

CITY OF HARAHAH
6437 JEFFERSON HIGHWAY, HARAHAH, LOUISIANA
MAYOR AND HARAHAH CITY COUNCIL
October 16, 2014

The Mayor and the Council met on the above date for their regular meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Mayor called the Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Mosca, Councilman Baudier, Councilman Chatelain, Councilman Huete, Councilman Landry, Municipal Clerk Nicole Lee, City Attorney David Courcelle, Police Chief Tim Walker, Steve Villavaso, City Planner, Fire Chief Todd St. Cyr.

Absent: Councilman Murray

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Police Chief Walker presented a unit citation to 4 officers who could not be at last month's meeting. He announced that the Night Out Against Crime was a big success. He stated Halloween he will have porta potties and no vehicles will be allowed on Stoneleigh or Doescher.

Councilman Baudier asked about resident's access.

Chief Walker announced that there is no smoking on the school grounds or within 200 ft. will be allowed in accordance with state law. He asked that everyone lock their doors and car doors to thwart thieves.

STATE OF HARAHAH ADDRESS

Mayor Mosca invited all department heads to relate their status to the board.

Todd St. Cyr, Fire Chief, stated that the department has tightened their belts to live within their budget. The millage to be voted on in March will be 5 mills and they hope it will be passed. If the millage doesn't pass, the department will be in serious trouble. There is no fat in the budget, nor any money for maintenance of the equipment. The reserve truck is not working.

Mayor Mosca said he will appeal to Councilman Johnston for further funding.

Chief St. Cyr said he hopes to put a truck out for bid at the end of this year but it would not be received until next year or the following year. In house maintenance has been keeping the equipment running.

Rick Meyer, City Engineer, presented his qualifications for the engineering job in Harahan. He then elaborated on the status of jobs being done. Seafood Ditch will be bid next month - \$2.5 million. Mazoue Ditch's last phase is about to be bid.

Mayor Mosca asked about the Pump to the River's effect on the south side of Jefferson Hwy. He stated that the problem is the culverts under the highway are undersized and that is the state's problem.

Mr. Meyer said the pump to the river will create a second outlet for rain water. It will have a significant impact on drainage. They reviewed the Colonial Club project, but nothing has been submitted for final recommendation. The object is to receive flooding.

Mayor Mosca touted the \$4,250,000 loan with the first year of interest forgiven after 2-1/2 years of back and forth negotiations with the state. The city has requested \$150,000 for minor work that needs to be done.

Mr. Meyer said that DEQ would have to approve the work.

Blue Flash has completed 71,000 ft of survey and determined the needed repairs. Meyer Engineering is reviewing the data now.

Mayor Mosca said that he, Councilman Chatelain, Carlo Ferrara and Edwin Lauricella are prioritizing the needs.

Mr. Meyer said that after that, DEQ will still need to approve the expenditure.

Mayor Mosca said that the city sewerage dept. had been under a compliance order and he went to Dallas twice before the order was lifted. He said there is a sink holes on Marquette - Gordon & 7th & Ashlawn & 7th. See tape - These are the problem areas that will be fixed first.

Councilman Huete stated that they are prioritizing the problem areas so that the money is used appropriately.

Councilman Chatelain asked if the Pump to the River project will solve the drainage problem.

Mr. Meyer said that with pump to the river, the lag time for our water to drain will be shortened.

Councilman Huete said that someone from Kenmore has a sinkhole problem.

Mr. Meyer said that if there is a sewer problem, it will be fixed but if it is drainage – then the borrowed money can't be spent for that.

Edwin Lauricella, Director of Maintenance, gave his report for 2014. The flush machine is used to clear out lines. He reported on the rain events and sink holes.

Mayor Mosca said in 2013 there were 9 repairs of sink holes.

Mr. Lauricella said there are 5 full time and 1 part time employees with 3 trucks.

Councilman Huete asked why Harahan has trash pick-up along with garbage.

Mr. Lauricella responded that the contract calls for the first pickup include trash.

Councilman Baudier said that if a citizen cuts a tree, the city will pick it up, but if they hire someone, then, it becomes their problem.

Councilman Landry said it is the same with construction materials.

Mayor Mosca said that political signs that are placed on city property are picked up and brought back to the maintenance dept.

Former Mayor Carlo Ferrara reported that if it wasn't for **Councilman Johnston** the city would be in dire straits. He said that he mostly works for the sewerage system. He explained the two phases of the sewerage department. There are 14 lift stations that move the effluent between stations. 13 of the stations are not under pressure – only the last station which pumps it to the plant is under pressure. He explained that the terra cotta pipes are 51 years old and tree roots love to get at sewerage because it is fertilizer. The plant is also 51 years old and the biggest problem is disposable diapers that destroy the pumps in the station. When a pump gets stopped up, the pump must be removed, cleaned and replaced. He then showed a block sewerage line that is filled with gravel. (Haroleans and West Magnolia). He said that Mayor Johnston started a program that had outside effluent pumped through the pipe and brings money into the city. He presented a packet to the council and explained their meaning. He stated that the chemicals and maintenance of the plant is very expensive.

J.R., Project manager of Veolia Water, says they have completed a study of the plants problems and prioritized them. There are no violations and we are not under any order. The effluent brings in \$8,000 a month. They are No. 1 in the No. 2 business.

Stu Foley, Director of Recreation – Works with Edwin and Carlo on many projects. He announced the Harahan Athletic Association will hold a Jambalaya Cook-off with a car show if it is dry on Nov. 1st. They have football, basketball, volleyball and baseball for Harahan's kids. Parents Association raises funds which help pay some of the expenses. Budget is \$180,000.

Todd Tournillion, Postlewaite and Netterville and Al Courcell, Director of Finance, say their reports are unmodified and he said that they don't know if the city had adopted La. Best Gov. Practices. Internal Control report identifies items of non-compliance.

Stephen Villavaso, City Planner, explained his duties with the city and touted the awards won for the zoning ordinance.

Judy Johnson explained that she does the minutes for the City Council, the Planning & Zoning Board, and the Appeals Board.

ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Dale Simoneaux, Macque, spoke on the Pecan Festival – he invited everyone on behalf of the Pastor on Nov. 7, 8, & 9, 2014.

Michael Maxwell, candidate for Council.

Pat McDaniel, candidate for Council.

Craig Johnston, candidate for Council.

A.J. Boudreaux, candidate for Council.

Monique LaFontaine, candidate for Judge.

Carrie Wheeler, candidate for Council.

Janet Verhide, mother in law of Bryan Whittle, announced he is running for Council but is currently out of town on business.

Tina Miceli, candidate for Mayor of Harahan.

Sue Benton, candidate for Council.

Judy Johnson addressed the council concerning their reaction to the questions she raised about the agreement between the city and JW Colonial.

Mayor Mosca – very transparent – ask for anything, people are falsifying facts. Call him and he will tell you anything you want to know. Ms. Johnson works at his discretion. People are saying that a casino will open on the golf course or too many workers at City Hall. One candidate said in writing that he had done something illegal but didn't say who paid for the piece. He is an intelligent leader and respectful and listens to the citizens. He is optimistic that those people who he has touched in a positive way will remember him and he is relying on them to re-elect him.

Councilman Baudier – does not know how much more transparent he could be. He is pro-business and pro-Colonial. He supported Mr. Manzella's plan- but the city turned it down. He is now working with Mr. Georges. He brought in Puccino's – but his business is an industrial business and not suitable for Harahan.

Councilman Chatelain – does own three businesses but does not keep any equipment at Colonial Club Dr. He said that asking for public records about him is foolish.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by **Councilman Huete** and seconded by **Councilman Baudier** to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the September 18, 2014 Council Meeting.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Chatelain, Huete, Landry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murray

MOTION APPROVED

A motion was made by **Councilman Landry** and seconded by **Councilman Chatelain** to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2014 Council Meeting.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Chatelain, Huete, Landry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murray

MOTION APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS

The Board of Adjustments and Appeals did not meet in September.

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

The Planning & Zoning Board did not meet in October.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolution was introduced by **Councilman Baudier**.

The Clerk read the Resolution in its entirety.

1. A Resolution by the City of Harahan expressing the support of Constitutional Amendment 3 (Act 871 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature) and Constitutional Amendment 10 (Act 436 of the Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature), Constitutional Amendments to assist Municipalities in the fight against blighted property.

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

Yeas: Baudier, Chatelain, Huete, Landry

Nays: None

Absent: Murray

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

The following Resolution was introduced by Councilman Landry.
The Clerk read the Resolution by title only.

2. A Resolution authorizing the administration to accept the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Environmental Audit Report for the period of August 2, 2013 to July 31, 2014 and to inform the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality that the following actions were taken and additional actions will be taken by the City Council.

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

Yeas: Baudier, Chatelain, Huete, Landry

Nays: None

Absent: Murray

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

ORDINANCES FOR APPROVAL (PUBLIC HEARING)

The following Ordinance was introduced unanimously by the Council.

The City Clerk read the Ordinance in its entirety.

1. An Ordinance levying a tax of 13.87 mills on each dollar of assessed valuation on all taxable properties in the City of Harahan for the year 2014 and authorizing the Tax Collector to collect the said taxes on all the taxable property within the incorporated limits of the City of Harahan and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

The Mayor opened the public hearing.

No one spoke.

The Mayor closed the public hearing.

Council Discussion:

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

YEAS: Baudier, Chatelain, Huete, Landry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murray

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (First Reading)

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. December 31, 2013 Audit - skipped
2. Permission to hold the 3rd Annual Harahan Jambalaya Cook-off & Car Show on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2014 from 12-6 pm at Harahan Playground. Beer will be served at the event.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Chatelain, Huete, Landry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murray

PERMISSION GRANTED

3. Michael Ricks is requesting permission to have a wedding and reception at his residence of 33 Colonial Club Dr. on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014 from 5:15 – 10:00 pm. He is requesting the street be blocked off in front of 33 Colonial Club Dr. from 5:15 – 6:00 pm. There will be alcohol serviced at the event and there will be a police detail.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Chatelain, Huete, Landry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murray

PERMISSION GRANTED

4. Julie Gendusa of 231 Malvern Lane is requesting permission to hold the 1st Annual Meet Your Neighbors Block Party on Sunday, Oct. 19, 2014 from 2-4 pm. She is requesting that the street be barricaded from 220 Malvern Lane to Huntley Lane during the hours of the event.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Chatelain, Huete, Landry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murray

PERMISSION GRANTED

5. Low Alcohol Content ABO application for Dickey's Barbecue Pit, located at 6005 Jefferson Hwy., for Robert E. Dunning and Yoshie K. Dunning.

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

YEAS: Baudier, Chatelain, Huete, Landry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murray

PERMISSION GRANTED

A motion was offered by **Councilman Huete** and seconded by **Councilman Baudier** to amend the agenda to add the following request: **St. Rita Procession**

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

YEAS: Baudier, Chatelain, Huete, Landry

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Murray

MOTION ADOPTED

PERMISSION GRANTED

ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

None

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary's report for September, 2014

Revenues \$231,596.18.

PAY BILLS

The Council paid the bills for September, 2014 in the amount of \$231,594.41.

REPORTS

Councilman Landry – None

Councilman Chatelain – running for Mayor

Councilman Baudier – running for Council

Councilman Huete – after seeing the meeting – she has some comments. Just trying to accentuate the positive. She said that people who say the council is doing the wrong thing – its offensive.

Mayor Mosca said that people are saying his administration is not transparent – he invited everyone to hear his confession at St. Rita's. Halloween is a time to be alert.

Chief Walker gave the police report for the month of September, 2014.

1 rape, 1 residential & 1 non-residential burglary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

A motion was offered by **Councilman Baudier** and seconded by **Councilman Huete** to adjourn at 10:30 pm.

The Mayor called for a vote. The vote was:

YEAS: Baudier, Chatelain, Huete, Landry, Murray

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION APPROVED

Provino Mosca, Mayor

Nicole Lee, Municipal Clerk