

CITY OF HARAHAH
6437 JEFFERSON HIGHWAY, HARAHAH, LOUISIANA
MAYOR AND HARAHAH CITY COUNCIL
December 22, 2014

The Mayor and the Council met on the above date for a special meeting at 5:30 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Mayor called the Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Mosca, Councilman Baudier, Councilman Huete, Councilman Landry, Councilman Murray, Municipal Clerk Nicole Lee, City Attorney David Courcelle, Police Chief Tim Walker.

Absent: Councilman Chatelain, City Planner Steve Villavaso, Fire Chief Todd St. Cyr.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

None

ORDINANCES FOR APPROVAL (PUBLIC HEARING)

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

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance in its entirety.

1. An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1770, the annual Sales Tax Budget for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2014 for the city of Harahan, Louisiana.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Discussion:

Councilman Murray asked Finance Director Al Courcelle to come to the podium to answer questions.

Mayor Mosca asked if Mr. Courcelle was licensed.

Councilman Murray asked if more sales taxes had come in. She asked the percentage that goes to the police dept. The police chief needs \$104,000 to finish the year which was due to the added holidays.

Chief Walker said his budget was cut from last year and more holidays were added which resulted in an overage that may exceed 5% even with the additional monies.

Finance Director Al Courcelle this ordinance is only for the transfer out from the sales tax fund to the general fund.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry, Murray

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chatelain

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

The following Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilman Landry.

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance in its entirety.

2. An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1771, the annual budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2014 for the City of Harahan, Louisiana.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Discussion:

Al Courcelle said this is the line item budget for all departments.

Councilman Murray said that this ordinance was deferred because Section 3 & 4 was to be added to the ordinance, but the numbers have changed again. She questioned the \$400,000 taken from the sinking fund and the \$900,000 from the Capital Projects which was not what she asked for. She is sponsoring this ordinance but she is opposed to taking the Sinking Fund and Capital Projects monies.

Mr. Courcelle said the numbers have not changed.

Councilman Murray said the numbers are different from last Thursday and she is opposed to using these monies. \$106,000

Mr. Courcelle said there is \$106,000 in the sinking fund and money in a reserve fund to cover the bond issue expense. We have never touched the sinking fund.

Mayor Mosca said this would be in compliance with the Legislative Auditor. He asked if this would leave a surplus for the next administration.

Mr. Courcelle said it would only reduce the deficit. The Legislative Auditor said this was okay.

Councilman Murray asked about where the capital projects fund monies come from. She said that to move these funds they must be released first from dedication and then transfer them.

City Attorney Courcelle said the La. Legislative Auditor suggested that two ordinances – one for budget and one for undedication. If the undedication does not pass the city can pass another amendment to the budget. It will be done backwards. He added the conditional language - *"conditioned upon the approval of the Ordinance providing for the transfer of capital projects funds to the City's General Fund to be utilized for operating expenditures of the City."*

Councilman Murray said this is a CYA fix because the city overspent and the capital fund money was available.

Mayor Mosca said he did not "overspend" they had more bills than he expected.

Councilman Huete asked if they transferred this money it creates an overage in revenues why would they do this.

Mr. Courcelle explained the difference in the budget and admitted that there is a \$1,337,175 deficit. The Legislative Auditor discussed with the Mayor that the capital projects fund be used to mitigate the difference. Insurance, utilities, police and fire retirement increased beyond what they planned.

Councilman Murray asked if everyone had the recommendations from the Legislative Auditor.

Councilman Landry asked what the best way is to handle this for the new administration?

Mr. Courcelle said financially the city is in the same position either way.

Councilman Landry said the figures in tonight's budget had changed from last Thursday's figures for the fire and police dept.

Mr. Courcelle said he revised the figures but he was not aware of the extra over-time debt of the police dept. and the retirement pay and he found an error in the fire dept. budget.

Councilman Landry said if this budget passes the council will still have to find money for the police dept. to cover the expenses for the end of the year.

Councilman Murray brought up the ordinance for introduction that does not have any figures.

Attorney Courcelle said she was right and added that because of the sensitivity of the issue – he recommended to dedicate the money, but he feels that it is not needed.

Councilman Murray again said that the money needs to be undedicated.

Attorney Courcelle said the council is doing this the way the legislative auditor suggested.

Councilman Murray suggested that only \$372,125 be taken from the capital projects so that the expenditure and revenues are even.

A motion was offered by Councilman Murray seconded by Councilman Landry to change the amount from capital projects from \$900,000, to \$372,125. She says that a fire truck has to be purchased next year.

A motion to amend the ordinance as suggested by City Attorney Courcelle was offered by Councilman Baudier and seconded by Councilman Huete.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry

NAYS: Murray

ABSENT: Chatelain

ORDINANCE AMENDED

An amendment was offered by Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilman Landry to change the number from \$900,000 to \$372,125 being transferred from Capital Projects into the General Fund Revenues.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Landry, Murray

NAYS: Huete

ABSENT: Chatelain

ORDINANCE AMENDED

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry, Murray

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chatelain

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

The following Ordinance was introduced by **Councilman Baudier** and seconded by **Councilman Murray**.

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

3. An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1767, the annual Budget of Revenue and Expenditures for the Sewerage Department, for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2014 for the city of Harahan, Louisiana.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Discussion:

None

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry, Murray

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chatelain

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

The following Ordinance was introduced by **Councilman Landry** and seconded by **Councilman Murray**.

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance in its entirety.

4. An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1771, the annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2014 for the City of Harahan, Louisiana (Police Department).

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Discussion:

Chief Walker said that prior to taking office his budget was cut by \$90,000+ and with subsequent holidays added to the schedule – the holiday overtime which cost \$7,200 a day and a bill for retirement pay of \$23,000 which has created a shortfall for the police dept. Still short \$60,000 even with increase.

Councilman Landry asked Mr. Al Courcelle to explain to the council about the changes.

Finance Director Courcelle explained the changes to Chief Walker and the council.

Councilman Huete said the money for the police dept. could come from the Sewerage fund which is under budget.

Councilman Landry asked how they can get the Police Dept.'s \$104,000 in the budget.

After much discussion, Attorney Courcelle suggested that Ordinance 2's vote be withdrawn and Ordinance 4 be withdrawn.

A motion was offered by **Councilman Murray** and seconded by **Councilman Baudier** to withdraw Ordinance 4.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry, Murray

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chatelain

ORDINANCE WITHDRAWN

A motion was made by **Councilman Murray** and seconded by **Councilman Baudier** to withdraw the vote on Ordinance 2.

City Attorney Courcelle questioned whether Ordinance 5 is necessary since Ordinance 2 will change the figures.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

A motion was made by **Councilman Murray** and seconded by **Councilman Landry** to take up Ordinance 5 and amend it.

Attorney Courcelle questioned whether Ord. 5 is necessary.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry, Murray

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chatelain

MOTION PASSED

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

The Municipal Clerk read the Ordinance in its entirety.

5. An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1771, the annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures, for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2014 for the City of Harahan, Louisiana (Transfer Capital Projects Funds to Fund Balance)

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing.

The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Discussion:

F.D. Courcelle offered the changes to the ordinance.

Attorney Courcelle said the change to the verbiage was also necessary.

Section 2: The adoption of this budget amendment shall form the framework for monitoring revenue and control expenditures as required by L.R.S. 39:1310, conditioned upon the approval of the Ordinance providing for the transfer of capital projects funds to the City's General Fund to be utilized for operating expenditures of the City.

Councilman Huete questioned if the revenues and expenditures have to match.

The Mayor said no and Councilman Murray said they do.

The Clerk said she has the amended numbers.

The Mayor opened the public hearing.

The Mayor closed the public hearing.

Discussion:

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry, Murray

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chatelain

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry

NAYS: Murray

ABSENT: Chatelain

ORDINANCE PASSED

A motion was made by Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilman Baudier to withdraw Ordinance vote and amend the agenda to take up Ordinance 2 again.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry, Murray

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chatelain

MOTION APPROVED

Ordinance 2:

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1771, the annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures, for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2014 for the city of Harahan, Louisiana.

Discussion:

Chief Walker said that his projection of his budget to the end of the year differs from Finance Director Courcelle. There are outstanding bills that have not been paid. He said it will take at least \$104,000 to finish the year.

Mayor Mosca said to add the holiday pay, retirement pay and outstanding bills together and give them a number.

Chief Walker said he does not know how much the outstanding bills will be.

Finance Director Courcelle explained how he determined the number.

Councilman Landry asked which numbers were correct.

Finance Director Courcelle said some numbers are direct date and the others are annualized.

Chief Walker said a transmission was being fixed on a police car.

Councilman Landry said that if a mistake is made, the money would not get to the police dept. until March.

Councilman Huete asked if there are any other concerns.

Chief Walker said the extra holiday was a problem. He said the numbers in his line item budget have changed almost weekly.

Mayor Mosca said to take \$38,150 from the sewerage dept. and put it into the police dept. budget.

City Attorney Courcelle recommended an amendment as follows:

Section 2: The adoption of this budget amendment shall form the framework for monitoring revenues and control expenditures as required by L.R.S. 39:1310, conditioned upon the approval of the Ordinance providing for the transfer of capital projects funds to the City's General Fund to be utilized for operating expenditures of the City.

Financial Director Courcelle also recommended the following changes:

General Fund:

Change: Transfer from Capital Projects from \$900,000 to \$372,125

Add: Transfer from Sewerage Fund \$38,150.

Change: Total Revenue from \$6,487,250 to \$5,997,525

Police Department:

Change: Total Expenses from \$1,647,050 to \$1,685,200

Change: Total Expenditures from \$5,959,375 to \$5,799,525

Line Item Details:

Police Department:

Change: Salaries from \$825,000 to \$913,150

Change: Overtime from \$108,000 to \$81,500

Change: Total expenses from \$1,669,050 to \$1,707,200

Sewer Fund:

Add: Transfer to General Fund \$38,150

Change: Total Expenditures and Transfers Out from \$956,278 to \$994,428

Capital Projects Fund:

Change: Transfers Out from \$900,000 to \$372,125

Change: Total Expenditures and Transfers Out from \$905,720 to \$377,845

(See Line Item Budget)

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry, Murray

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chatelain

MOTION APPROVED

A motion was offered by **Councilman Murray** and seconded by **Councilman Baudier** to revoke Ordinance 3 and reintroduce Ordinance 3.

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry, Murray

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chatelain

MOTION APPROVED

Discussion:

F.D. Courcelle explained to the council what the changes are:

Add: Transfer to General Fund \$38,150 and

Change: Total Expenditure and Transfers out from \$956,278 to \$994,428.

F.D. Courcelle said there are two typos in the Police Dept. budget. On line item 4900 – should be \$913,100 and line item 49200 should be \$81,500.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry, Murray

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chatelain

MOTION APPROVED

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (First Reading)

The following Ordinance was introduced by **Councilman Huete**

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

1. An Ordinance providing for the transfer of capital project's funds to the City's general fund, to be utilized for operating expenditures of the city.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADDRESS COUNCIL

Ray Thompson, Macque Dr., question what is the basis for the requirement for a line item budget instead of a departmental budget.

Mayor Mosca said the original budget for 2014 was not a line item budget.

Mr. Thompson said that the new council could adopt a departmental budget. He asked that research be done.

Councilman Murray said that under the Lawrason Act – it needs to be a line item budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURN

A motion was offered by **Councilman Murray** and seconded by **Councilman Landry** to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

The Mayor called for a vote. The vote was:

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Landry, Murray

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Chatelain

MOTION APPROVED

Tina Miceli, Mayor

Nicole Lee, Municipal Clerk