

**CITY OF HARAHAH  
6437 JEFFERSON HIGHWAY, HARAHAH, LOUISIANA  
MAYOR AND HARAHAH CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 19, 2017 MINUTES**

The Mayor opened the Regular Council Meeting for January 19, 2017 at 7:35 pm.

The City Clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present: Mayor Miceli, Councilman Baudier, Councilman Benton, Councilman Huete, Councilman Johnston, Councilman Wheeler, Municipal Clerk Nicole Lee, Police Chief Tim Walker, Fire Chief St. Cyr, City Attorney Gilbert Buras; Financial Administrator Linda Lulue.**

Mayor Miceli offered condolences to Fire Chief St. Cyr on the death of his father-in-law. She also announced a Town Hall meeting will be held at the Harahan Sr. Center at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 to answer citizens' concerns.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Darlene Schwartz, Community Liaison gave her report.**

Ms. Schwartz announced the Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, January 25 at 6:30 pm at the Senior Center. Drug Take Back day is April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Police Dept. & Rite Aid Parking Lot. Property tax bills went out and some came back – so she is going to the house to see why – but if people didn't get a bill, please call the city. She asked that residents make sure that addresses are visible on houses - emergency services could be delayed without the visible address.

**2. Chief Tim Walker gave the current state of the Harahan Police Dept.**

Chief Walker said he had one comment about the previous meeting's minutes. He said that he stated that when he took over in May, 2014 – the morale of the department when he took over was very low – not the morals. He wanted that corrected in the minutes and he also wants more of what he says at the meeting in the minutes. He thinks the secretary should sit up front since it is difficult to hear from the back of the room. He continued that on Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Academy Sporting Goods in Elmwood was robbed and our police dept. joined the search for the perpetrators. The subjects wrecked their car in Harahan where they jumped out of the car trying to flee from the police. At one point one of the subjects pointed a gun at the officers. Officers Bloomer and Crovetta chased them to a house and found the gun that had been pointed at them. Officer Crovetta caught one subject and Officer Bloomer caught the other one. Chief Walker presented them with a Class C Commendation. He said they both stayed out searching until the subjects were caught.

On Wed., Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> – a 3 year old fell into a swimming pool and drowned. The police were the first on the scene and noticed the child was unresponsive – they began CPR. The victim was transported to Ochsner Hospital. Chief Walker handed out the following citations: Ofc. Ronald Lightell-Life Saving Award; Ofc. Nicholas Bloomer – Life Saving Award; Ofc. Michael Dow – Life Saving Award; Deputy Wayne Weidenbacher – Life Saving Award; Cpt. Manuel Adams, Jr. – Class B Citation; Det. David Darwin –

**Class B Citation; Sgt. Eric Crovetto – Class C Citation; Ofc. Joel Poretto – Class C Citation; Fireman Lee Brown – Life Saving Award; Chief Todd St. Cyr – Class B Citation; Fireman Gary Hopkins – Class B Citation; Fireman David Hopkins – Class C Citation; E.J. General Hospital EMS Personnel John Eddleman – Life Saving Award; Timothy Thames – Class B Citation; Michael Ortiz – Class B Citation. Chief Walker said they went above and beyond the call of duty. A relative of the child was in the audience and said he is doing well.**

**Chief Walker continued - On Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> he sent a request to Ms. Lulue concerning the 2016 police budget. On Dec. 30 he received an email asking if anyone had any questions about the budget from Ms. Lulue. On Jan. 4, he emailed back that he had already asked and had not received the information. Chief Walker told Ms. Lulue - you work for the city of Harahan not just the Mayor. He went over his budget internally and thought he had money left over so he purchased about \$80,000 worth of equipment including ammunition, laptop computers; body armour; anti-virus software; and tasers. After the software was installed, he learned that they had problems with viruses. He then talked about the plaque he presented at the last meeting to the contractor who did such a great job putting in the sewerage pipe under Hickory Ave. in such a short time. He said he put the Mayor's name on the plaque and let her be on the presentation with him and the contractor for his press release to show that he is trying to work with her, but it doesn't seem to work. On Jan. 8, he was patrolling on Generes right behind the playground and he noted that a water pipe had broken at the playground and he called the contractor to fix it so the city would not have to pay a large water bill.**

**He continued that on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> he had gotten an email from Councilman Benton – about Mr. Krause. Mr. Krause had started volunteering in Sept., 2016 and stopped volunteering for the administration and has now started working with the police dept. and he wanted it known that he did not bring Mr. Krause to the previous meeting. Chief Walker is always dressed in his uniform and doesn't know why Councilman Benton would say there were no uniformed policemen in the meeting. He said there are always uniformed police at the meeting. He reiterated that he did not invite Mr. Krause to the meeting. Since he has been in office – everything the police dept. has done is on facebook or the city web site. He implored everyone to lock their cars as we have had a bunch of car burglaries and he had Keith Moody, a reserve officer, put that information on the website. He does a facebook page because it costs him nothing. He said the Mayor pays over \$15,000 a year for the city website – but he pays nothing. The Mayor pays \$350 a month for Westlaw so she can do her own research. He said he is asking to be put on the agenda from now through December for presentation.**

**Mayor Miceli said that her door is open to the Chief at all times. The police dept. is an integral & important department. She respects what his department does and with budgetary constraints and the attitude across the nation makes it harder. She said this should not be discussed at the council meeting, but should be done privately whether in his office or her office or for coffee out of the city. We should be working in unison to work for the city.**

#### **ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

**Remy Donnelly, attorney for Wood Materials. An update on the permit for the new road – still waiting for the Corp. to issue the**

permit. Hoping to start next month – they are in the design stage for the truck washing station. The scales will have to be moved and the area reconfigured.

Mayor Miceli asked if he would answer a question or two. She asked if they would submit the permit to the city.

Mr. Donnelly said he will talk with his clients and get it to her.

John Rhiems, Riverside Dr. – said he is happy Mr. Donnelly brought information about the road. He said the compost is still being done between Bailey & Haroleans. We need an audit about the potential health risks – it is 4 blocks from 2 schools and many residences. Ordinance 1933 says that no manufacturing is to be done in Harahan. Dumping animal wastes, coffee wastes and other wastes – composting is done and the sales tax goes to cities or parishes where the compost is sold. Harahan is getting no monies from this. The lawsuit of 1989 helped the citizens & he presented a petition of 300 signatures against the composting.

Evelyn Rhiems, Riverside Dr. – read the report of the Levee District concerning the permit for 2017 for Woods Materials. Agriculture & Forestry Dept. asks if the project conforms to the zoning law. Trees being dumped have Formosan termites and they are not checked prior to dumping. City of Harahan has never granted a permit for composting. She showed a picture of the composting facility.

Mayor Miceli spoke with Jefferson Parish about the Christmas trees being composted – they are not supposed to be composted.

Tommy Budde, Stoneleigh said he is asking about the garbage contracts. He assumes that a contractor has been selected – He would like to know who was selected and who was on the selection committee. He would also like a copy of the winning proposal. Last year they spoke with the Mayor about speeding on Riverside Dr. and he wants an update on stopping the speeding. He wants a copy of audit and financial statements for the last 5 years. He suggested that in the police Dept.'s budget – line 120 – there may be an error. He asked if Line 90 of the Police Chief's budget includes allocated salary from the city's overhead.

Mayor Miceli asked him to all her tomorrow.

Dee Hoffman, military veteran, taxpayer & a long time resident of Harahan. He has a problem with the Police Dept. – you have some fine officers, but unfortunately you have a lot of bad officers in the dept. On 11/4/16 he had an incident with his son – he was having seizures. He called 911 for an ambulance, but 3 police officers arrived first and told his wife to stand aside then barged into the house with no explanation. They asked where was his son & told him to get out of his own home. His son was handcuffed and brought out to stand by the police car and then fell to the ground with another seizure. He asked why had they handcuffed him & the police yelled at him to shut up & stand by the side or be arrested. His wife had an empty bottle of medication that is prescribed for him. She told the police that was his medicine. She was ignored – his son was arrested, put in the car and brought to jail. He questioned the charge. He was told it was drug possession and distribution of his own medicine.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Baudier to grant him more time.

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION PASSES**

He continued... They picked him up at Gretna after he had another seizure. He spoke to the judge and the judge laughed at the charge. They brought him to River Oaks and they refused to take him because he was in too bad a shape. They called E.J. Hospital and sent him to the emergency room where they worked on him. He had bruises on his back where the police had punched him multiple times when they took him out of the car at the jail. The ER verified his condition. He told the chief he needs to know what is going on in his department, but obviously he does not. He asked how he can continue to have faith in the department when the chief allows this to go on.

Chief Walker responded that he told Mr. Hoffman & his wife they would investigate this and gave him a complaint form to fill out, but he never returned the filled in form.

Mr. Hoffman said he did not fill in the form because he thought all of Harahan should hear what happened. He told Chief Walker if this is how they treat a handicapped person, what will the police do to a regular person. It could have been handled differently.

Chief Walker said he should complete the form.

Mr. Hoffman said he would be happy to but he doesn't think it will go anywhere.

Chief Walker said then he should go to the FBI.

Jason Brucik, Stoneleigh said he has faith in the Chief. He has 2 questions for the Mayor – what is the solution to the speeding of Riverside. He said he has had no response and he would also like an update on the computer hacking. He wants an answer at the next meeting. He asked if there is an FBI clearance letter that proves there is no linkage between the Harahan computers. He said he is a computer expert and he knows that a virus could use a connection made between the Mayor's laptop and the city server. He asked if there were any subsequent virus attacks that would indicate a secondary problem.

Mayor Miceli asked Attorney Buras about whether the letter from the FBI could be distributed.

Mr. Buras said Mr. Brucik should file a records request.

Lynn Bergeron, Windsor, he is disturbed about the budget. He appreciates the police dept. – his wife walks the neighborhood every night and he does not have to worry. He thanked the chief for that but he is concerned why the council does not have time to read the budget. They are not very open about new business revenues. We don't have the land for development. There is a limited pot of money. He suggested they work together in a fair way. He understands the Chief's problem – if he does not spend the extra money he feels he will lose it – but the money should be returned to the city coffers and then returned to the officers in the form of pay raises.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Baudier to grant more time.

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

Mr. Bergeron continued saying he had never been pulled over before and asked why does it take 3 officers to do this? This is a waste of people and effort. The council should be responsible with the budget or we will become part of Jefferson Parish. He understands that the accountant is an expert and the council should take her advice and move forward.

Robert Johnson, Riverside Dr. said it was good to hear that Wood Materials plans to move the haul road. He is glad this whole road will be paved – we need this – that is a good thing but it is not in the design at this moment. He also said he hasn't heard about the vegetation around the pit. That would stop the sand from blowing into the neighborhood. He said that last year they planted 2 doz. shrubs and about 8 saplings. They won't stop much sand from crossing the levee. They want the pits moved toward the river and this will keep the sand away from the street. He said they are not good neighbors – they cancelled their town hall meeting and never rescheduled. They don't talk to their neighbors – they do what they want.

Eric Chatelain, Colonial Club – what is the process to get things repaired – he called the city 3 months ago about a water leak in the 400 block of Colonial Club. Street lights reported to City Hall are not repaired. He wants someone to drive the streets at night to make a list of the lights that are out.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the December 15, 2016 meeting.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

Councilman Johnston said he had several problems with the minutes because he did not motion to adjourn the meeting – he would like them to reflect that and he would also like what Councilman Wheeler said about what the accountant makes that was referred to by another councilman in the minutes also.

Mayor Miceli asked the city attorney what was required to be in the minutes.

Mr. Buras replied that it need not be verbatim, but must reflect what happened. He said that's why the council approves the minutes to be sure they are correct.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to correct the minutes of the December 15, 2016 meeting.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to dispense with the reading of the minutes

of the Special Meeting of December 19, 2016.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 19, 2016.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**The Board of Adjustments**

A motion was offered by Councilman Baudier and seconded by Councilman Johnston to dispense with the reading of the Board of Adjustments Meeting of December 21, 2016.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

A motion was offered by Councilman Baudier and seconded by Councilman Johnston to accept the minutes of the Board of Adjustments Meeting of December 21, 2016.

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

**NAYS: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**The Planning & Zoning Board**

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to dispense with the reading of the Planning & Zoning Board meeting of January 4, 2017.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to accept the minutes of the Planning & Zoning Board meeting of January 4, 2017.

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

**NAYS: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2017-1**

This Resolution is proposed by Councilman Johnston.

The Clerk read the resolution in its entirety.

A Resolution respectfully requesting assistance from Jefferson Parish District 2 Councilman Paul D. Johnston for funding to purchase police cars for the Harahan Police Department. (\$180,000)

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to open the public hearing.

**Kim Hasney, OK Ave. asked how many police cars will this buy since we have 3 new cars parked at the VFW.**

**Chief Walker said the three cars purchased last year do not have light bars and we are purchasing 6 new cars.**

**Ms. Hasney asked how many cars do we need and how many officers.**

**Chief Walker said they have 4 platoons with 14 officers.**

**Council Discussion:**

**Councilman Johnston thanked Councilman Paul Johnston.**

**Councilman Baudier said Councilman Johnston has done the most for Harahan out of all our Parish Councilmen.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2017-2**

**This Resolution is offered by Councilman Johnston.**

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

**A Resolution respectfully requesting assistance from Jefferson Parish District 2 Councilman Paul D. Johnston for funding to purchase essential firefighting equipment for the Harahan Fire Department. (\$75,000)**

**Council Discussion:**

**Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to open the public hearing.**

**No one spoke.**

**Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to close the public hearing.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**Council Discussion:**

**Councilman Johnston thanked Councilman Paul Johnston.**

**The audience applauded.**

**Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Baudier to approve.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**RESOLUTION PASSES**

**ORDINANCES FOR APPROVAL**

**The following Ordinance was proposed unanimously by the Council.**

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2016 – 22 (DEFFERED)**

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

**An Ordinance adopting the annual Budget of Revenue and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2017 for the City of Harahan, Louisiana.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to open the public hearing.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES****PUBLIC HEARING**

Chief Walker asked if the budget for the police department is proposed by the Mayor or the one proposed by the police department was being presented.

Councilman Johnston answered it was the Mayor's budget.

Mike Boyd, Stoneleigh said he is trying to understand what the Council is doing. Do the citizens get to look at it prior to the meeting?

Mayor Miceli answered that the budget was presented to the Council in October. Councilman Johnston's ordinance mandates that a budget needs to be in place by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. The council deferred the vote in December. The Mayor's budget was published in the newspaper and on-line. The Council was asked for input, but nothing was forthcoming and no questions were asked and they have not met with Ms. Lulue. They are presenting amendments tonight for the first time. She doesn't know what they are proposing to do to the budget.

A motion was made to close the public hearing by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Baudier.

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Councilman Johnston offered an amendment to the first page of the ordinance to change section 3 to read:

**SECTION 3:** Attached hereto, made a part hereof and marked City of Harahan Proposed Budget is the Line Item Budget;

Also to change Section 4 to read:

**SECTION 4.** Any line item adjustment, i.e. reallocation, within a departmental budget, after final approval shall be submitted to the Council for approval through a budget amendment.;

Also to change Section 5 to read:

**SECTION 5.** The severability and repeal clause as referenced in Ordinance No. 1566 is incorporated into this Ordinance;

Also to change Section 6 to read:

**SECTION 6.** The Budget is attached.

Councilman Benton said the council had 3 months to review the budget – and we are just seeing the amendments tonight, just now – and we are supposed to make a decision in the next 10 minutes - we need time to respond to the 8 pages of amendments. You should give us time to speak to Ms. Lulue.

Mayor Miceli asked if they had a CPA to go over the document.

Councilman Johnston said he and Councilman Wheeler had gone over the budget and consulted the other council members and Chief Walker. He said he had an idea of where we needed to be to provide extra officers. From there we budgeted accordingly. Last year we tried to do it the proper way and gave you our opinion of where you should cut – you didn't take our advice last year – so why should we do that if you aren't going to take our advice.

Mayor Miceli said she is just asking what professional advice on a \$6 million budget did you receive? There are numerous amendments changing hundreds of thousands of dollars...

Councilman Huete told Councilman Johnston – you don't have to answer that.

Councilman Johnston said he knew that.



Mayor Miceli said she was speaking and continued. The budget was advertised correctly so the public would know what was being adopted.

Councilman Wheeler said they went through the budget line by line and as long as expenditures don't exceed revenues it should be fine. You proposed the budget and as council members we went through line by line. There are items drastically increased and reduced others drastically. They met with other councilmen and department heads and made changes.

Mayor Miceli told Councilman Wheeler you should have professional advice since you personally created revenue last year that did not exist.

Mayor Miceli said the city has obligations to meet – you could have presented this ahead of time for us to look. You are presenting 8 pages of line items that have been changed with no accounting advice.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Baudier to amend the title page as stated above.

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

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

**NAYS:** Benton

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION PASSES**

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman Baudier to amend the budget line by line.

An audience member asked if they could put it up on the screen.

Mayor Miceli said we did not have it in advance to put on the website and advertise it and be able to do that.

City Clerk read the amendments as presented by the Councilmen.

They are as follows:

**General Fund**

**Non-Departmental – line 37 proposed \$412,545 – amended \$358,630**

**Administrative – line 38 proposed \$415,951 – amended \$374,854**

**Total Government – line 39 proposed \$828,496 – amended \$733,484**

**Court – line 43 – proposed \$98,666 – amended \$70,906**

**Fire – line 45 – proposed \$937,632 – amended \$1,021,089**

**Highway & Street Maintenance – proposed \$282,234 – amended \$272,434**

**Police – line 47 – proposed \$1,978,098 – amended \$2,074,248**

**Recreation – line 48 – proposed \$334,145 – amended \$333,645**

**Regulation – line 49 – proposed \$115,429 – amended \$114,429**

**Total Departmental Expenditure – line 53 – proposed \$4,767,254 – amended - \$4,906,801**

**Total Expenditures – line 55 – proposed \$5,595,750 – amended - \$5,640,285**

**Transfer from Capital Projects – line 67 – proposed \$10,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Net Excess –line 81 – proposed \$54,535 – amended - \$-0-**

**General Fund Non-Departmental & Administrative Department**

**Bank Service Charges – line 44 – proposed \$20,000 – amended - \$15,000**

**Accounting Maintenance Contracts – line 46 – proposed \$27,000 – amended \$27,285**

**City Attorney – line 49 – proposed \$35,000 – amended - \$27,000**

**Engineering Fees – line 51 – proposed \$35,300 – amended \$48,000**

**Accounting Services – line 53 – proposed - \$75,000 – amended \$48,000**

**Total Non-Departmental Operating Exp. – line 57 – proposed \$338,960 – amended \$285,045**

**Total Non-Departmental – line 78 – proposed \$412,545 – amended \$358,630**

**Legal Advertising – line 81 – proposed \$6,500 – amended \$5,600**

**Total Departmental Operating Expenses – line 89 – proposed \$21,400 – amended \$20,500**

**Computer Supplies & Expenses – line 94 – proposed - \$25,000 – amended - \$12,000**

**Total Supplies – line 95 – proposed \$42,330 – amended - \$29,330**

**Salaries – line 117 – proposed \$224,680 – amended \$207,000**

**Salaries – Other/Subcontractors – line 118 – proposed - \$7,000 – amended - \$3,000**

**Group Hospitalization – line 123 – proposed \$40,723 – amended - \$35,206**

**Total Wages & Benefits – line 128 – proposed \$292,171 – amended - \$264,974**

**Total Administrative – line 135 – proposed \$415,951 – amended - \$374,854**

#### **Court**

**Training & Education – line 17 – proposed - \$4,460 – amended \$1,000**

**Total Department Operating Exp. – line 23 – proposed \$9,440 – amended - \$5,1380**

**Salaries – line 41 – proposed - \$61,500 – amended - \$38,000**

**Total Wages & Benefits – line 56 – proposed \$83,156 – amended \$59,656**

**Total expenses – line 58 – proposed - \$98,666 – amended \$70,906**

#### **Fire Department**

**Attorney – line 25 – proposed \$600 – amended \$-0-**

**Accounting – line 26 – proposed \$700 – amended - \$-0-**

**Total Department Operating Expenses – line 27 – proposed \$40,120 – amended \$38,820**

**Small Equipment – line 50 – proposed - \$1,580 – amended - \$5,000**

**Total Repair & Maintenance – line 52 – proposed \$9,960 – amended \$13,380**

**Total Departmental Expenses – proposed - \$102,390 – amended – \$104,510**

**Salaries – line 62 – proposed - \$335,963 – amended \$417,300**

**Total Wages & Benefits – line 75 – proposed - \$835,242 – amended - \$916,579**

**Total Expenses – line 77 – proposed \$937,632 – amended \$1,021,089**

#### **Highway Street Maintenance Department**

**Accounting – line 22 – proposed \$800 – amended - \$0**

**Total Department Operating Expenses – line 23 – proposed \$27,300 – amended \$26,500**

**Blighted Property – line 47 – proposed \$10,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Total Repair & Maintenance – line 51 – proposed \$45,490 – amended - \$35,490**

**Total Expenses – line 69 – proposed \$283,234 – amended \$272,434**

#### **Police Department**

**Travel Expense – line 43 – proposed \$700 – amended - \$1,000**

**Training & Education – line 44 – proposed - \$3,500 – amended \$5,000**  
**OSHA, Medical & DPP Test – line 46 – proposed \$2,700 – amended \$4,000**  
**Dues/Fees/Memberships/Subsc. – line 47 – proposed \$400 – amended \$4,000**  
**Insurance Expense – line 48 – proposed - \$45,890 – amended - \$50,000**  
**Postage & Mailing Expense – line 49 - proposed - \$600 – amended - \$1,000**  
**Attorney – line 53 - proposed - \$2,000 – amended - \$-0-**  
**Auditing – line 54 – proposed - \$1,200 – amended - \$-0-**  
**Accounting – line 55 - proposed - \$5,500 – amended - \$-0-**  
**Total Operating Expenses – line 56 - proposed - \$94,490 – amended \$97,000**  
**Office Supplies – line 60 - proposed - \$6,000 – amended \$8,000**  
**Police Supplies – line 61 – proposed - \$8,000 – amended \$10,000**  
**Computer Supplies & Expenses – line 62 - proposed - \$3,000 – amended \$10,000**  
**Total Supplies – line 63 – proposed \$17,000 – amended - \$28,000**  
**Telephone & Telecommunications – line 66 – proposed \$16,800 – amended \$17,800**  
**Water Utility – line 68 - proposed - \$1,050 – amended - \$2,100**  
**Total Utilities – line 70 - proposed - \$30,450 – amended \$32,500**  
**Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance – line 73 – proposed \$24,000 – amended \$25,000**  
**Gas, Oil & Fuels – line 75 - proposed - \$36,500 – amended - \$45,000**  
**Total Vehicles – line 76 - proposed - \$60,500 – amended \$70,000**  
**Janitorial Supplies & Service – line 79 – proposed \$8,400 – amended \$10,400**  
**Equipment Maintenance Co – line 80 – proposed \$12,600 – amended - \$4,000**  
**Building Repairs & Maintenance – line 82 – proposed \$6,000 – amended -\$10,000**  
**Transcriber – line 84 – proposed \$200 – amended - \$300**  
**Total Repair & Maintenance – line 85 - proposed - \$29,200 – amended - \$26,700**  
**Total Departmental Expenses – line 87 – proposed \$231,640 – amended - \$254,200**  
**Salaries – line 90 – proposed - \$967,484 – amended - \$980,716**  
**Salaries – Other/Subcontractors – line 92 – proposed \$70,000 – amended - \$73,600**  
**Comp. Time – line 93 – proposed - \$-0- - amended - \$5,000**  
**Overtime Pay – line 94 – proposed \$56,439 – amended - \$63,000**  
**Annual Leave Pay – line 95 – proposed - \$-0- - amended - \$40,000**  
**Holiday Pay – line 96 – proposed - \$60,857 – amended - \$97,500**  
**Police Retirement Match – line 98 – proposed \$215,326 – amended - \$193,128**  
**Group Hospitalization – line 99 – proposed \$173,790 – amended - \$170,004**  
**FICA Match – line 100 – proposed \$72,010 – amended \$66,804**  
**Life Insurance Match – line 101 – proposed \$1,490 – amended - \$1,434**  
**Medicare Match – line 102 – proposed - \$16,844 – amended - \$16,500**  
**Workmen’s Comp. Match – line 103 – proposed - \$54,370 – amended - \$54,514**  
**Total Wages & Benefits – line 104 – proposed - \$1,746,458 – amended \$1,820,048**

**Total Expenses – line 107 – proposed \$1,978,098 – amended - \$2,074,248**

**Recreation Department**

**Accounting – line 16 – proposed \$500 – amended - \$-0-**

**Total Department Operating – line 17 – proposed \$82,190 – amended \$81,690**

**Total Expenses – line 57 – proposed \$334,145 – amended \$333,645**

**Regulatory Department**

**Legal Fees – line 23 – proposed \$5,000 – amended \$4,500**

**Accounting – line 25 – proposed \$500 – amended - \$-0-**

**Total Department Operating – line 26 – proposed \$6,700 – amended \$5,700**

**Total Expenses – line 68 – proposed - \$115,429 – amended \$114,429**

**Senior Center**

**Accounting – line 12 – proposed \$450 – amended - \$-0-**

**Sewer Fund**

**Attorney – line 41 – proposed \$5,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Accounting – line 42 – proposed \$11,600 – amended - \$-0-**

**Total Departmental Operating Exp. – line 43 – proposed - \$543,986 – amended - \$527,386**

**Total Expenses – line 72 – proposed \$1,606,456 – amended - \$1,589,856**

**Net Operating Revenue of Expenses – line 74 – proposed - \$271,860 – amended - \$288,460**

**Revenues Over Expenditures – line 89 – proposed - \$7,855 – amended - \$24,455**

**Ending Net Assets – line 93 – proposed - \$2,234,173 – amended - \$2,250,773**

**Capital Funds**

**General Government Administration – line 21 – proposed \$95,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Police Department – line 22 – proposed - \$94,159 – amended - \$-0-**

**Fire Department – line 23 – proposed \$20,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Highway & Street Maintenance – line 24 – proposed \$150,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Recreation Department – line 25 – proposed \$20,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Senior Center Department – line 26 – proposed \$35,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Regulatory Department – line 27 – proposed \$5,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Sewerage Fund – line 28 – proposed \$50,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Attorney – line 37 – proposed \$3,500 – amended - \$-0-**

**Accounting – line 38 – proposed \$3,500 – amended - \$-0-**

**Hardware – line 43 – proposed \$12,460 – amended - \$-0-**

**Software – line 44 – proposed \$50,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Transfer-General Fund (Blighted) – line 58 – proposed \$10,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Total Expenses – line 48 – proposed - \$551,079 – amended - \$12,460**

**Net Operating Revenue Over Expenses – line 50 – proposed (\$508,619) – amended - \$30,000**

**Transfer – line 58 - General Fund (Blighted Prop.) – line 58 – proposed - \$10,000 – amended - \$-0-**

**Total Transfer out (in) – line 62 – (\$342,530) – amended – (\$352,530)  
 Net Excess – line 65 – proposed (\$166,089) – amended - \$382,530  
 Ending Balance Fund – line 69 – proposed \$519,285 – amended -  
 \$1,067,904**

**Councilman Benton said that the council is using these amendments to continue their vendetta against the Mayor. This is an exact repeat from last year – and the budget was thrown out. She commented on some of the changes.**

**Councilman Johnston said the City Attorney – is \$27,000 - Accounting was supposed to be \$48,000 but she overspent to \$120,000 last year, so I took out all allocated funds. This is ridiculous – we need a full time accountant. As far as Capital Funds – I reduced them all to 0 – because in the past ordinances were presented in order to get the money. He wants to know what the capital funds were spent on. He is not trying to work against the Mayor, he is trying to save the police and fire departments. A few misc. things here and there were brought down to where they were last year.**

**Councilman Baudier said the council makes the laws and are the keepers of the budget. He said they all went through the budget and he stands by the amendments.**

**Ms. Lulue said she is trying to put the changes in.**

**Mayor Miceli called a 5 minute recess -**

**The Mayor called the meeting back to order.**

**Councilman Wheeler asked to amend another line item.**

**Councilman Johnston said that in the Court budget – line 22 is corrected to read line 23.**

**Ms. Lulue said she would need time to speak to these amendments – she was dismayed that she did not get them in advance.**

**Mayor Miceli asked Councilman Wheeler if she had another amendment.**

**Councilman Wheeler said no.**

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

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

**NAYS: Benton**

**ABSENT:**

**ORDINANCE AMENDED**

**A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to adopt the Ordinance as amended.**

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

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

**NAYS: Benton**

**ABSENT:**

**ORDINANCE ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

#### **ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION – First Reading**

##### **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2017-1**

**This Ordinance was introduced unanimously by the Council.**

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

**An Ordinance approving the re-subdivision of 6489 Jefferson Hwy. and 194 Hickory Ave., Lots 27A, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, Square E, Harahan City Subdivision, City of Harahan, Parish of Jefferson,**

State of Louisiana, made by All South Consulting Engineers, LLC, dated November 2, 2016.

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – 2**

This Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Johnston

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1806, the annual Budget of Revenue and Expenditures, for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2016, for the City of Harahan, Louisiana.

**OLD BUSINESS – NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2017 Mayor Pro Tem**

Mayor Miceli asked which Councilman would the Council like to nominate as Mayor Pro Tem for 2017.

A motion was made by Councilman Wheeler and seconded by Councilman Baudier to appoint Councilman Johnston as the Mayor Pro Tem for 2017.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**ABSTAIN: Johnston**

**MOTION APPROVED**

**2. Harahan Elementary is requesting permission to hold their annual Mardi Gras Parade on Friday, February 24, 2017, from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. The request includes closing the intersection of Bailey Ave. & Jefferson Hwy. to through traffic at 1:30 p.m. Mayor Miceli asked Chief Walker if an officer had been assigned as a detail. He responded yes.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Wheeler, seconded by Councilman Baudier to grant permission.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**PERMISSION IS GRANTED**

**A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to amend the agenda to add a request by Harahan Elementary for the donation of the use of the gym for their annual Mardi Gras Ball on February 11, 2017 from 7 to 10 pm. They are requesting a donation of the gym.**

**A motion by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman Baudier to grant permission.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**PERMISSION GRANTED**

**ADDRESS THE COUNCIL.**

**Robert Johnson, Riverside, said that Councilman Paul Johnston came in late and didn't hear about the resolutions asking for his support of the Police and Fire Dept. Both resolutions received a round of applause and he asked the audience to do it again.**

**Mae Jean Cazenave, Oak** said that not one person on the council that is an attorney or accountant. They have gone to school and are professionals - but you people just don't want to listen. You changed the budget drastically. She is glad this council does not handle the budget in her home. You are still fighting - been doing this for 2 years and we are sick and tired of this.

**Jason Bruciz, Riverside** is asking for a solution to speeding problems on Riverside Dr. - will you have an answer by the next meeting. He backs out of his driveway onto Riverside - a real problem when they are traveling at 70 mph. - Asking for months - will the Mayor have a solution next month.

**Tommy Budde, Stoneleigh** said this is more of a comment about the sewerage increase - we knew it was coming but his usage increased drastically from 7,000 to 17,000 gallons and he wants city to talk to the meter readers to see if there is a problem. - Sewerage increase is absolutely necessary - but it may not be as bad next month because of increase in gallons.

**Councilman Baudier** said the same thing happened to him - they will adjust it.

**Mr. Budde** continued saying this is 2-1/2 times more usage than last time.

**Evelyn Rhiems** - thanked **Paul Johnston** for not letting trucks on Riverside. They went to the Levee Bd. meeting and didn't see the Wood Co. there but they were in the minutes. Please stop the composting - no lawsuits - never got a permit.

**Rena Sanders, Oak** - so sorry this council had to amend the budget. She thanked **Councilman Huete** who got bashed over the cameras on river road - they all have problems on the budget - shouldn't be bashed for their ideas - they are offering ideas to help the police dept. She recommended that everyone call the council with ideas about the budget.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Secretary's Report for December, 2016 - Total Revenue \$1,541,516.90.**

#### **REPORTS:**

**Chief Walker** read his statistics report for the month of December, 2016. He asked everyone to lock their cars - 13 cars were hit and they were all unlocked. He said if you see something suspicious - call the police dept.

**Chief St. Cyr** - thanked the Mayor for her patience while he took care of his father-in-law during his illness. He read his statistic report for the month of December. He was absent for most of the budget discussion and he was unavailable for the most part due to family illness. Thanked **Councilman Johnston** for the potential of \$75,000 for the fire department.

**Councilman Huete** - no report

**Councilman Johnston** - St. Rita dinner of pulled pork; smoked chicken or combination plate for Sunday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 2 pm is \$10 a plate. About the budget - he said he wanted to support the police. He said you can't always depend on reserves. As far as the Fire Dept. - our rating will be going up because the city does not have the resources it needs, we rely on Jefferson Parish. They need 2 more police officers & 2 more firemen.

**Chief St. Cyr** said the department has a 2-3 minute response time. **Councilman Baudier** - The council will put more policemen on the street and it is one answer for Mr. Budde. He also said that the 16<sup>th</sup> employee to quit since Mayor Miceli took over. **Tracy St. Amant** served as the Civil Service Board Stenographer for 10 years. He

feels these employees were let go wrongly. He would like to have all employees under Civil Service. He said again that the deficit noted by Postlewaite & Netterville was caused by Hurricane Issac and the FEMA reimbursement is still waiting.

Councilman Wheeler – no report.

Councilman Benton said that Councilman Johnston said the amendments were not a vendetta – but every single item in the Administration's budget was a reduction.

Councilman Wheeler said they made 2 public record requests– and asked for time cards last year – which were denied. She said it's not the council versus the Mayor – they averaged the figures from 2013 and used that number. For 18 years the attorney has been paid \$22,000. They averaged 4 years and used those numbers.

Councilman Benton said she was never included on any of the discussions.

Mayor Miceli said she's had numerous conversations about the speeding on Riverside - but it's the police function to control speeding. She said signage was an option but the council has stripped the budget of all capital monies. She called the Jefferson Parish Water Dept. about the gallon usage. She has spoken to citizens to answer their concerns – the Town Hall meeting will answer most of the questions rather than spending 1 hr. on the phone with each individual. The water dept. said the meters are read every other billing cycle instead of every billing cycle. She suggested everyone check for leaks on their property. She also emailed Councilman Paul Johnston about removing the Lafrenier Park fee from the water bill. She invited everyone to the Town Hall meeting at the Sr. Center at 6:30 pm, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. The city computers have not been hacked and the FBI even extended their investigation and gave us a clean bill of health.

Councilman Wheeler asked about the letter from the FBI.

Mayor Miceli said she will get it for her.

She asked Mr. Baudier what year the quote of Postelwaite & Netterville was from. She said the deficit was not caused only by Hurricane Isaac – reimbursements were not made because the bids for services were not done properly. A sink hole on the corner of Wilson and Roseland that had been repaired twice by the previous administration has been fixed for a third time when it was discovered the problem was caused by a water leak that had not been fixed first.

Councilman Huete left the meeting at 9:57 pm.

A number of sink holes that were repaired were cause by water leaks. It's a pity that the citizens' don't get a budget with the input of a CPA. Accounting was done by hand – riddled with errors. Salaries were calculated incorrectly. Things were wrong and we had to fix this – it cost more money to do this. The Dept. of Labor had to come in to fix problems. I want to fix it right the first time. We have recovered most of the deficit – we are doing it a step at a time – more information at the town hall about the budget. It would have been a common courtesy for the council to have turned in their amendments before the meeting.

#### **PAY BILLS**

Bills paid in December, 2016 – Total expenditures \$353,641.65.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **ADJOURN**

Motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to adjourn at 10:02 pm.



17

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**