

**CITY OF HARAHAH
6437 JEFFERSON HIGHWAY, HARAHAH, LOUISIANA
MAYOR AND HARAHAH CITY COUNCIL
October 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 represented by Judy Johnson, Fire Chief Todd St. Cyr, Police Chief Tim Walker.

Mayor Miceli thanked the staff for the Breakfast for Bosses Day. She also thanked Judy Johnson for sitting in for the city clerk. Kirk Talbot is helping to get the ditches along Hickory cleaned. She referenced the changes in City Hall because of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's suggestion. She asked everyone to turn off their cell phones.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Louisiana Legislative Auditor

Mr. Kevin Kelly, Audit Manager listed the deficiencies found in the Legislative Auditor's report of Sept. 19, 2015 and explained each one.

1. Uncollected taxes and property not seized or sold.
2. Improper health insurance benefits including \$58,404 for health & life insurance premiums for council members. This violates the ordinance that sets their salaries.
3. Unsupported payments to employees and contractors. They were paid \$45,300 and brought in \$27,476. Three of five contracted inspectors were paid \$9,120 for gas plus the director received \$200 a month in gas reimbursements without documents.
4. Inadequate and outdated contracts.
5. Missing public records – including invoices & receipt books.
6. Undocumented employee pay raises. Directives were given verbally by former Mayor Mosca.
7. And, finally, non-compliance with Budget Act by not submitting a budget for 2015 before the end of the year.

Councilman Huete said she takes the matter seriously, asked if these deficiencies are unusual and asked if they had ever found zero deficiencies.

Mr. Kelly said yes they have, but they operate on complaints and have found some deficiencies in a lot of cases.

Councilman Huete asked if these are the usual deficiencies.

Councilman Benton asked what would happen if we fail to correct the deficiencies.

Mr. Kelly said that was a question for the District Attorney and suggested that the city move to correct the deficiencies as soon as possible.

Councilman Benton also stated that the budget has been illegally overspent, what are the consequences of that action?

Mr. Kelly said Mr. Battle will be able to answer that question.

Mayor Miceli said generally, the deficiencies are prevalent and very serious.

Mr. Roger Harris, Director of Investigative Audits answered Councilman Benton's question - stated that the law is the law for a reason and if the deficiencies were found to be intentional then it is considered malfeasance of office and is prosecutable. He recounted a case where a councilman was found guilty of malfeasance. It could also be an Ethics violation.

Mr. Mike Battle, Legislative Auditor's Advisory Services meets with local governments and helps pinpoint deficiencies in internal control. He helps draft recommendations to strengthen control to eliminate the deficiencies. He stated that he helped Police Chief Walker in 2014 and made 24 recommendations in Dec. 2014 for the police dept. They know that local government needs help and most of the time the officials are receptive to suggestions. In 2014 annual audit from the city's auditor also recommended that the city strengthen controls in the areas mentioned. He suggested the city start working on the problem and strengthen controls. A follow-up project may be done in future. If both the city auditor and Legislative Auditor says to strengthen controls they expect it to be done by "tone at the top". The head of the agency - Mayor, Council, or Police Chief - have to take it seriously, acknowledge the deficiencies and implement the recommendations. You must work together to get this done or it won't work. He suggested they discuss the status of the findings; recommendations and how they are being implemented. Also, policies and procedures must be established. A comprehensive set of policies and procedures should be developed. Once this council has moved on - the newcomers will have a guide. He said the city needs: controls that are adequate; professional staff; and they should hire and train them properly. Legislative Auditor's Center for Local Government Excellence - a training academy - 3 different sets of classes. Certificates are offered - internal control basics are the first topics. Contract with people who can help if the staff cannot handle. Job descriptions are necessary - employees need to be evaluated. If not sufficient - they need to be trained. Rely on professionals to help - Legislative Auditor's office or LMA or a professional in the business world. Government is not easy to run. Mayor Miceli said volunteers have risen up to help the city evaluate practices and put into practice some of your recommendations.

Mr. Battle said that was good. He said that what happens if strategies are not implemented - more susceptible to mistakes or even fraud. They haven't done a critical analysis of the budget but they will be shortly - in 2014 audit - a spending deficit of \$1.7 million - ending fund balance deficit of \$1.2 million. The CFO said that the deficit this year will go down to \$750,000. A deficit is a red flag - you've got to work together to strengthen control and put pencil to paper and develop a realistic plan to affect the bottom line. He suggested a Finance Committee with the Mayor, a councilman and professional. Sometimes you just have to give up something to reduce a deficit. When transferring money to get rid of deficiencies - but be sure you are not using restricted or debt reserve funds - it's illegal. Spending deficit that keeps on-going can get you in the long run. Remember to set aside money and not use it to lower the deficit. In future, a deficit will affect bond rating or ability to borrow money. If the city can't pay bills, the court could appoint a fiscal administrator to take over the budget of the city.

Councilman Benton – the city tax collector received a letter from Mr. Capella that said the millage packet was so full of errors that they would not accept our millage packet again.

Mr. Battle suggested that they call Joann from their office for an answer.

Councilman Baudier asked if deficit spending because of 2 major storms and sink holes is legal because the damage had to be fixed.

Mr. Battle said that if you are budgeting to improve the deficit and not making it worse – you are not in strict violation of the budget act. Practically speaking you cannot shut down government. But afterwards – you must get rid of the deficit. Spending deficit is reduced by making hard decisions bit by bit. Showing progress is sufficient.

Mayor Miceli thanked them for the presentation and their help.

She introduced Gregory Ruppert, Deputy Chief, Bureau of Revenue & Taxation of Jefferson Parish – suggesting remedies.

Mr. Ruppert stated that the sheriff is the sole collector of taxes in Jefferson Parish but they don't collect city taxes. He said they have crafted Cooperative Endeavor Agreements for the city.

Mayor Miceli said that for small cities with not enough staff that they contract with a group that can do that.

The Mayor asked him to talk about their staff and the process.

Mr. Ruppert said that the process is difficult and tax sales have many, many steps. They have 8 people in the office and conduct a tax sale each year. There is a big difference between collecting taxes and processing taxes. They help draft laws about tax collection. Title 47 states that a tax sale shall be held on or before May 1st or as soon as possible thereafter. They collect approximately 99.2% of the taxes.

Mayor Miceli asked about the ramifications if a tax sale is done wrong.

Mr. Ruppert said that the city must provide due process. Proper notice is the biggest fatal flaw in most tax sales. He explained what happens if the tax sale is done wrong. Tax law is very complicated.

Mayor Miceli said that Jefferson Parish is conducting tax sales on property in Harahan but the city is not. If both conduct tax sales what happens if there are two different buyers.

Mr. Ruppert said that they have taken 20 properties in the last year from Harahan to sale. The sale of adjudicated property is handled by the parish. The notice is sent to the owner if it does not sell in the tax sale before it is adjudicated to the parish. If the city does not tell the parish about liens, the city loses out on those monies.

Mayor Miceli asked about liens.

Mr. Ruppert said that liens must be filed with the parish. A lien must be recorded with the Clerk of Court.

Mayor Miceli said that this is another deficiency the city has and asked if the city would benefit from the parish taking over the collection of taxes – she asked if it would eliminate liability.

Mr. Ruppert said that the burden of collecting the tax by the City Clerk would be eliminated if the Parish took over collecting the city's taxes. Another remedy for the parish is to file suit in 24th Judicial Court for the taxpayer to explain why they have not paid their taxes. The law says there is one remedy for unpaid taxes – the law says you “shall” have a tax sale.

Councilman Huete “Are you here to talk about tax sales as well as the two Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with Jefferson Parish”.

Councilman Johnston “I pulled a couple of state statutes and it looks like we might need state approval for the parish to take over

tax collections. Different cities had to get approval from the state.”

Mr. Ruppert said there several parishes that collect city taxes.

When everyone has separate tax sales – 2 parties may buy the same property. If the city did not check with the parish to see if parish taxes were paid there could be multiple problems. One tax sale done by the parish would eliminate these problems. The city has the obligation to do this right.

Mayor Miceli said the city has a deadline to do this correctly which is pressing.

Mr. Ruppert said the city needs to look at the Legislative Auditor’s findings and get into compliance with them, and then look for a way to accomplish a tax sale.

Mayor Miceli said she spoke with Mr. Battle about the staff necessary to collect taxes and conduct a tax sale and Mr. Battle said we don’t have the money to acquire the necessary staff.

Mr. Ruppert said that proper notice is the most important aspect of a tax sale. Certified mail that is returned is not sufficient – must have presumptive notice and give them the opportunity to correct the problem. The greater notice results in less properties in a tax sale. City clerks wear a lot of hats and it’s a lot to handle. They are working to clean up the process and make it simpler. There is a 3 year redemption period during which the owner can redeem their property.

Mayor Miceli asked about occupational licenses.

Mr. Ruppert said that the parish accepts partial payments on property taxes. They will work with the property owner. There are 2 bills being sent to each property owner in Harahan doubling the effort and cost. The sheriff is committed to following the law.

Councilman Wheeler “The Legislative Auditor said that in a span of 20 years there’s been delinquent taxes and no tax sale. Is there a statute of limitations, I mean can the city of Harahan go back 20 years and hold a tax sale on somebody who didn’t pay their taxes?”

Mr. Ruppert said you are limited. If it is movable property you can go back 3 years. That’s money lost. By law you are limited – if they have paid 2014 and have not paid 2010 – you probably could not collect 2010.

Councilman Huete “So technically the city could go back to 2012”.

Mr. Ruppert said that was possible on movable property – but statutorily the city is limited. If they haven’t paid in 20 years – he feels the city would have to research each year to collect all taxes but would probably be able to collect. The law is complicated.

Councilman Huete asked **Mr. Ruppert** to explain what happens when the Parish would take over tax collections in Harahan. “What does that mean to the citizens and what is that process?”

Mr. Ruppert explained that the Harahan taxes would be a line item on their Parish bill – and the citizens would only get one bill. The breakdown of the millage and charges would be put on the back of the bill. The web site would have a breakdown on where your taxes go. Payments by mail would be accepted. On-line payments and a drop box at City Hall would be available.

Councilman Huete “We have a lot of elderly population that live here in Harahan and they are used to doing the same thing they have done for years, coming into City Hall to pay their property tax bills, do they get a receipt – could you explain that process to whoever is watching.”

Mr. Ruppert said they would write one check to the Parish and the Parish would send our share to the city. He does not know how

many people come in to pay their bills. With on-line payments they no longer come in.

Councilman Huete “We are just being sensitive to our population that live here in Harahan and I don’t think many are going on-line to pay their property taxes.”

Councilman Wheeler “Aren’t there some properties in Jefferson Parish that are Homestead Exempt that are not exempt in the City of Harahan? So there could be people who don’t have to drive to Gretna or Metairie Rd. to pay Jefferson, but they come to Harahan to pay their municipal taxes.”

Mayor Miceli asked Mr. Heinz about the number of transactions they are processing now?

Councilman Wheeler “So they would not get their receipts here. The payment would have to be processed before they get receipts.”

Councilman Huete “What’s interesting too is that Robert with his last financial run sat with Carrie and I last month for about an hour and a half and what we noticed is that Harahan does a pretty good job collecting their property taxes. We’re at 99%. And so, this was information for me, it was the first time Robert was educating me. We collect \$1.1 million dollars in property tax and the audit stating that over 20 years we didn’t collect \$132,000 – if you estimate that over 20 years it’s \$6,000. I’m not saying we don’t correct it, we have to, we have to have a tax sale. But this is tiny, we are doing a really good job of collecting 99% of our property taxes.

Robert Heinz said that figure is based on what we budgeted last year, not the actual tax base. There is a larger amount that are not paying.

Councilman Huete “It was on the run, at the end you pointed out to us. It’s okay if I misunderstood.”

Councilman Huete reiterated \$132,000 over 20 years was minimal.

Councilman Benton “If there are 20 properties that you said were included in the projection that didn’t pay taxes – there is no way that it’s 99%.”

Councilman Wheeler “I don’t have the budget in front of me, but when we met with him, it was projected.”

Mayor Miceli called Robert Heinz up to the podium.

Mr. Heinz said that he projects the budget based on what was collected in the prior year. I’ve seen the figures from the assessor but that is not the exact tax base.

Councilman Huete “Well we know we are missing \$132,000 over 20 years.”

Mayor Miceli “We don’t know the time frame for each citizen.”

Mr. Heinz “That is the figure the city gave them, but when they dig into this, they will find a much larger figure.”

Councilman Baudier “If they are currently doing this with other municipalities then we could go talk to them. If not, because it does sound good, why would other municipalities not opt in.”

Mr. Ruppert “They had approached the previous administration and other municipalities about this service, but we work with other cities on all issues. He suspects that in the future going forward, this service will be more cost effective.”

Councilman Johnston “There are no other cities doing this?”

Councilman Benton “The larger budgets of other cities allows them to staff their departments.”

Mayor Miceli asked about researching occupational licenses.

Mr. Ruppert “We correlate with the state dept. of revenue to determine who is registered with them and if they are registered with the Parish. They would do the same for the city of Harahan. I

believe that all businesses should be paying their taxes equally. They collect the occupational licenses for Jefferson and the Village of Lafitte. We match the data to be sure there aren't any variations."

Mayor Miceli said they started looking at numbers of the occupational licenses in Harahan.

Mr. Heinz said we don't know what we are not collecting. He said that coordinating with the state, we will definitely be collecting more. He feels that we will be collecting enough to put another fireman or policeman on the street.

Councilman Huete asked Mr. Ruppert "to clarify about the occupational licenses. Does that mean if a new business owner creating a business wanted to come into the city to apply for an occupational license and pay for that first sum? Does that mean they would not come to the City of Harahan any longer?"

Mr. Ruppert said he does not think a business owner should have to go to three different places to fill out the same application 3 different times. He said we should be able to share the information with the Secretary of State, Parish and City. It would be more business friendly to do this. They are trying to set up a one-stop shop to help business owners and provide those services.

Councilman Huete "I'm looking at Mr. Linny of the Happy Italian and if he wants to meet the council and shake the Mayor's hand, will new business owners who come into the City of Harahan, we want to roll out that red carpet – how can we help you. Will they be coming to you for their license and to pay their money?"

Mr. Ruppert answered yes.

Councilman Huete said "That's all. Thank You."

Councilman Johnston "the budget keeps getting brought up, so we might be collecting less than we are collecting. I'm talking about both."

Mr. Heinz said that on the ad valorem tax collections, we would be saving money because the output is large. As far as occupational licenses

Councilman Johnston why are we putting up resolutions if we don't know the true numbers of what we are agreeing to.

Councilman Huete said there was a mistake in our agenda.

The sum was \$2.00 per parcel.

Councilman Johnston, "I'm not jumping the gun or going ahead. I think we have to talk about this a lot more before following through."

Postlethwaite & Netterville Audit Report, Todd Tournillion, CPA

Mr. Tournillion, Audit Director with the results of the 2014 yearend audit. The audit report was issued in June, 2015 and submitted to the La. Legislative Auditor's office and their review and approved and available on the Legislative Auditor's website. We issued an opinion that the results are materially correct. Also issue a report on internal controls in accordance with governmental standards – where we mention anything not in compliance. A management letter is also issued with recommendations that are not so significant.

Councilman Huete do we have that in our packets or are you referencing the report from June. I just wanted to follow.

Mr. Tournillion – the general fund – ending fund balances – the general fund had a deficit of \$1.2 million, the sales tax fund had an \$8,000 fund balance. Sales tax sinking fund had \$187,000 bond reserve \$366,000, capital projects \$800,00, total net balance of \$167,000. Other transactions – notification that the CDL loan was

forgiven \$300,000 in March, 2014. There's a new supplemental schedule that is a requirement from La. Legislative Auditor office and the state legislation – that requires a schedule of compensation for the Mayor. Report on internal controls – consistent with Legislative Auditor's report. Payroll internal controls same as Legislative Auditor's report. Non-compliance by the health insurance payments to the council. The last 2 items – new accounting requirement – record accrued pension liability, fire, police and municipal employees. This is an additional liability for the city. The last item is a new requirement – 3 strikes and you're out. The legislative auditor's office will start tracking repeat findings without due cause and if continued for 3 years it will be referred to the Oversight Board which oversees the Legislative Auditor's office. It will reinforce the need for compliance and attention to recommendations from the Legislative Auditor's office.

Mayor Miceli introduced Mike Mullin, as her nominee for City Attorney. He has B.A. Fordham University; Juris Doctor, Loyola University School of Law, Retired Asst. Parish Attorney for 19 years

Mr. Mullin said he and his wife are in business together in a law practice. He has worked for 3 parish presidents and considers his nomination an honor. He said he could solve some of the problems he heard tonight. He thanked the Mayor and Chief Walker and some of the residents who are helping to get him approved. He also thanked the Council members. He met with all Council members & most of the council members said he was well qualified – but they would not vote for him because the Mayor nominated him. The majority has the right to approve. The City is in need of non-partisan help. He said he would be non-partisan, and he has seen other governments through this same process with the Legislative Auditor. He warned the auditors will be back. They don't want a quick fix, they want progress, if they see progress the city won't have to worry about the dire consequences such as a take over by the state. He said he would be the city's lawyer – not the mayor's or the council's. He researches the law and issues an opinion based on the law – not a politician's desired outcome. I understand there are many legal issues that need to be resolved. If you came to vote against me, that is your right – but I ask that you reconsider that vote and let's get to the business of helping Harahan.

Councilman Benton “In your position as Asst. Parish Attorney did you serve subpoenas; have you ever been involved in anything illegal and are you in business with anyone living in Harahan. Did you contact everyone on the council and request a meeting? Do you feel qualified for the position? Does your schedule permit you the time for this position?”

Mr. Mullin answered yes, he has served subpoenas and no he has not been involved in anything illegal nor is he in business with anyone in Harahan and yes he met with the entire council, and yes he feels qualified for the position and he will make the time to do the job right.

Chief Tim Walker addressed the council about his support for Mr. Mullin and stated he has pressing needs within the police dept. for which he needs a legal opinion. Not having an attorney is holding up many pressing matters and the council is putting the dept. in a bind by not ratifying an attorney.

Mayor Miceli said there was a Meet & Greet at a citizen's home in support of Mr. Mullin. She said that within 72 hrs. there were 75

people there to support him. She thanked Mr. Mullin for coming. He is a statesman and eminently qualified and a gentlemen. It would be a privilege to have you.

ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Todd St. Cyr, Fire Chief announced a new organization to help the fire department.

Lee Brown, fireman for 16 years – elected President of Harahan Firefighters Association. Partnered with several organizations to promote safety, training – no public funds will be used.

Todd St. Cyr thanked all the men involved who will raise funds for the department. He is proud of the men who volunteered for this.

Rhonda Bagby told the council are supposed to represent the citizens and the citizens want Mr. Mull as a

Deborah Nash, there seems to be a need for a compromise – if council can't approve your nomination why can't you name someone they want. The council is not dictating to you but they do not approve of the attorney you selected. Meet the council halfway and the council should meet the Mayor halfway and find someone you all can agree on.

John Rheem,– the city has been without an attorney for some time and Mr. Mullin is the man for the job. He asked the council to support Mr. Mullin to get things done.

Eric Chatelain – he agrees with Ms. Nash – the Council and the Mayor need to work together. The Mayor knew that the Council did not want Mr. Mullin. This deferral was pushed on in order for the Mayor to drum up support for Mr. Mullin. It's not the council's fault we don't have an attorney – put 4 nominations and let them pick one. This is not the council's fault 100%. We need a city attorney – it is not Plaquemines Parish.

Patty Couvillion – never have I seen a Mayor put forth 4 candidates for a vote – this practice has been going on for decades. Mayor Mosca didn't fix it. The most surprising thing in the audit report was 2 line contracts. If 6 people can't work together for the city, then resign your position. Mr. Mullin knows government law. The seriousness of the charges against this city demand an attorney. I emailed all of ya'll. I got 3 responses – the Mayor, Councilmen Benton and Huete – no one gave any reasons as to why you don't want Mr. Mullin. Tell me your reason. No one answered except those 3. Being against this just because the Mayor wants him is too much. Be adult and fix it.

Matt Wellman, an attorney who's known Mr. Mulling for over 30 years. He's honest, competent and will be a great city attorney.

Lenny Minutillo – the Happy Italian. He is applying for an ABO license but this situation is hurting my business. Things need to move forward. He is being put at a disadvantage.

Bernard Dupree questioned what happened to the other attorney. **Councilman Huete** answered that the two previous attorneys resigned.

Mr. Dupree asked who is responsible for collecting the Taxes.

Mayor Miceli said the state statues says the Tax Collector shall collect the taxes and have a tax sale.

Mr. Dupree said that Ms. Butera was in the audience and how could take it upon herself to have a tax sale.

Councilman Johnston said it was at the direction of the Mayor.

Mayor Miceli said as Mayor we will follow the law and the state constitution. Now that the deficiencies have come to light we have to address it.

Mr. Dupree said don't fire people – train them. Nicole Lee didn't know it was her duty, don't you think it is your duty to train her. Don't crucify this young lady for something she is not responsible for. He said you know Nicole does not lie and is not a thief – you have to do what's right and that's what the people expect you to do.

Ashley Cambre – comment on City Attorney. I've attended these meetings and the way you all treated the first two attorneys it was appalling. You may have forced them to resign because of your actions.

Councilman Wheeler – everyone who watched the council meeting saw Mr. London's way of speaking to Councilman Huete.

Councilman Huete– I wish Mr. Anzelmo was still here and so does he.

Terri Valenti everyone wishes everything was different. Some want Mr. Chatelain to be Mayor but he's not. The election is over and done with – Harahan goes on. If we were talking about a controversial person it would make sense to defer or not vote. But this is an honest man and more than qualified to do what we need. We have councilmen who will not vote for anything with the Mayor. I am asking the councilmembers to do the right thing tonight, the adult thing.

John Bono, said he never planned on getting involved with politics. But he's really concerned about Harahan. I brokered the deal with Puccino's and Carretta's to bring them into the city. 37 years ago he went to law school with Mr. Mullin. Please do whatever you've got to do to get him to be the city attorney. He is the best.

Erica Lugo there is a reason that a new person is sitting in as Clerk of Court – the reason she is not here is unfair. We do know what is going on and we are not going to just sit back and watch it happen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September 17, 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 September 17, 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

A motion was made by Councilman Benton and seconded by Councilman Johnston to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September 23, 2015 Appeals Board 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 September 23, 2015 Appeal Board Meeting.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Benton

MOTION APPROVED

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

The Planning & Zoning Board did not meet in October.

RESOLUTIONS –

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Benton.

A Resolution accepting the nomination of Michael Mullin as City Attorney.

The City Clerk read the Resolution in its entirety.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Huete said she wanted to make a few comments. “I appreciate your coming here tonight for our discussions. I think he is a very, very nice man and I’m sure you are very capable of doing the job. I know you’ve probably seen over the last 2 months, the climate and the environment that is occurring between the Mayor and the Council and it’s unfortunate, it’s not comfortable for any of us. This is not the way we want to do business and govern our city. But this is how it is and we are trying to work it out. Someone asked tonight what are your concerns and I have to read something. This is no disrespect for you I’m just explaining way I will not be giving my vote for Mr. Mullin tonight. There was an article in Plaquemines Parish council that concerns Parish President Billy Nungesser and the attorney and at this time, it was from May 22, 2012, we have to remember that Mr. Mullin was the Asst. Attorney. And there’s a quote, an excerpt from this article and this is what concerns me. “Councilmembers have urged the Parish Attorney hired by Mr. Nungesser that he is beholdng to him and thwarts the council’s efforts to gain information and conduct business of the city. The council has sued Mr. Nungesser more than a dozen times seeking information and trying to force him to carry out actions that have been approved by the city council pardon me, the parish council. And I have to just go on record to say that that’s how we feel, that’s what going on in our city right now. We’re so concerned about this is not what we want we’ve asked the Mayor to please put up nominations. We asked the Mayor for two months since Mr. Anzelmo resigned. Please advertise for the position, let’s come together in a consensus and agree on our nominations since our city attorneys over 10 months have not worked out. We cannot jump into someone that not all of us feel comfortable with and we don’t.”

Mr. Mullin explained about the case. “Mr. Nungesser wanted outside counsel, but the council appointed me instead. The implication is that I was Billy’s lawyer sounds like a quote from a councilman that I know well. All of the suits were dismissed.”

Councilman Baudier “I will elaborate. It goes further on in this article and Councilman Huete and I agree on both these things. Mr. Roussell said the councilman doesn’t trust Nungesser and doesn’t want to work with him because Nungesser constantly sought to expand his power and due to his inability to realize his own

shortcomings and always sought to blame someone else.” “That’s why I won’t be voting for Mr. Mullin but I have more. It’s a trust issue between the Mayor and us at this point. And that’s what this is coming down to. We don’t know Mr. Mullin, and just because we like him I’m not going to vote for him just because I like him. I like Eric Chatellain but I wasn’t gonna vote for his resub. I’m gonna vote for what I feel comfortable with and feel comfortable with and who I feel comfortable working with. When Save Harahan comes up here and speaks, they speak with their hearts. When something is wrong they really stand up and let you know what it is. So just because we disagree, I don’t think we should be, you know uh, beat up about it. But these are some facts that these are facts and I’m not implicating no one or anyone at all, but when the Mayor first took office, she came and met with us and asked us to nominate Phil Ramon – uh I mean Steve London and Jo Ann Mantis. And after Mr. Ramon put a monkey piece out on me and then campaigned very strong against me.”

Mayor Miceli interrupted and asked that he not bring private citizens who are not elected officials into the conversation– it’s not appropriate.

Councilman Baudier – “He’s a member of Save Harahan.”

Councilman Huete – “It’s a matter of personal privilege.”

Councilman Baudier – “I supported the Mayor in those two endeavors. As we were going on, I asked the Mayor – please no more Phil Ramon affiliates, it wasn’t just me, it was pretty much everyone on the whole council. It just doesn’t look right. So then we have Mike Gaffney coming in because she wanted another FEMA contractor. Mr. Gaffney owned the property that Mr. Ramon’s house is on. Then we had Frank Stewart, the engineer who built Mr. Ramon’s house or did the engineering on Mr. Ramon’s house. Now we have Mr. Mike Mullin, who he says has no affiliation with Mr. Ramon, but worked with Mr. Ramon stringently in Plaquemines Parish. So now I’m trying to figure out who’s running the city. And one more thing that kind of alarmed me tonight about Mr. Mullin – he said that whatever we talked about would not be discussed in any form, it was between him and me and tonight he said that we told him that we’re not going to vote for him just because we’re not in compliance with the Mayor. That is not, that is not what we discussed. What we discussed was that this is a trust issue. We don’t, we don’t, we don’t feel comfortable enough with you Mr. Mullin.”

Mr. Mullin “Councilman Baudier, give one example of a relationship I had with Mr. Ramon other than the fact that we both worked in the same Parish. Name one Mr. Baudier.”

Councilman Baudier “I asked if you knew Mr. Ramon, you said yes.”

Mr. Mullin answered “His name is Ramon. Yes, it would be hard to set foot in Plaquemines Parish, which had 62 buildings destroyed and we had a consultant that Mr. Ramon worked for, sure I worked in Plaquemines Parish too. So if that’s to imply some type of business affiliation, I’m telling you sir, that’s nonsense and you know it is.”

Councilman Baudier – “I’m not saying it was a business affiliation.”

Mr. Mullin answered “You just did, you said I was affiliated with Mr. Ramon. Prove it man.”

Councilman Baudier – “You worked with Mr. Ramon, it’s in articles.”

Mr. Mullin “I didn’t work with Mr. Ramon, he worked with Plaquemines Parish Government, I was a Parish governmental

employee. This is specious sir, you know what specious means? It means it's a lie."

Mayor Miceli "I think you were correct in defending yourself Mr. Mullin and thank you."

Councilman Baudier "I rest my case Mayor, I rest my case."

Councilman Wheeler no comment.

Councilman Benton "This has been crazy and the reasons the council has stated to vote against Mr. Mullin have changed like the weather. They started with one reason and moved on to the next and the next and the next. Every day it's a new and different reason. Because none of their reasons are valid and I asked Ms. Huete to provide me with a list of the qualified candidates that the Mayor refused to consider and she did not answer my email."

Councilman Huete "The Mayor and I met for 2-1/2 hours last night and I asked the Mayor, I have resumes and I have candidates interested. Councilman Wheeler does and so does Councilman Baudier. Would you like them Mayor, would you entertain them? She told me no because Mr. Mullin is her nomination. So, tomorrow I will provide them."

Councilman Benton "Well, the point was that as a Councilman I thought maybe you would be willing to share them with me because it appears Mr. Mullin won't be nominated tonight and that maybe I would have the opportunity to consider the candidates as well."

Councilman Huete "I will share them tomorrow."

Councilman Wheeler no comment.

Councilman Baudier "Mayor, can I say one thing, I wasn't, excuse me for saying that, I don't mean to implicate Mr. Mullin in anything but my concern is – is trust is where it's coming from. Mr. Mullin will be writing, if we choose to nominate him, he will be writing opinions, and the law is a pure gray area and those opinions can be skewed one way or the other against the board and if I don't feel comfortable with that I'm not going to vote for that. I want to feel comfortable on a decision we all make together. That's the bridge that we start to build, let's make one together – not one we are told to."

Mayor Miceli "I am saddened and disappointed at accusations at a nominee who is highly qualified. He does not deserve to be impugned, embarrassed and insulted. You wonder why we have a problem in Harahan. It's the acid politics. We cannot continue to put professionals through the meat grinder and expect that they will come and be willing to serve. I will not hold against a nominee that the council might, maybe, possibly have a relationship with somebody maybe you don't like. If you want to talk about this private citizen who's a friend of mine for 20 years, then you better not associate with Craig Johnston, Todd St. Cyr, Bryan St. Cyr, Chief Tim Walker. You better not talk to District Councilman Johnston because all of them are friends with this private citizen. And the facts you quoted are quite, strictly, plainly wrong and inaccurate. You mentioned a professional Mr. Gaffney, who is eminently qualified and appeared in DC and spoke before Congress on his expertise and has been used by prior Mayors and he is closely associated and friends with the Anzelmos. So if I am to strike off all the people, why don't you give me a list of all the people you don't like and all their associates and we can start from there and strike off every single professional that might not be in the group of people you feel safe with. That's not how you pick professionals."

Councilman Baudier “Mayor the way I see it, these past administrations during the last 30 years - every person you nominate or put up for a job is affiliated with your number one advisor.”

Mayor Miceli “My number one advisor? I don’t choose the person who’s going to be doing my brain surgery as to whether who they might somehow be friends with. I choose the best and I want the best for Harahan. Mr. Mullin knew the climate that he was walking into and he showed his bravery, his courage and his willingness to come up here and be impugned. I don’t tell you who to be friends with or who to pick for your advisors.”

Councilman Baudier “I never said that.”

Mayor Miceli “I’ve wanted to work with you and I’ve invited everyone in. And I said what has happened during a campaign should be put to rest. Period.”

Councilman Baudier “And when I voted for JoAnn Mantis didn’t I put it to rest then?”

Mayor Miceli “So let’s – I can go through the qualifications of our magistrate, and I can go through the qualifications of our first city attorney and I can also tell you the acid politics of being impugned in a newspaper. Someone with an impeccable reputation that this council has put numerous people who are well respected, business people who are international business people through the grinder in the newspaper. I think that is not professional. I don’t think that’s what Harahan needs. I think we have an obligation that far outweighs the pettiness of who might have put a sign up you didn’t like. It is not my report, it is the legislative auditor’s report. I invited them in because there were irregularities. We have to work off a clean slate. Whether you like it or not, you have to own the past before you can go on and fix it.”

Councilman Wheeler “Excuse me Mayor, may I say something please? I just want to make it out to the public because I think there’s some kind of perception out there. At last month’s council meeting, this council was ready to vote to put Mr. Mullin in or decide not to put him in. About an hour before the council meeting last month, I received a phone call from Mayor Miceli. Out of respect so we can work together, she said would y’all defer.”

Mayor Miceli “I wanted y’all to have more time.”

Councilman Wheeler “Can I speak? “So I know the perception out there because I think at last month’s council meeting it came across that the council needed more time. We could have easily have voted whether we were going to put Mr. Mike Mullin in or not. If we decided not to, Mayor Miceli could have had the opportunity to put up another nomination up this month and we could have voted for another attorney and possibly move the city in the direction we are accused of stalling. I just wanted to clear the air and say that.”

Mayor Miceli “This process is uncomfortable. We have a long journey ahead of us to fix what was found in the legislative auditor’s report. What was found is not the residents’ problem. It’s ours, we own it, we have to recognize it, we have to acknowledge the problem, we have to accept that doing business the same way will only get the same results. We have to look at new ways to do business. It is sad that I can bring forth a qualified nominee with impeccable credentials, who I have no personal relationship with and he will just be flatly disregarded. That’s an insult to the residents.”

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

YEAS: Benton

NAYS: Baudier, Huete, Wheeler

ABSTAIN: Johnston

NOMINATION FAILS

Mayor Miceli “Mr. Mullin God bless you. Thank you.”

The Mayor called for a 3 minute recess.

The Mayor called the meeting back to order.

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Benton.

A Resolution accepting the Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s Report.

The City Clerk read the Resolution in its entirety.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Johnston “I understand what this is trying to say, that we received the audit and we are trying our best to rectify where we are going. A lot of wording in here, it’s.. it can be taken as depratory type words in here that might put us liable. I’m not an attorney, but calling people illegal payments and I don’t think anywhere in this audit report it says it’s illegal. It doesn’t. It doesn’t specify the word illegal. It says improper, unsupported.

Mayor Miceli asked if he would like to amend the resolution to change the word illegal to improper.

Councilman Johnston “It’s more of an internal thing, I don’t think we need a resolution to say that we are trying to comply. I don’t understand why we need this resolution.”

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

YEAS: Benton

NAYS: Baudier, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION FAILS

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Benton.

The City Clerk read the Resolution in its entirety.

A Resolution authorizing the City of Harahan to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Sheriff Newell Normand.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Johnston “As I was saying earlier when I was talking to Mr. Ruppert, when it comes to this, I think we need to do some more talking amongst ourselves about this. We were just told the dollar amount tonight, what the fee is, we didn’t know it before hand. I think we need to talk amongst ourselves before we put this up.”

Councilman Huete “I made this comment when Mr. Ruppert was up here I just have a lot of concerns about our citizens who love the City of Harahan and love to come into City Hall and seeing the employees who have worked here for 20 – 30 years and seeing the Mayor. It’s just what we do in Harahan and that’s why people come to City Hall cause you know people, and everyone’s there to help and so I just feel like this is one more service we are going to take away from our citizens. And I have huge concerns that this is just a way to try to unincorporated or dissolve our city. And as each service is given away we have less and less need to be a city. And with that being said, this is unfortunate that I have to read this but the facts need to be put out there. Councilman Benton as a citizen in 2011 wrote a letter to the Mayor and the City Council. And this is an excerpt from her, um long email, about 4 paragraphs and this is the paragraph I’m reading. I’ll be glad to share it with anyone as her writing, it’s her email. “Our efforts will be threefold, we will do

everything in our power to stop the rezoning of any portion of Colonial to commercial. Then we will put our efforts towards having Harahan unincorporated. And until this is accomplished we will recruit the most viable candidates possible to run against anyone who supports these outrageous proposals. I enjoyed my brief respite from Harahan antics, but I have finally, finally, finally had enough. As of this moment I will live and breathe to meet these goals.” I have huge concerns and while I am a councilwoman of this city, our services are not going to be taken away.”

Councilman Benton “I just want to respond to that. That was written at a time when I was very, very unhappy with this council and them throwing our city under the bus by changing the definition of our C-1 zoning. It was said in frustration as often times we do. I am not a proponent of unincorporating our city. This resolution was written because I do not think that the city has the money and the budget to hire the employees necessary to handle the tax sales and the collection of delinquent property taxes. And that is all. That is the only reason that this resolution was put up. It has nothing to do with unincorporation.”

Councilman Wheeler “I kind of agree, if we start outsourcing tax collection and what’s next to be outsourced – fire and police? That’s all.”

Councilman Baudier “When Mr. Cambre spoke earlier, I’d like to repeat what I said – Is Colonial really off the table? I don’t think so.”

Councilman Benton “Tim could you explain that, I really don’t understand what you mean by that.”

Mayor Miceli “I really don’t understand either.”

Councilman Baudier “As you said in your letter when the situation was happening with Colonial and we voted for C-1 that you guys set out to unincorporate Harahan or overturn C-1 and I’m still concerned that still may be the issue.”

Councilman Benton “I don’t see how that relates to this resolution.”

Councilman Baudier “It’s like the drifting away of Harahan, the same way the pictures are not on the wall anymore. You take a little piece, a little piece until there’s no more Harahan.”

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

YEAS: Benton

NAYS: Baudier, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION FAILS

The following Resolution was offered by Councilman Benton.

The City Clerk read the Resolution in its entirety.

A Resolution authorizing the City of Harahan to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Sheriff Newell Normand.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Johnston “Same thing on this thing is I think we need to discuss more to find out how much this is going to cost us. We’re given a figure of 15% but how much is the city truly going to receive.”

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

YEAS: Benton

NAYS: Baudier, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

ABSTAIN: None

RESOLUTION FAILS

ORDINANCES FOR APPROVAL (Public Hearing)

The following Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Benton and seconded by Councilman _____.

Ordinance fails for lack of a second.

- 1. An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1791, the Annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2015 for the City of Harahan, Louisiana.

Councilman Johnston “Can I speak real quick about this, the reason I didn’t second is because I don’t think we are prepared to do this tonight. We need to have a lot of questions, find out where this money is going. They made adjustments on here. The adjustments we received was not attached with the agenda itself so, nobody, the public and all hasn’t seen where the transfers are going to take place in the budget. I think we need to sit here a lot longer than, I mean it’s 10:40 right now I think we have an ordinance that we can only go to a certain time and I think that it’s going to exceed that time. So I would like to have a special meeting, televised, just on budget nothing else, strictly budget so we can sit down and crunch the numbers and try and get this resolved. And also in that meeting if we can include the next year’s budget and start working on that. Right, we’ll have one budget meeting this budget and start working on next year’s budget and hammer this away.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Councilman Benton and seconded by Councilman _____.

The Ordinance fails for lack of a second.

- 2. An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 7194, the annual Budget for the Sales Tax Fund for the City of Harahan, Louisiana for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2015

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

The Ordinance fails for lack of a second.

- 3. An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1793, the Annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Sewerage Department for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2015.

The following Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Wheeler and seconded by Councilman _____.

- 4. An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1791, the Annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2015 for the City of Harahan, Louisiana.

Councilman Wheeler “Mayor I spoke to Chief St. Cyr and Chief Walker about my ordinance and I’m actually going to table it until we can get a better feel about where we are about the budget.”

A motion to table was offered by Councilman Wheeler and seconded by Councilman Huete.

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

YEAS: Benton, Baudier, Huete, Johnson, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSES / ORDINANCE TABLED

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to hold a Special Budget Meeting.

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

YEAS: Benton, Baudier, Huete, Johnson, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSES

Councilman Johnston asked to set a tentative date for the meeting. Mr. Heinz said he would need some time to prepare the next year's proposed budget.

November 12th was proposed but it was not set. Councilman Johnston suggested 7 pm.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (FIRST READING)

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Eddie Estay, Harahan Athletic Association is requesting a permit to sell beer at the 4th Annual Jambalaya Cookoff to be held Nov. 7 at Soniat Gym from Noon until 6 pm.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to grant permission.

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

2. HPD is requesting permission to close streets starting at Noon for approximately 3 hours on Saturday, December 12th for the Annual Harahan Christmas Parade. The route starts on Hord St. and continues westbound on Jefferson Hwy. disbanding at Folse St.

A motion was offered by Councilman Wheeler and seconded by Councilman Johnston to grant permission.

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

3. Victory Family, LLC dba Royal Thai Foods, located at 1200 Hickory Ave., Suite A is requesting an Alcoholic Beverage License of high content.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Huete to grant permission.

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

4. A request to extend the closing of Bourg St. from Imperial Woods Dr. to Elaine Ave. during the hours of the St. Rita Pecan Festival – Friday, Nov. 13, 2015 through Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Huete to grant permission.

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Huete to amend the agenda to add the following item under New Business.

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

A request from Police Chief Walker to provide 2 port-o-potties on Halloween Night in the Imperial Woods neighborhood. The low bid is \$160.

Council Discussion:

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to grant permission.

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mae Jean Cazenave, Oak Ave. I can't wait to see all the attorneys lining up to take this job. We'll be lucky to find one. Because it's not what 4 councilmen want. It's sad – it brings us back to the olden days when there was a fight every month. I'm getting madder and madder every month. She asked the Mayor if she was applying for another extension – she said the council should have to call. She asked about the tax sale that was voted down tonight and what will be done with the property that needs to be torn down or cleaned up. The council is trying to run the city the wrong way – and people like us are up to here about this – we are sick and tired about what's going on.

Eddie Estay, Generes Dr. thanked the council for permission to sell beer at the Jambalaya Cook Off – 25 different ways will be offered. He invited everyone to come to the event. A car show with about 150 cars will take place at the same time. It's \$10 for adults – taste any pot. Desserts will be sold.

Eric Chatelain, Colonial Club Dr. I accused this audience of having a lot to do about the vote on the city attorney. Everyone wants a city attorney. I'm willing to talk and help the city move forward. I respect the decisions they make. I was a councilman and I got beat up. It's a tough job. I'm willing to help move the city forward. He mentioned a few incidents with the HPD where the response time was not adequate. If the Police Chief does not know the situation, he can't fix it. Call the Police Chief, Fire Chief, or Mayor and let them know the problems. He found 25 street lights that are out – we need someone to report these lights.

Ray Thompson, Macque Dr. addressed the Councilmen, Baudier, Huete, Johnston and Wheeler. He said that the Mayor is trying to solve the problems of the past of which 2 of them were a large part. He slapped the podium and said shame on you to the councilmen.

Terri Valenti, Colonial Club Dr. addressed Councilman Baudier and said that the monkey flyer was satire. It should not have been used as an excuse to vote down the city attorney. She said the flyers brought up the deficit which was put out before the Legislative Auditor's report and it turned out to be true. This Mayor is doing things by the book – and it is her prerogative and duty to nominate the city attorney and your duty to vote on it. She addressed

Councilman Huete and said if you wanted to pick the attorney – you should have run for Mayor if you wanted those powers.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary's report for September, 2015 total receipts is \$353,842.67.

REPORTS

Chief Walker gave the police dept.'s report for the month of September, 2015.

He thanked everyone for their help at the National Night Out Against Crime.

Chief St. Cyr gave the fire dept's. report for the month of September, 2015.

Councilman Baudier “When Mr. Mullin got up here and started yelling at the podium, I was trying to get my point across and I’m sorry it came out accusational. My point was just simply trust – there’s no trust between the Council and the Mayor and that’s the bottom line. And that’s why I didn’t feel comfortable with voting in Mr. Mullin. Save Harahan didn’t feel comfortable about turning the front of Colonial into C-1, they came here and spoke against it and wasn’t for it. I didn’t feel comfortable about Mr. Mullin and I’m gonna tell you one thing that kinda really upset me was when me and Mr. Mullin spoke, everything we spoke about was supposed to be in confidence, yet he came here and said that I was not voting for him just because I was against the Mayor. One, he disrespected me by repeating something that was said and two, I never told the man that. I believe that the toxic politics of Harahan are encouraged by this Mayor. This is my belief, I believe she allows people to come to this podium, yell, scream, call us stupid and slam the podium, try to instill fear in us just to impose her will. Guess what, I’m not tolerating it. I’m from the streets, I’ll stand up and fight back whenever I got to.... I’m sorry Mr. Linny is mouthing off at me in the crowd. However, I’d like to see the toxic politics stopped as well and we discussed it with the Mayor. And we’ve asked the Mayor that where it starts will be at that podium and we asked the Mayor tonight to make a difference, and the Mayor yet let Mr. Thompson stand there and slam that podium like that. I’ve served under two Mayors and it’s never been allowed. It’s never happened. I served under a Mayor that campaigned against me, and everyone on that council campaigned against me, it never was allowed, it never happened. And I implored the Mayor to stop the toxic politics so we could all build bridges and move the city forward. Thank you, Happy Halloween and we’ll see you....”

Councilman Huete – no report

Councilman Johnston – “I just wanted to talk about what Mr. Eddie Estay said. On November 7th, the Jambalaya Cook Off/Car Show at the playground in Harahan us from 12 to 6 pm, the rain date is November 21st. St. Rita Pecan Fest is coming up Nov. 13-15 – come out, the more the merrier and lastly have a safe Halloween, watch out for the children crossing the streets. If you need to contact me for anything 504-259-5763.

Councilman Wheeler – no report

Councilman Benton “I just would like to say that I hope this special meeting is actually held because it is not easy to coordinate with Cox and we have a history of calling these meetings and cancelling or trying to cancel them at the last moment. I hope that the meeting is actually held.”

Mayor Miceli “I put a lot of work and spent quite a lot of time coordinating the last one called for by Ms. Wheeler, coordinating with Cox Cable and letting the public know, emailing and it got arbitrarily cancelled. We’ve had postponements on budget items where it put us in crisis. I’d like to speak to Mr. Mullin. Mr. Mullin did not point out, Councilman Baudier that you said something in particular, he said in general that people did. I think I needed to clarify that. And Mr. Thompson did I know you were going to slap the podium, could I have prevented you from slapping the podium. So I had no control, thank you. I’m very disappointed in the council yet again, we are at a crossroads. We will have to find a path forward, we will find a path forward. We cannot continue to do business the way we did it in the past. It didn’t work, as evidenced – not by my report – but by the Legislative Auditor’s report. I’ve been told by Councilman Huete and Councilman Baudier basically if I could paraphrase, tell me if I’m wrong, that I keep throwing the past in their face. But until we embrace what those problems are, we will not be able to fix them. It’s as simple as that. We couldn’t even get a resolution passed acknowledging the Legislative Auditor’s report and if there was a word in it that was objectionable, we could have simply amended it. I feel as though that rejection was disrespectful to the people who conducted that audit, and to the citizens of Harahan who deserve to know the findings. I also got criticized for putting the Legislative Auditor’s report on the website and for putting on the marquee that the Legislative Auditors were coming. I will never be afraid to share with our residents, our citizens, our taxpayers- the truth, what we need to do to move forward. I will not hide reports. I will work hard to give the transparency and the information you need and that we need.

PAY BILLS

Bill’s paid for September, 2015 in the amount of \$451,746.50.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

A motion was offered by Councilman Huete and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to adjourn at 11:40 pm.

The Mayor called for a vote. The vote was:

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Benton

MOTION APPROVED

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”.**
- 3. City of Harahan, et al, v. BP Exploration & Production, Inc., et al, U.S.D.C., Eastern District of Louisiana, No. 2:13-cv-01397.**

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