

**City of Harahan  
6437 Jefferson Highway  
Mayor and Harahan City Council  
Council Meeting Minutes  
April 19, 2018**

**Date: April 19, 2018**

**Time: 7:30 pm**

**Mayor Miceli opened the Meeting at 7:31 pm**

**Weebelos Cub Scout Troop 490 from St. Mary Magdalen led the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Tom Finicle, Troop Leader with members Ryan Chaix, Frank Finicle, Walker Shilling, Alex Caillouet and Keegan LeBlanc. The boys also recited the Boy Scout pledge and the 12 points of the Boy Scout laws.**

**The City Clerk called the roll.**

**In Attendance were:**

**Mayor Miceli, Councilman Baudier, Councilman Benton, Councilman Johnston, Councilman Wheeler, City Clerk Nicole Lee, Police Chief Walker; City Attorney Gilbert Buras, Fire Chief St. Cyr.**

**Absent: Councilman Huete, CPA Linda Lulue**

**A motion to go into Executive Session at 7:36 pm was made by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman Benton.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSED**

**The meeting was called back to order at 8:22 pm**

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

**She announced that the City of Harahan's Sewerage Dept. has won the Louisiana Conference on Water Supply, Sewerage, and Industrial Wastes, Inc. contest. The Conference is the State Operator Association for Water and Wastewater professionals. The entries are judged on appearance, color, odor, and clarity. After the judging is completed, the water samples are analyzed for pH and Total Dissolved Solids.**

**The Southeast Section is comprised of Jefferson Parish, Orleans Parish, Plaquemines Parish, and St. Bernard Parish. Wastewater Treatment Plant effluent samples from these Parishes were judged and the City of Harahan's Wastewater Treatment Plant won the Wastewater Beauty Award.**

**The City of Harahan then competed against other regional winners in the state and Harahan came in a close second, losing by only one point to the City of Winnsboro.**

**In other good news, the city has received a communication from Entergy announcing a reduction in your electric bill starting in May and continuing until December, 2018 – the average reduction will be \$4.20. Then there is a second reduction of an additional approximately \$2.00 a month that will begin in September, 2018. Also in October, 2018, the surcharge for storm recovery from Katrina and Rita ends, thus reducing the Entergy bill again by approximately \$4.15. Remember, these figures are based on you usage and are averages.**

**She notified all citizens that the Police Millage election will be held on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Early voting is currently underway and will end this Saturday at 6 p.m. I encourage everyone to get out and vote.**

**The Mayor asked that the agenda be amended.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman Benton to amend the agenda to add J.T. & Jeff Curtis as No. 2 under special presentations, move Darlene Schwartz to No. 3, add Wood Materials as No. 4., and make Current State of the Harahan Police Department as No.5.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

#### **1. Proclamation for Parkinson's Disease with Ms. Sapir-Fields and Ms. Land.**

**Neither could be at the meeting for the presentation and Tim Walker was asked to accept the proclamation stating April as Parkinson's Disease month.**

**Mayor Miceli read the Proclamation and presented it to Tim Walker.**

#### **2. J.T. & Jeff Curtis**

**Jeff Curtis addressed the council concerning their usage of the Arceneaux field. In the '70's they agreed to a cooperative agreement with the city under Mayor Johnston. They have provided improvements to the field. Harahan's basketball teams have used Curtis' gym. It is a reciprocal effort. He provided a copy of the expenses paid by Curtis Christian School for upkeep of the park. There is a storage building provided by Curtis with their own separate Entergy hookup and they have paid the bill. About \$50,000 of field expenses have been paid since the 70's. J.T. Curtis came in at this point. They hope to provide their kids with the best place to play and hope that other schools come to Harahan too. This works best for everyone involved. Mayor Miceli asked for a copy of his figures to keep on file.**

**Jeff Curtis said they have provided additional fencing to the recreation department from the school free of charge. The Pump to the River project interrupted the use of the field and the field was not put back in the best of shape. The field will have to redone to provide a safe field with a high quality Bermuda grass. There is also a special clay and mud combination that provides a safe environment for the players. Mayor Miceli thanked J.T. & Jeff Curtis for their efforts on behalf of the recreation dept.**

**The Mayor also said the resolution will be withdrawn and rewritten.**

**Chief Todd St. Cyr interjected that he practiced and played basketball at the J.T. Curtis gym.**

**3. Darlene Schwartz, Community Liaison announced that they are presenting an award to Ray Sandras of Double M Feed that has been in the city about 16 years. This business has donated the city Christmas tree & flowers and plants. She also announced that the Drug Take Back Day will be held Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the usual locations and will be open from 10 am to 2 pm. Faith Lutheran is holding their annual fund raiser on April 21<sup>st</sup> for \$25 from 6-10 pm. Adult beverages, food, and a silent auction will be available. Delinquent property taxes are still due.**

**4. Remy Donnelly, atty. for Wood Materials invited everyone to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of new Haul Road on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm with the ribbon being cut at 5 pm – they are delighted to open the new concrete haul road. There will also be a tire/truck wash on the road.**

#### **5. Current State of the Harahan Police Department**

**Chief Tim Walker said that prior to 1990 the post office was where the police dept. is located. The new post office is on Citrus and then the police dept. moved into the location. Presentation for Ray Picone Jr. for donated labor to upgrade the police facility. Police Advisory Board was commissioned – Jason Bruzik was elected chairman and he will do a video presentation. The election was set for April 28, 2018 – because it was available for the Sheriff's run off. The role of the committee was to determine the scope of the problem and gather data. Officer retention, longevity and costs are the 3 problems they found. The department trains them and then they leave. 3 problems: recurring funds; stale budget & reliable information. Can't use 1 time**

money for salaries. They came up with a long-term plan for the money. He presented crime statistics – La. leads the nation in per capita murders & law enforcement officers killed in line of duty. New Orleans is no. 41 in top 50 most dangerous city. Harahan stats include: Misdemeanor arrests from 587 to 1264 and from 135 to 304 for felony arrests. We must be competitive with other jurisdictions. New Orleans - \$54,000; Harahan \$34,616; other cities give raises. Training costs \$5,000 for 6 months – 25 officers left in last 5 years. \$555,174.50 cost of training for last 5 years. Millage is their solution – 5 mils for payroll benefits and expenses. He showed a chart that gave the costs of the millage. Number of homes valued at \$100,000 – 561; 1824 at \$200,000; 728 at \$200-\$300,000; 380 at more than \$300,000. 18 officers under 5 years – 3 over 5 years – 2% increase for longevity raise. 10 year of 2% raise - \$42,196.71 per year. He claims that the officers pay Health Ins. \$267.83; Retirement \$158.14; Dental \$12.06; Life \$16.00; Federal Tax \$135; State Tax \$39; FICA \$92.23; Medicare \$21.57. He listed the members of the committee and thanked them. He answered questions from the audience and Council.

#### **ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

Bryan Whittle, Gordon  
Mae Jean Cazenave, Oak  
Tim McTee,  
Eric Chatelain – Colonial Club  
Jason Asbill– Posey Ave.  
Tommy Budde, Stoneleigh  
John Rhiem – Renpass  
Evelyn Rhiem, Renpass  
Melissa Taylor, Oak

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Benton offered a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 15, 2018 council meeting seconded by Councilman Johnston.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

Councilman Johnston offered a motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2018 council meeting seconded by Councilman Benton.

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

**YEAS: Benton, Johnston, Mayor Miceli**

**NAYS: Baudier, Wheeler**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board of Adjustments and Appeals did not meet in March, 2018.

The Planning & Zoning Board did not meet in April, 2018.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2018-3 (Deferred 03/15/18)**

**Councilman Baudier withdraw the resolution.**

#### **ORDINANCES FOR APPROVAL**

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2018-1 (Deferred 3/15/2018)**

**This Ordinance was proposed by Councilman Benton seconded by Councilman Johnston.**

**An Ordinance relating to asphalt repairs around the City of Harahan to be performed during the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2018. (\$100,000)**

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

**Edwin Lauricella addressed the council about this matter. E. Shannon has ongoing construction – no restoration yet. The contractor will not be paid until work is done. They are doing 1 street a year with cold mix for potholes as we can afford it. Prices for several streets – Parish helped and we will piggyback on the Parish. VFW needs to be done because it is now gravel. Years ago – dead end streets were taken care of – but now we need a total redo – cold mix will not suffice. Maintenance Dept. is 3 people and him. They do all maintenance work in the city. He can't plan ahead because of lack of funds. Prados has never been touched, Bailey has suffered a base failure. Used to do 2-3 streets a year. Slurry on the streets was the best because it sealed the streets.**

**PUBLIC HEARING – Eric Chatelain – Colonial Club Dr. – a lot of streets that need to be addressed – but need to be addressed properly. They did a horrible job when he was a councilman. Be sure it is done by a professional and done properly. Edwin should be overseeing and Mayor needs to hold the contractor responsible, because she doesn't know about street construction.**

**Tommy Budde – Stoneleigh said the Ordinance reads to increase the budget by \$100,000 – currently \$170,000 – he asked if it is now \$270,000.**

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

**Councilman Johnston asked Mr. Lauricella about where the dept. is with the \$12,000 previously budgeted.**

**Edwin Lauricella answered they have gone through 7 pallets of cold mix – 1 bag is 1 sq. ft., but they have not done cement work because can't store it – it gets hard.**

**Councilman Johnston offered a motion to change section 1 and the dollar amount – Elodie and Heebe will cost \$81,000 – remove last sentence on section one seconded by Councilman Baudier.**

**YEAS: Baudier, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: Benton**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**AMENDMENT PASSES**

**Councilman Johnston offered a motion to change line 21 by decreasing it to \$81,000 instead of \$100,000 seconded by Councilman Baudier.**

**YEAS: Baudier, Johnston**

**NAYS: Benton, Wheeler, Mayor Miceli**

**MOTION FAILS**

**Councilman Wheeler said she is not voting because she does not have accurate figures**

**A motion was made by Councilman Johnston to defer to next meeting seconded by Councilman Wheeler.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**ORDINANCE DEFERRED**

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2018-3**

**This Ordinance was offered by Councilman Wheeler seconded by Councilman Baudier. An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 1841, the annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2018 for the Police Department of the City of Harahan, Louisiana.**

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

**OPEN HEARING: Chief Walker said this is a transfer of money from Jefferson Parish to the police dept.'s Capital Account.**

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

**Councilman Wheeler said this ordinance was suggested by Ms. Lulue.**

**Tracy Whittle said she was told that the money has to be accepted by ordinance. This is money from Councilman Paul Johnston and is being placed in the Capital Budget for the Police Dept.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**  
**ORDINANCE PASSES**

**ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (First Reading) – NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS – NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Ramelli Contract (trash pick-up issues, community recycling, etc.)**

**Council Discussion**

**Councilman Wheeler said there are issues with trash not being picked up – residents were told to contact Ramelli, they received no return phone call. Community recycling bins – now gone. Ramelli said they were doing it for free.**

**Mayor Miceli asked that everyone call city hall about complaints so we can track it. We do what needs to be done. Need to know about the complaint – is it a repeat complaint – Report a concern on the website for any problem. We don't have an ordinance for recycling and they can't pass on the fee for curbside recycling without the ordinance. 2 ordinances were not voted on. She explained that the Ramelli contract cost less then the Progressive Contract which ended in March, 2017. We were subsidizing garbage, but now we are subsidizing it less. Ramelli provided the community bins at a cost to the city, but not at a cost to the citizens.**

**2. St. Rita Dads' Club respectfully requests permission to:**

**a. Sell beer at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual St. Rita Dads' Club Crawfish Cook-off on Saturday, May 15, 2018 from 4:00 pm until 10:00 p.m.**

**b. Block Bourg St. from Imperial Woods Dr. to Ravan Ave. during the hours of operation – 9:00 am until 11:00 pm**

**Chief Walker said all preparations were done.**

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

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

**NAYS None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**PERMISSION GRANTED**

**ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

**Eric Chatelain, Colonial Club**

**Jason Asbill – Posey**

**Tina Hunter – W. Imperial**

**Teri Valenti, Colonial Club**

**Jason Bruzik, Stoneleigh**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Secretary's report for March, 2018**

**Total revenue \$559,073.82.**

**REPORTS**

**Chief Walker read his stats for the month of March, 2018 646 calls. Asked for a yes votes on the millage.**

**Chief St. Cyr – had to leave**

**Councilman Huete - absent**

**Councilman Johnston – St. Rita Crawfish cook-off on May 19 – \$25 – 13 & up from 4 – 9 pm**

**Councilman Baudier – thanked Eric Chatelain and agrees with Ms. Valenti about a large millage – but people fear voting for too much. Take one step at a time. He agrees with Councilman Benton that the recycling should go before the people. He asked that everyone vote yes on the police millage. The police should start and end their careers here. He has 4 children who live with him and he wants them protected. Councilman Benton – policemen deserve a raise and so do all employees deserve a raise. She has a problem with the chief's spending; the council appropriations are not to her liking.**

**Councilman Wheeler – sponsor a team \$350 – 4 man team – she supports the millage.**

**Mayor Miceli – thanked the Police Advisory Committee. She also thanked the citizens who speak up at the meetings. If you have a complaint – you have to tell us so we can help. She commended Edwin Lauricella and the maintenance dept. and the playground personnel for their hard work. She said we have a great playground. We have work to do with our short staff – congratulated everyone who works so hard for the city. Exercise your right to vote.**

**PAY BILLS**

**Bill's paid in March, 2018**

**Total expenditures \$415,646.87.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**ADJOURN**

**A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Benton to adjourn at 10:49 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 10:49 p.m.**

**A. The following matter involving pending litigation may be considered  
(Court, Case, Number, Parties):**

- 1. Wood Materials LLC, Wood Resources LLC v. City of Harahan, 24<sup>th</sup> 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:**