

**City of Harahan
6437 Jefferson Highway
Mayor and Harahan City Council
Budget Hearing Minutes
November 14, 2017**

Date: November 14, 2017

Time: 6:30 pm

Mayor Miceli opened the Budget Hearing Meeting at 6:35 pm.

The City Clerk led the pledge of allegiance.

The City Clerk called the roll.

In Attendance were:

**Mayor Miceli, Councilman Benton, Councilman Huete, Councilman Johnston, Councilman Wheeler, City Clerk Nicole Lee, Police Chief Walker, Fire Chief St. Cyr, City Attorney Gilbert Buras, City CPA Linda Lulue
Councilman Baudier came in at 6:44 pm.**

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

There will be a special hearing at the special meeting on Dec. 7, 2017 at 6:30 pm to announce a resolution to call an election for an ad valorem tax.

BUDGET HEARING

Linda Lulue explained the budget process – she included 2016 on the budget sheets. Projected a deficit in 2015; her talk is attached.

MAINTENANCE DEPT.

Edwin Lauricella – maintenance dept.

Mr. Lauricella said his people have not had a raise in 4 years. Asking for raise – and said it was difficult to do road repairs with no money.

Councilman Wheeler said the money is there, the council just needs an ordinance to move it.

Mr. Lauricella re-iterated that they need raises and need to hire 1 more person

FIRE DEPT.

Todd St. Cyr said the fire dept. has not had a raise in 13 years. Take home pay has decreased because of health insurance costs. He said that some long time employees want to leave. He said they need 24 people and they don't have the resources to hire them. They do their best to control spending, but the department needs a long term goal. He said that the department rating was reduced because of deficiencies.

RECREATION

Stu Foley – Recreation said his people want raises too. He said he is understaffed and asked if the council had any questions. He said they have tightened their belts as much as they could.

Mayor Miceli said she appreciates the sacrifices of everyone and that she is putting an ad valorem tax request on an upcoming election along with the Police Dept.'s request.

POLICE DEPT.

Chief Walker said he has several issues. He presented a budget for the police dept. There is a 20% increase in health insurance for 2018. He said the city's website is non-functional and is \$15,000 a year wasted. Last year he hired 2 new officers with the figures supplied by the finance director but he was over budget in payroll.

Ms. Lulue said she used the figures presented by the council in their amendments, but the amount was not enough.

Chief Walker said that he could find the mistakes by city hall if he had access to all departments' incode.

Councilman Huete said we want a discussion, but the Mayor makes it difficult because she doesn't answer questions – it's one way – we speak and offer concerns & she doesn't listen.

Chief Walker said that on page 3 he received \$180,000 from Councilman Paul Johnston for cars, but was over budget by \$200,000 this year. He said the cars are not causing the overage.

Councilman Wheeler asked the chief if he authorizes his bills.

The Chief answered yes but some he doesn't see.

A short recess was called.

The meeting was called back to order.

Chief Walker complained that grant money is included in the budget, but never was before. This makes it look like he has a bigger budget than he actually has.

Ms. Lulue said the numbers need to be included in the budget and be input into the proper format.

Councilman Wheeler said he was not fully funded for people, but he didn't have a full complement for all year. He did not use all the salaries so it shouldn't matter.

They got the budget at 9 pm on Saturday and they were working the St. Rita fair and had no time to look at it. She asked about money that is not allocated being spent.

She questioned the management fees of Veolia – she told the Mayor to negotiate the amount with Veolia.

The Mayor said it would take Ms. Lulue and Mr. Buras to tackle the negotiation – thereby using more professional services.

Councilman Huete questioned why the recreation dept. could not buy toner.

Insults were traded between Councilmen Huete & Wheeler with the Mayor.

Councilman Johnston said they took money back from fire dept. because the person was not hired.

Councilman Wheeler said they can't get answers – budget is moot – money is being spent with no money being allocated.

Chief Walker complained about Ms. Lulue questioning him about the donated money for shirts for maintenance – Linda wanted to know how much they cost.

Ms. Lulue explained that it's required by law to show the donation and the price.

Chief Walker asked who are other subcontractors.

Councilman Wheeler said I don't understand how stuff is being paid when no money has been allocated. I'm sure I won't get an answer.

Mayor Miceli told the council that by stripping capital monies they are interfering with the day to day workings of the city.

She went on to say there is no communication from the board to her – she gets no information.

ADJOURN

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman Wheeler to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 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 10:36 p.m.

A. The following matter involving pending litigation may be considered

(Court, Case, Number, Parties):

- 1. Phillip Canella vs. Arch Ins. Co., City of Harahan, Todd A. St. Cyr, and Allstate Ins. Co.; 24th JDC, Case 744-961, Div. "I"**
- 2. Suzanne K. Scalise vs. City of Harahan LA, Anne Gordon, Louise Slayden, Ronald Gordon, Gail Gordon; 24th JDC, Case 744-986, Div. "O"**
- 3. City of Harahan, et al, v. BP Exploration & Production, Inc., et al. U.S.D.C., Eastern District of Louisiana, No. 2:13-cv-01397**
- 4. Wood Materials LLC, Wood Resources LLC v. City of Harahan, 24th JDC, Case 761-783, Div. "K"**

B. The following matter involving prospective litigation for which formal written demand has been made may be considered.

C. The following matters involving discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of:

Name: