

**City of Harahan
6437 Jefferson Highway
Mayor and Harahan City Council
Special Hearing / Special Meeting / May Council Meeting Agenda
May 30, 2017**

Date: May 30, 2017

Time: 5:30 pm

Mayor Miceli opened the Special Hearing of May 30, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

The City Clerk called the roll.

In Attendance are:

Mayor Miceli, Councilman Baudier, Councilman Benton, Councilman Huete, Councilman Johnston, Councilman Wheeler, City Clerk Nicole Lee, Police Chief Walker, and Financial Administrator Linda Lulue.

Absent: Fire Chief St. Cyr, City Attorney Gilbert Buras

Mayor Miceli announced that this hearing is necessary to meet legal requirements to adopt the reassessed millage and roll it forward.

The City Clerk read the announcement about the hearing.

To consider and vote on levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum. The estimated amount of tax revenues to be collected in the next year from the increased millage is \$2,125,402.00, and the amount of increase in taxes attributable to the millage increase is \$20,871.44.

A motion was offered 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: No one spoke

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to close 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

Council Discussion: None

ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to adjourn the Public Hearing at 5:32 pm.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

Meeting Adjourned at 5:32 pm

**City of Harahan
6437 Jefferson Highway
Mayor and Harahan City Council
Regular City Council Meeting**

Date: May 30, 2017

Time: 5:40 P.M.

Mayor Miceli opened the Regular City Council Meeting of May 30, 2017 at 5:45 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Mayor announced that the Pledge was being led by 2 World War II Veterans – Salvador Maniscalco & Arthur Arceneaux in honor of Memorial Day.

The City Clerk called the roll.

In Attendance are:

Mayor Miceli, Councilman Baudier, Councilman Benton, Councilman Huete, Councilman Johnston, Councilman Wheeler, City Clerk Nicole Lee, Police Chief Walker, and Financial Administrator Linda Lulue, City Attorney Gilbert Buras, Fire Chief St. Cyr.

At the Archdiocese of New Orleans CYO/Youth Adult Ministry Awards Leadership Celebration held on Sunday, April 23, 2017 three people from Harahan's St. Rita Parish were honored.

- **Receiving The Adult Service Award for contributions of five years or more in service to youth ministry was Margaret Flynn.**
- **Receiving Parish Youth Leadership Award for recognition of leadership in the local parish setting was Jared Tonglet and Thomas Sagona.**

She asked for a moment of silence in honor of Father John Arnone, St. Rita's Parish Pastor who passed away on May 5th. We can honor him by following his frequent advice – "Be happy and live life to the fullest."

The Mayor reminded everyone to bundle their yard waste – it may cause flooding if it gets into the drains.

She also announced that there are 2 proposals on the agenda for 2 major projects: 1 for drainage problems on Donelon and Macque & Sedgefield at a cost of \$500,000 and VFW street repairs at a cost of \$250,000.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman Huete to amend the agenda to add Calvin Hoppmeyer, City Engineer as no. 1 under Special Presentations.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

Councilman Benton withdrew Ordinance No. 2017 -7

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Calvin Hoppmeyer, City Engineer

Mr. Hoppmeyer announced a street closure on St. Cyr and Crislaur will take place on Thursday evening from 9pm to 5 am, weather permitting. Possibly Monday thru Thursday schedule. Police & Fire will be notified of any change.

Gravity sewer repairs will begin in late June – videoing has begun.

Main line cleaning crew at Stoneleigh and Donelon – LaGAP program.

VFW, Prados, Keilman, Marquette and East Street repairs - \$250-\$300,000

Drainage Donelon and Macque improvements - \$500,000.

The proposed sewer rates adjustment – will reduce the capability of making sewer improvement and maintenance – critical management of failed pipes and equipment – Pump Station 8 needs to be addressed. These reductions are not recommended by him in his professional capacity.

2. Darlene Schwartz, Community Liaison

Ms. Schwartz announced that the drug take back day took in 708 lbs. of drugs. Next take back day is in October. Soul Bowl for Special Olympics will be held Sunday, June 11 at 11 am at Colonial Bowling Lanes - \$30 at door to get in. Saints & LSU football players will be there – silent auction.

Summer vacation – watch for children playing. Tours of the HPD and City Hall will be available for kids this summer.

3. Chief Walker gave his Current State of the Harahan Police Department & Statistics Report for April.

All comments are for the record and are recorded on the video. He announced the statistics for April and that school is out; bikes have been stolen and recovered.

ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

John Riehm, Renpass

A motion was offered by Councilman Huete and seconded by Councilman Baudier to grant 3 more minutes.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

He continued.

Evelyn Riehm, Renpass

A motion was offered by Councilman Huete and seconded by Councilman Baudier to grant 3 more minutes.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSES
She continued.

Councilman Huete requested that Mike Strain be contacted for a meeting with the council.
Mayor Miceli said she would do that.

William Morgan, Elodie
Tommy Budde, Stoneleigh
A motion was offered by Councilman Huete and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to grant 3 more minutes.
The Mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSES
He continued.

Jason Bruzik, Stoneleigh
A motion was offered by Councilman Wheeler and seconded by Councilman Baudier to grant 3 more minutes.
The Mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSES
He continued.

Eric Chatelain, Colonial Club Dr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Reading of the Minutes of the Council Meeting of February 16, 2017

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Huete to dispense with the reading of the minutes.
The Mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSES

Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting on February 16, 2017.

Councilman Wheeler found several mistakes and suggested they use the video as the only record.
Councilman Huete agreed.
City Attorney Buras said it must be done by ordinance – certify the videographer and to distill the minutes to just the votes because the clerk must prepare a minutes book.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Benton to defer the minutes to the June 15th minutes.
The Mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:
YEAS: Benton, Johnston
NAYS: Wheeler, Huete, Baudier
ABSENT: None
MOTION FAILS

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston to approve the Feb. 16, 2017 and seconded by Councilman Baudier.
The Mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:

YEAS: None

NAYS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

ABSENT: None

MOTION FAILS

Attorney Buras said it is the Municipal Clerk's job to certify the vote.

Ms. Lee replied that she can only do what she is directed to do.

Attorney Buras said the law is directing you to do this – the votes must be certified by the clerk.

Councilman Huete said the city clerk should take the minutes and then we don't have to pay to have the minutes taken.

Attorney Buras said that Section 421 of the law says the city clerk keeps the minutes book & keeps the same fully indexed. It's the clerk's certification that counts in a court of law.

Councilman Wheeler said if I had to certify it – I'd want to type them myself.

Attorney Buras said again that it must be certified by the City Clerk.

Councilman Johnston said we would have to amend the ordinance that sets the agenda.

The Mayor called a five minutes recess at 7:21 pm.

The Meeting was called back to order at 7:25 pm

Attorney Buras said that the council needs to amend section 2-67 under number 6 – you don't need to approve the minutes tonight and you don't have to defer – when the minutes accurately reflect the votes, you can take them up.

City Attorney said that Nicole should have the correct recorded votes.

The Mayor said to put the February minutes on the June agenda.

Reading of the Minutes of the Council Meeting of March 16, 2017

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

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting on March 16, 2017.

There was no motion to approve – the Mayor directed the clerk to put the matter on the June 15th meeting.

Reading of the Minutes of the April 20, 2017 Council Meeting.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Huete to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting on April 20, 2017.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to approve the minutes.

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

YEAS: Benton, Huete, Johnston

NAYS: Baudier, Wheeler

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Adjustments and Appeals

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to dispense with the reading of the March 15, 2017 minutes.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

Acceptance of the Minutes of the March 15, 2017 meeting.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to accept the minutes.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston

NAYS: Wheeler

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

The Board of Adjustments and Appeals did not meet in April or May, 2017.

Minutes of the Planning & Zoning Board Meeting of May 3, 2017.

Councilman Johnston offered a motion to dispense with the reading of the May 3, 2017 minutes seconded by Councilman Baudier.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Planning & Zoning Board Meeting of May 3, 2017.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to accept the minutes.

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

YEAS: Benton, Huete, Johnston

NAYS: Baudier, Wheeler

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

RESOLUTIONS

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2017-13

Adopt the 2017 adjusted millage rates.

This resolution was offered unanimously by the Council.

The city clerk read the resolution by title only.

A motion was offered 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 – no one spoke

A motion was offered by Councilman Baudier and seconded by Councilman Johnston to close 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

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councilman Baudier said that this does not increase tax – just renewing the rates.

A motion was offered unanimously by the Council to adopt the resolution.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2017-14

The following resolution was offered unanimously by the Council and was read by the clerk in its entirety.

Set forth the 2017 adjusted millage rate(s) and roll forward to millage rate(s) not exceeding the maximum authorized rate(s).

A motion was offered 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 – No one spoke

A motion was offered by Councilman Baudier and seconded by Councilman Johnston to close 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

COUNCIL DISCUSSION: None

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman Baudier to adopt the resolution.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION PASSES

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2017-15

The following resolution was offered unanimously by the Council and read in its entirety by the Clerk.

A Resolution to enter into a cooperative endeavor between the City of Harahan and the Parish of Jefferson for the Fiscal Years 2018-2020 to undertake essential community development and housing assistance within the City of Harahan jurisdiction.

A motion was offered 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 No one spoke

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to close 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

COUNCIL DISCUSSION –

Councilman Johnston asked if this just a renewal and how much do we get from the Parish.

Mayor Miceli said she did not know the amount we would receive.

Councilman Huete asked Ms. Lulue if she knew the answer.

Ms. Lulue said she did not since this was done before she was hired and she did not know how much the city received in prior years.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to adopt the resolution.

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

YEAS: Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: Baudier

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION PASSES

ORDINANCES FOR APPROVAL

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – 5 (DEFERRED)

This Ordinance is proposed by Councilman Baudier and seconded by Councilman Huete.

The city clerk read the ordinance by title only.

An Ordinance to amend and re-ordain Ordinance No. 53, Sewerage District No. 1 of the City of Harahan, and the Harahan Municipal Code, Chapter 90, Article II, Division 2, USER CHARGES, Section 90-58 – Schedule of Charges, providing for a change of user charges for services rendered by the said Sewerage District.

A motion was offered 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

Terri Valenti, Colonial Club Dr. – asked if this is what Mr. Hoppmeyer of Stewart Enterprises is against. She asked if this would open the city up to litigation if the money is taken away.

Councilman Wheeler said that Mr. Hugh Martin and Mr. McFarland are here to answer questions.

Tommy Budde, Sedgfield – this was already passed by the council because it was money needed to be in compliance with the DEQ requirements. This money included

the \$1.5 + \$3.5 million of sewer repairs. If this money was needed – it should have been debated in public. This increase is 3 times more than needed and was based upon recommendation by the Mayor with a lack of details. I don't debate that money is needed for sewerage repairs – the council should have full information before they vote.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to close 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

Mr. McFarland, with DEQ explained the loan program for sewer repairs.

Councilman Wheeler – this council was notified in Sept., 2016 that DEQ had frozen the credit line.

Mr. McFarland – I don't remember the specifics or dates. The city did not have the money to pay back the money more than had already been drawn.

Mayor Miceli said there were multiple meetings about the covenants of the bond.

Councilman Baudier said the council was not included.

Councilman Wheeler said that the only meeting we had was the Monday before the Council meeting. A payback plan had not been submitted in 2015 and the DEQ acted. Mayor Miceli said the loan was taken out in 2013 and the rates were not increased in a sufficient manner. Three funds had to be opened when the loan was taken out and they were not. The infrastructure of the system had not been improved – just maintained minimally. This was not a surprise – the ordinance had been deferred several times. There were 11 offers to the DEQ before it was accepted. We met with Mr. McFarland and Mr. Martin.

Councilman Baudier said we met with Mr. Hoppmeyer, Bobby Moss & Mr. McFarland to come up with the new projection – the time line was increased for the repairs to lower the rates. It was not meant to hurt the Mayor or anyone – I believe that Harahan should pay more because our taxes are the lowest. We don't need to hurt them.

Mr. McFarland said the DEQ is flexible, but the city needs to satisfy the loans requirements with a number of ways to raise that revenue. We will look at what you provide.

Councilman Johnston said the ordinance was deferred because they had no information – they met with DEQ – they were told they had to give the big increase.

Councilman Wheeler said they were told they had to accept the original number.

Councilman Baudier said the numbers were from the Mayor, Mr. Hoppmeyer and Ms. Lulue. I don't blame the DEQ.

Mr. McFarland said they did not generate the numbers – the DEQ gives the city the authority to set the fees.

Councilman Johnston said that Sierra from the DEQ said we had to adopt high numbers.

Mr. McFarland said the city had no available revenue to pay back the loan.

Ms. Lulue went through the exhibits 1-10 with the council and the Mayor– No. 10 was sent to us from DEQ and the expense of day-to-day operation must be included.

There was a 5-year plan – for bare minimum repairs and maintenance that came from Mr. Hoppmeyer. I changed the numbers to match what was required per Sierra's request with Mr. Hoppmeyer's information. Now they have removed the rerouting of Lift Station 6 totally.

Councilman Baudier thanked Ms. Lulue for working with him.

Councilman Benton asked if the new numbers been approved by the DEQ,

Ms. Lulue said the numbers had not been sent to the DEQ for their approval, but it required removing the entire rerouting of Lift Station 6 to get to Mr. Baudier's numbers. She does not feel that the repair numbers are correct.

Councilman Wheeler said that nobody is denying that the repairs need to be done – but going from \$1.3 million to \$852,000 over a 5 yr. period is not a big deal. We can re-evaluate in 6 months.

Mayor Miceli asked Mr. McFarland asked what actually needed to be done.

Mr. McFarland said that decision lies with the city engineer and the administration.

Councilman Benton asked Councilman Baudier if he had provided his numbers to the DEQ.

Mr. McFarland said that he personally would not be reviewing or approving the numbers.

Councilman Benton said that the numbers should be reviewed and approved by the DEQ before the council votes to lower the rates.

Councilman Wheeler said that Mr. Martin can answer those questions.

Mayor Miceli said the City Engineer should provide a plan.

Mr. McFarland said you have professionals on staff that can answer that. The financial statements are reviewed every year but that is separate issue from bond repayment.

Councilman Benton said that changes can be done – but only once a year.

Mr. McFarland said the city is not limited to adjusting the rates to one time a year.

Councilman Huete said we can review the rates anytime.

Mr. Hugh Martin said he read David Wolfe of DEQ's memo describing what they mandate and related that to the board.

Mayor Miceli said that when we were assessing the system – the city engineer rated some issues as critical – which made us aware of imminent failure. Bailey was rated critical with a cost of \$25,000 to repair – but now since it failed, it's \$80,000 & up for that repair – repairs cost most because of failure.

Councilman Baudier asked Ms. Lulue how much money is in capital projects.

Ms. Lulue answered there is \$850,000 in capital projects.

Councilman Baudier said if we had \$850,000 in the bank, we should definitely use it on repairs.

Mr. Hoppmeyer said that there were 3 failures at the Bailey site. If it had been fixed before failure it would have cost \$25,000, but since 3 areas were now involved it cost \$80,000. Veolia contracted to fix them.

Mayor Miceli said that although payment has been made to the contractor, they have also presented bills to the Water Dept., & Jefferson Parish Dept. of Streets & Councilman Johnston office since there were also involved.

Councilman Baudier said his proposed rate generates approximately \$500,000 and he asked if Mr. Hoppmeyer is in charge of capital project repairs.

Mr. Hoppmeyer said the bulk of repairs has been done through LaGAP and grants and they tried not to spend any money but from the \$4 million loan.

Councilman Baudier said with the \$500,000 plus from user fees and the loan, we have \$850,000 in the capital project fund and we can't be in that bad a shape.

Mr. Hoppmeyer said we are working by failure and we are trying to get away from that, and we can work through this, but we shouldn't deplete that fund.

Councilman Wheeler said that there are other monies plus the sewer fund has \$2.2 million and capital and the sales tax fund. She said to wait for the audit to find out the amounts, and that's money we can use.

Ms. Lulue said that Mr. Wolfe said we could not take our ending fund balances to use for daily operations. It has to be dedicated and renewable and the only fund is the video poker monies. Revenues must meet operation expenditures for 1 year.

Mr. Martin said the city can use other funds as long as they are legally available and dedicated to the sewer projects. Ordinary operation must be paid first – then repairs can be paid with excess money.

Mayor Miceli said they are trying to get to a point where we can have normal operation & maintenance and we aren't there yet.

Mr. Hoppmeyer said that the pump station 8 is a new project.

Councilman Huete said this project was not included.

Mr. Hoppmeyer said that extending the repairs on a longer time can change the list of repairs.

Councilman Huete said if there is a catastrophe – we have \$850,000 just sitting there.

Mayor Miceli said that not including the sewer problems, there are day-to-day operations that need capital money – such as a new fire truck at \$500,000. Video poker only brings in \$300,000 per year.

Councilman Huete said it could be financed over 30 years.

Councilman Wheeler said they did not eliminate everything, we reduced the fees to help people – not talking deferring down the road – only 2 years maybe – repairs probably won't be done immediately.

Councilman Huete said this is where we were in Sept. 2016 and we did ask the right questions. She thanked Councilman Baudier for putting up a change in rates. What we are doing tonight makes sense.

Councilman Benton questioned whether the DEQ will have to approve the new rates. Mr. Martin said they will wait until the end of the year, but you will have to have a plan immediately to fix it if they don't approve them.

Councilman Baudier said we know we will have to increase the fees, probably by January.

Councilman Wheeler said that the rates have been collected at the higher rate and some will be collected at this lower rate, so the city should reach the 110% by the end of the year.

Councilman Benton asked Ms. Lulue if she stands behind these new numbers.

Mayor Tina asked Mr. Martin if we are changing the plan even if we are required to present the yearly percentage – what is the requirement to notify DEQ if we change it.

Mr. Martin said that as long as you show projections and if they are correct you should be alright. They normally wait until the end of the year.

Councilman Huete said we should just say a prayer and hope they don't call.

Mayor Miceli said before the vote – the citizens should understand that is a riskier plan.

Councilman Baudier said I don't think it is risky – we are generating enough money.

Councilman Baudier made a motion to amend the ordinance to amend Section 3. to change the date of effectiveness to August, 1, 2017 seconded by Councilman Johnston.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: Benton

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE AMENDED

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

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

YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: Benton

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE PASSES AS AMENDED

Ms. Lulue said this is a change in operations and will require a budget amendment next month.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2017-7 - withdrawn

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – 8

This Ordinance is proposed by Councilman Baudier and seconded by Councilman Wheeler.

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1822, the annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2017 for the City of Harahan, Louisiana. (Blighted Property)

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler 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 – No one spoke

A motion was offered 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

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

Council Discussion -

Councilman Johnston asked Ms. Lulue to explain 3 different lines.

Ms. Lulue explained:

Line 21 – transfers out from Capital project fund - \$10,000 to general fund

Line 23 – transfer into General project fund \$10,000 from Capital fund

Line 25 – projected expense of \$10,000 from General Fund for blighted properties.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to adopt the Ordinance.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE PASSES

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – 9

This Ordinance is proposed by Councilman Benton and seconded by Councilman Baudier.

The City Clerk read the ordinance by title only.

An Ordinance to amend and re-ordain Section 78-31(a), Section 78-32 and Section 78-44 of the Harahan Municipal Code to provide for the collection of solid waste and refuse by the city or contractors selected by it, to provide for the imposition of charges for the collection, removal, disposal and recycling of solid waste and refuse and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

A motion was offered by Councilman Wheeler 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

Jason Bruzik, Stoneleigh wants to know if this establishes a fee for recycling – why are we discussing an ordinance for recycling – we lost that opportunity. Why didn't you do this the first time?

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to close 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

Council Discussion

Councilman Wheeler asked about the rates of \$2.20 per month on page 3 – we can enter into a contract with another company. She wants it to read “not to exceed the \$2.20 a month”. She discussed it with several councilmen and Mr. Rameli said he would be more than glad to provide the recycling service for the \$2.20 a month. Councilman Huete asked why we need an amount because there is a CPI so why would you put a figure. The company can bid – we will review & then select the company.

Attorney Buras said the contract offers a pass through for the fees.

Mayor Miceli said she and the attorney discussed the contract in detail and worked together to write the contract.

Councilman Huete said that we cancelled the contractor and advertised and took out recycling from the bid process so why are we putting this back.

The Mayor stated that she tried to get the up-to-date data from Progressive – but they would not give it. They originally said that 40% of the citizens used recycling during the first 3 months of 2015.

Mayor Miceli said the ability to apply the fee for garbage does not exist in the Harahan code – we have the ability to make the fee a pass through charge – the fees do not have to be in there but we need an ordinance to collect a charge.

Recycling was separated from the garbage contract to get better prices because not all companies do recycling.

Councilman Wheeler said that Mr. Rameli said originally recycling was in the bid – then at a bid conference Mr. Hoppmeyer said that they only wanted bids on garbage. She continued saying that since the citizens were angry that recycling was cancelled now you are putting it back in.

Councilman Huete said but we are going out to bid because we cancelled the contract before because not enough citizens recycled. Recycling wasn't separated out, it was removed. We could have done this before for the first contract.

Mayor Miceli said an ordinance was needed to provide for the collection of the fees.

Councilman Wheeler asked about the conflict with Rameli about trash not being picked up.

Attorney Buras said the extra can issue became a problem about May 1st. It was potentially a breach of contract. The contract said that the contractor would make a private agreement with homeowners about extra trash. Mr. Rameli said he did not want to do this. The original count was estimated at 4,000 households but the city's count was the definitive count. The Mayor found out how many extra cans – Rameli picked up extra cans from apartments. Mr. Buras said that they came to an agreement – one can \$1.42 – 2 cans or more - \$1.42 for each extra can. There are 242 units paying for extra cans. The water company gave the number of units and the city checked the city tax rolls.

Councilman Wheeler said that people who have extra Rameli cans will be charged an extra \$2.80 per pickup.

Attorney Buras said no, that is the charge the city will be charged.

Councilman Wheeler said that Mr. Rameli said he would pick up anything for an extra \$48,000 a year or a dollar a can. He said that when he met with the Mayor he was told that the money had already been spent.

Mayor Miceli said that the contract is for 5 years with an additional 5 years – max of 10 years. Progressive had reached the 10 years limit and it had to go out for bid.

Councilman Huete said that now we will be paying another \$48,000 and a fee for recycling.

Mayor Miceli said that each home owner pays \$123 a year for garbage pickup for one can. The city pays \$149 a year so the city is still subsidizing the garbage pick up.

Citizens who wanted extra service got an extra can. There were over 6,000 Progressive cans being serviced but the city was only collecting for 4,228 cans. The city received many calls saying they were paying for second cans but they were not paying. Rameli picked up extra cans at apt. complexes leaving only 1 can. The attorneys clarified the contract.

Attorney Buras said we have residential units of 3,807 & 200 commercial (total 4,007) – garbage unit count 3,945 – 140 who pay for extra cans. 288 commercial units at 200 places. The total being paid for on the water bill is 4,233. He is required to pick up trash.

Councilman Wheeler – thought the contract required he pick up a second can, whether it was a Rameli can or not

Councilman Johnston said they were supposed to be fined for leaving trash.

Attorney Buras said that waste receptacles relate to yard waste. All are defined in the contract. He's obligated to pick up all trash and garbage, including white goods. This amendment means we can charge for recycling.

Councilman Baudier asked if we were amending the contract to give Rameli more money.

Councilman Wheeler asked how much more is Rameli going to be paid under this amendment.

Attorney Buras said the amendment was to allow recycling and charging for it.

Councilman Johnston said he should be picking up everything already.

Councilman Johnston said this amendment is allowing the Mayor to renegotiate the contract.

Councilman Wheeler said we are amending to give Rameli more money.

Mayor Miceli said it is still below the Progressive contract cost.

Councilman Johnston said the old company picked up everything.

Attorney Buras said the increase is \$3,000 a month.

Councilman Huete said this is unfair to the public because Rameli is in breach of contract.

Councilman Johnston said they are in breach of contract. I don't have an issue with extra cans. I have a problem that the extra can must be a Rameli can or it must be yard waste.

Mayor Miceli agrees with council – she is very displeased with Rameli's performance.

Attorney Buras said we renegotiated rather than put him in breach of contract because they would sue us. The biggest complaint we got was yard waste not being picked up. So we amended the contract to iron this out.

Councilman Huete said if she was in charge she would have them resubmit and tell them they are in breach of contract – why do we want to do business with them.

Attorney Buras said this is how other municipalities do this.

Councilman Johnston – can other vendors sue us for changing the contract 3 months into it.

Mayor Miceli said that Progressive could not give the exact tonnage being recycled or where it had been recycled.

Attorney Buras said that all municipalities have citizens call to pick up large items.

Councilman Baudier asked if this was legal or could they come back at us.

Attorney Buras said this was how the contract was awarded – this is the correct method.

Mayor Miceli said we now have an accurate count.

Attorney Buras said they wanted \$7,000 a month but they negotiated. Negotiation is better than lawsuits. He said the amendment gives 15 different definitions – the biggest problem was yard waste – you can put your own can out – this was added to the contract.

Councilman Johnston said that's not what the citizens want. They want to be able to put out any trash and have it picked up.

Councilman Huete said the RFP was terrible.

Councilman Johnston said that being 3-4 months out – why don't we have to put it out for RFP – can the other companies come back and sue us.

Attorney Buras negotiated the count with the records and said this is what Rameli will pick up. It can be changed from time to time.

Councilman Johnston asked about the recycling RFP.

Attorney Buras said the Progressive contract was amended several times at will.

Councilman Wheeler said that Rameli would end up with the recycling contract.

Attorney Buras said we could never get statistics about the recycling from Progressive about the amount or kind of recycling.

Mayor Miceli said the Progressive amendment said that recycling would go into the landfill and they never got statistics about how much was actually being recycled.

Attorney Buras said the Christmas tree problem brought the recycling problem to light.

Attorney Buras said the city is trying to conform to the law - this is a renegotiation of multiple cans.

Councilman Boudier said this is all smoke and mirrors.

Attorney Buras said that a copy of the amendment will be sent to him and if there is something Councilman Baudier doesn't understand he will help him.

The Mayor explained that the city is subsidizing the garbage service and the Rameli contract is less than the Progressive contract. She also stated that now that an accurate figure has been obtained – they can reconcile the tax bill and water bill fees correctly.

Councilman Baudier asked if the \$36,000 will be spread out to the citizens.

Attorney Buras said no – the citizens would be paying what the contract calls for - a pass through fee – but the city does not do this, it subsidizes the fees. He said the CPI could have been imposed every year with the Progressive contract – but it was never done.

Mayor Miceli said there was never a defined way of placing fees on citizens for garbage – it is on the water bill and on the ad valorem tax bill – this clarifies where the charges will be placed and instituting the recycling fee. This will clean up the municipal code.

Councilman Johnston said you are coming to us to implement the amendment.

Attorney Buras said no, we are trying to conform actual practice to what the law says. This is a renegotiation of how many cans he will pick up.

The mayor called for a recess to change the tape.

The meeting was called back to order at 9:53 pm.

Mayor Miceli said that in searching the Municipal Code there was never a defined way to collect garbage fees. This amendment creates a method of placing the fees for recycling and garbage. This will clarify the municipal code.

Councilman Wheeler said the problem she has is the price per month and lines 84-87 any increase in costs will be billed to user – she wants to add with council approval. She is not ready to move forward tonight.

A motion was offered by Councilman Benton and seconded by Councilman Johnston to defer the Ordinance to June 15th meeting.

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

YEAS: Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: Baudier

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE DEFERRED

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION (First Reading)

PROPOSD ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – 10

This Ordinance is introduced unanimously by the Council.

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1822, the Annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2017 for the City of Harahan, Louisiana (Recreation).

Councilman Wheeler has amendments to the ordinance.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – 11

This ordinance is proposed by Councilman Benton.

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1822, the Annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2017 for the City of Harahan, Louisiana. (Health Insurance)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – 12

This ordinance is proposed by Councilman Benton.

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1822, the Annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2017 for the City of Harahan, Louisiana. (Maintenance-uniforms)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – 13

This Ordinance is proposed by Councilman Benton.

An Ordinance to amend the Capital Budget for the year 2017 of the City of Harahan by increasing funds to Line 341-4-115-40900 (Highways and Street Maintenance) for street repairs. (VFW Ave.)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – 14

This Ordinance is proposed by Councilman Benton.

An Ordinance to amend the Capital Budget for the year 2017 by increasing funds to Line 341-4-40900 (Highways and Streets) for drainage improvement. (Sedgefield, Macque & Donelon)

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appeals Board and Planning & Zoning Board nominations and appointments.

Mayor Miceli nominated Gerry Gelpi to the Planning & Zoning Board for May, 2017 to May, 2022.

Councilman Wheeler said she sent Mr. Budde's name.

Councilman Johnston said he nominated Ms. Gwen Fairchild.

Mayor Miceli said the Mayor nominates – the council approves.

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

YEAS: Benton, Johnston

NAYS: Baudier, Huete, Wheeler

ABSENT: None

APPOINTMENT FAILS

The Mayor nominated Paul Jouet for the Board of Appeals and Adjustments for May, 2017 to May, 2022.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

APPOINTMENT PASSES

Councilman Baudier said that Steve Korle had only made 1 meeting of his board. He needs to be replaced.

Attorney Buras said he was researching the matter during the meeting.

Councilman Johnston said that every mayor in the past listed the nominations from the council but since you are so spiteful you won't do that.

The Mayor said the law requires that the Mayor nominates and the council approves.

2. Ms. Judy Roman, on behalf of St. Rita is requesting assistance in planning the Feast of Corpus Christi annual Eucharistic Procession on Sunday, June 17, 2017 after the 4:00 pm Mass. She respectfully requests the City to provide barricades and a police escort.

The Mayor said the maintenance has been informed and asked Chief Walker if an escort been set up for this event?

Chief Walker answered yes.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to provide the barricades and the escort.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSES

3. Civil Service College List Board Members terms expiring July 29, 2017.
The City Clerk said she had not gotten to do what was required.

A motion was made by Councilman Baudier seconded by Councilman Wheeler to amend the agenda to request that Rameli submit a Hurricane Preparation Guide under New Business as no. 4.

The mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: Nays
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSES

Councilman Baudier said he would like it submitted by the next council meeting.

Attorney Buras said it is addressed on page 20 of the Rameli contract – he read the emergency preparation included in the contract.

Councilman Baudier said that was fine but we want to make the citizens feel “warm and fuzzy”.

5. Court system issues.

Councilman Wheeler said Chief Walker had a problem with attachments.

Chief Walker said that as of this past Monday, the Mayor had authorized Digicom to issue the 300 attachments – but some were not verified as being correct. It puts the city at a liability and puts the officers at harm.

Councilman Wheeler asked why they were let out without verification.

Mayor Miceli – they should have been veted in the beginning. There is a host of issues. We are down to 1 employee – can’t cover lunches, emergencies or vacation – volunteers work during court – no potential for training. Court needs to be addressed with appropriate manpower. One way to make it more proficient is to automate the processes. I think we need someone from Digicom to address the automation and appropriateness of the attachments. This was addressed with the clerk, she was asked if the court was ready to automate and she said yes and she put it in writing. An additional printer and signature pad is being supplied to court.

Chief Waller asked what is being done to correct this.

Mayor Miceli spoke to Mike Foley about the errors and she helped the clerk to review the cases and look for signatures.

Chief Walker said there were about 300 cases.

Councilman Wheeler said that since Jackie is not here to defend herself – I will defer this to June to have Jackie attend the meeting.

Mayor Miceli said there are a number of issues – you should talk to Mike Foley before hand and then decide what to do and then Jackie can come to the meeting.

Councilman Wheeler said we removed the salary of one person because the revenue is down 30%. The clerk she is entitled to vacation, lunch and sick days. Why is there no one in city hall to take a payment for the court? Because this council stripped the personnel, you are telling people to come back to pay their ticket.

Chief Walker said he would like to be present at the meeting.

ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Tommy Budde, Stoneleigh

A motion was made by Councilman Huete seconded by Councilman Baudier to grant e more minutes.

The mayor called for the vote, it was as follows:
YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSES

He continued.

Jason Bruzik, Stoneleigh

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary's report for April, 2017

Total revenue \$495,927.57

REPORTS

Chief Walker gave his statistic report for April, 2017. He asked the council to take the \$160,000 left in the 2015 budget and put it into capital for 2017. He wants a millage dedicated for the police department. Becky Hammond said she had figures about the pension system but the Mayor does not have them yet. The Ordinance for blighted property, he asked if we have that many houses that we need \$10,000 to take care of them?

Mayor Miceli said unsafe homes are boarded up or addressed. There are a number of things that need to be done.

Chief Walker said that people are moving into Harahan because we are safe. Until the officers are in pension system – if they get hurt – we are liable. He wants read only access for the Incode payroll software.

Chief St. Cyr - no report

Councilman Huete – no report

Councilman Baudier – thank you to Mr. Budde for his help with his projects – school's out watch for kids especially his.

Councilman Johnston – no report

Councilman Wheeler – no report

Councilman Benton – no report

Mayor Miceli – the city has gotten bombarded with public information requests from the chief but the small staff means it takes time – also asked for financial information that Ms. Lulue had to go to the dept. to get information about grants – grant information was not accurate. Financials – when the council passes budgets in time and that are not illegal and stop getting bombarded with amendments to the budget at the last minute – the council will receive financials in a timely manner. If this council creates money that does not exist and unworkable amendments that transfers money from one account to another it is difficult to provide the information.

PAY BILLS – were not paid

Bill's paid in April, 2017

Total expenditures \$ \$326,357.49

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

A motion was offered by Councilman Huete seconded by Councilman Baudier to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 p.m.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSES

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:48 p.m.