,000 for next 8 months. \$73,000 divided by 37 employees – fire and police. She asked that the city set up a fund for 2015 to help those employees.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary's report for March, 2015 total receipts is \$608,576.66.

REPORTS

Chief Walker said that early this evening 6 juveniles were picked up joyriding after side swiping a car in Royland.

Councilman Baudier said that he had concerns about the ordinances put up by Councilman Johnston but he thinks Councilman Johnston's heart is in the right place. He pointed out the letter from Harahan on Track that has concerns from anonymous citizens. He apologized to Councilman Johnston for not being open minded and he does believe in the ordinances. No private meeting, phone calls – everything should be done at the meeting.

Councilman Huete – none.

Councilman Johnston – happy that his ordinances passed since they ran on transparency.

Councilman Wheeler wished her mom & dad a happy 49th wedding anniversary.

Councilman Benton said she supported the ordinances but wanted to give the Mayor a little more time to settle in. No one on the council is against transparency.

Mayor Miceli said they made some important assessments. The city is in financial jeopardy with major problems – a huge deficit – bills from 2012, 2013, 2014 of over \$500,000 had to be paid. There was no budget for 2015 as required by law. There are big hurdles to overcome that she does not take lightly. Insurance is a problem that she understands. Change is difficult – the city's deficit is \$1.3 million with a budget of less than \$6 million. Must provide services and pay our first responders. She takes the insurance problem to heart. She is looking forward to budget hearings. She invited everyone here to join in the process – need to speak to each other. She regrets that Councilman Baudier thinks something was overlooked at the meeting. She expects a phone call or a stop by the office to take care of the city. Communication should be mutual. She wants to move the city forward – negativity needs to be behind us and we

have to be open to change and to talking to one another. Her door is always open and her cell phone and email are available. She is available at all times.

PAY BILLS

Bill's paid for March, 2015 in the amount of \$430,897.96.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURN

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to adjourn at 9:30 pm.

The Mayor called for a vote. The vote was:

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

Tina Miceli, Mayor

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.; 24th JDC, Case 744-961, Div. "I".**
- 2. Susanne K. Scalise vs. City of Harahan, LA, Anne Gordon, Louise Slayden, Ronald Gordon, Gail Gordon; 24th 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: