

**CITY OF HARAHAH  
6437 JEFFERSON HIGHWAY, HARAHAH, LOUISIANA  
MAYOR AND HARAHAH CITY COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 15, 2016 (with corrections-per Council)**

Harahan Elementary School Choir serenaded the audience with Christmas Carols until 7:30 pm.

The Mayor opened the Regular Council Meeting for December 15, 2016 at 7:35 pm.

The City Clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent: Councilman Huete, Fire Chief St. Cyr**

Mayor Miceli thanked the Harahan Elementary Choir for their performance and presented Pointsettias to the Council members.

Mayor Miceli commented on the sewer charge increase on the water bill. She pointed out that the system was in great disrepair and a previous Mayor & Council had arranged for a \$4 million dollar loan to pay for the necessary repairs to be paid back over 20 years. However, they made no plans for the loan repayment, so that now the time to pay it back was 17 years – making the loan payments higher. The increase in rates were necessary to keep the loan, and keep the DEQ from taking over the system or defaulting on the loan which would have resulted in possible bankruptcy for the city.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

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

The Harahan Christmas Parade is this Saturday, Dec. 17th starting at noon. The Mayor's Advisory Council about teenagers is still forming. Katie Peppo is assisting. She asked that if you know of a family that needs help to please call her at City Hall.

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

Chief Walker gave several presentations – Pump to the River update – there are 5 different contractors on the job and at the beginning they disconnected a sewer line that went to 2 outbuildings on the playground. Now they are at the point where they had to put it under Hickory Ave. in November. It was supposed to take 3 weeks and he had major concerns about that so he contacted the contractor. He took 4 days rather than the 3 weeks they projected to do the job – he presented a plaque to the contractor for being so prompt in his actions. He and his crew worked very fast to open the road in only 4 days.

On Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> the Mayor said that the city didn't need speed cameras. Speed cameras was not my idea – I did not present it to the council. He said he is not opposed to it. He said he is short several officers. He thinks the department is running very efficiently. In May of 2014 when he came in office the police department's morale was at rock bottom. He gave the officers 2 orders – their safety is no. 1 and apply the law equally. 137 officers have been murdered this year across the country. He asked the Mayor & Council to please tell the truth – he did not request speed

cameras in Harahan. On Sunday morning – Academy Sporting Goods in Elmwood was robbed and the suspects drove into Harahan. The lost control of their car and bailed – running into Harahan. They were captured on Crislaur Ave. They were armed and one magazine held 33 rounds and the other magazine had 55 rounds. The police magazine holds 17 rounds. If there had been shooting, his men would have been out gunned. His department's safety is his No. 1 priority. He said he can't give a raise – but they will be best equipped officers. Vehicles are from 2006, 2008 and some have 200,000 miles on them. Councilman Paul Johnston donated some cars. An auction was held recently and he has not received the proceeds. He was kept out of the court office and told he could only come in for official business.

Mayor Miceli said she does not want to have a “he said – she said” situation. She said she understood from Ms. Huete's remarks that Chief Walker was helping her with the speed cameras. She instructed all staff that she wanted to be a party to any interdepartmental meetings. She was not allowed to attend a budget meeting with the police dept. concerning the budget. She, like the Chief, walked into office with a deficit because the previous administration overspent the budget by \$1.2 million dollars. All departments need to work together to serve the citizens. The sewerage system was on the verge of collapse. It would be wonderful if our income had increased and everyone could get what they wanted – then they would be happy. But we've all had to work harder, with less – during their first year \$1 million was budgeted to reduce the deficit – 2<sup>nd</sup> year \$225,000 was put toward the deficit. She said the Chief wanted 12 hour shifts and to pay the officers for the extra 4 hours and holidays – they worked on it together and they found a way to pay for it. The city provided affordable insurance for their families. All departments are understaffed. This year we will look at staffing – there will be 1 additional fire fighter and 1 additional policeman. She spent Thanksgiving week searching the records going back 8 years to discover the average number of policemen was 19.09. In the 2017 budget the Chief will have 19. She knows that she can't make everyone happy with the budget – but we are working on it. Every resident & business owner should know that we have worked hard to get the city on a better financial footing. If you have a solution – please bring it forward.

Chief Walker said there are 7 elected officials – and all are independent. Under the Lawrason Act – the elected police chief is responsible for his budget. I asked the Mayor not to attend the budget meeting because I didn't want to waste Ms. Lulue's time having the Mayor interrupt.

#### **ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

Bryan Whittle, Gordon Ave. my Christmas list – get the facts straight – the weapons for the reserve have less bullets than the criminals – it's a line item budget – if the council goes over the line item where does the money come from.

Jason Bruzik, Stoneleigh Dr., said he has only lived here a couple of years. He wants a proposal to fix the problem of speeding on Riverside Dr. An accident that broadsides your car is terrible. They face that every day when they back out on Riverside Dr. He wants a solution. We elected you to fix these problems. Your vote at the

last meeting guaranteed a lawsuit so you aren't afraid of lawsuits. I hope you rise above the politics.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Wheeler to extend his time.

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Huete

MOTION PASSES.

He continued that he hopes they don't kick the problem to the curb. Tell us what the solution will be.

Richard Brown, said he wanted to speak on the camera ordinance and he will speak during the public hearing.

John Riehm, Renpass – said he knows you are tired of hearing this, but Sarah Wood Ham said it would take 6 weeks to finish the new haul road back in July – in October the Corps of Engineers said they received the application, but it has not been acted upon. On Dec. 2 – they received another email saying that Wood Material is still lacking information on the permit. The people requested the move in 2015 and it still is not happening.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Baudier to extend his time.

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Huete

MOTION PASSES

He continued that Woods has not even started the road. They called DEQ to report air born sand and they have been very helpful in responding. Odors can be reported too.

Evelyn Riehm, Renpass said they contacted the EJ Levee District about Wood's permit for composting. Their application includes composting – and they are asking for permission from the Levee District Board to do composting in spite of the restriction in our zoning law. She presented the letter written by the Mayor to deny the composting and stockpiling of limestone permit. She thanked the Mayor for writing the letter and the Levee Board for providing the letter.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Baudier to extend her time.

YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Johnston, Wheeler

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilman Huete

MOTION PASSES.

She continued saying the Mayor sent a letter to the Corps and others addressing the composting and limestone and thanked her for doing that. She thanked Councilman Johnston for introducing Ordinance 1883 setting the hours of operations on the batture.

Ralph Herman, Huntley Lane – we support the police department. Please get a better relationship with the Mayor. If you need more clips you can carry 2 magazines, then you have more bullets. Get rid of the cameras – pass a millage for the police department.

Michael Maxwell, Huntley Lane, he is against cameras – speeders slow down when they see the police – more police presence. Merry Christmas.

Mae Jean Cazenaze, Oak Ave. read a note from Rhonda Bagby concerning an incident at a restaurant where Mayor Miceli and her husband Dr. Joseph Miceli worked together performing CPR on a woman who had collapsed. She was revived and sent to the hospital. She said the city is lucky to have such a caring Mayor.

Tom Budde, Stoneleigh Dr. said the last person claimed that speed cameras don't change driver's actions. He asked that they don't state a mistruth – cameras do reduce the speeding. He said cars are speeding down Riverside Dr. going 75 to 200 mph and nothing is being done. He said cameras will change their minds about speeding on Riverside Dr.

Ashley Windom, Riverside Dr. bought the property because of the area and does not want speed cameras. She would prefer a police presence. She does not want to be recorded on her property.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November 3rd meeting.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to approve the minutes of the November 3rd meeting.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Nov. 10th meeting.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to approve the minutes of the November 10th meeting.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board of Adjustments did not meet in November.

The Zoning Board did not meet in December.

**RESOLUTIONS – None**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2016 – 17**

This Resolution is proposed unanimously by the Council.

The Clerk read the resolution in its entirety.

A Resolution accepting Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, as the City of Harahan's auditing firm, for the years ending December 31, 2016 through 2020.

**Council Discussion:**

Councilman Johnston said he is not in favor of 4 years – he has not seen the contract.

Councilman Wheeler asked why do we need a contract.

Attorney Buras said to amend the contract to 2 years or since it has not been done by resolution before – the Mayor should sign it tomorrow.

Councilman Johnston said he did not want to amend it tonight.

Mayor Miceli withdrew the Resolution.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2016 – 18**

This Resolution is offered unanimously by the Council.

The City Clerk read the resolution in its entirety.

A Resolution respectfully requesting assistance from Jefferson Parish Councilman Paul Johnston, District 2, to vacuum and clean street drains in the City of Harahan.

**Council Discussion:**

Motion by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to approve the Resolution.

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Huete

**RESOLUTION PASSES**

**ORDINANCES FOR APPROVAL**

The following Ordinance was introduced by Councilman Huete and seconded by Councilman Wheeler.

**ORDINANCE NO. 1821 - Vetoed**

The City Clerk read the ordinance in its entirety.

An ordinance as amended of the Harahan City Council amending Chapter 50, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, of the Harahan Municipal Code by adding Article IV Electronic Enforcement, Speed Limit Enforcement, Sections 50-100 through 50-106 to provide for the enforcement of certain traffic signal violations by automated means and provide for civil penalties for traffic signal violations enforced by automated means.

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

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Huete

**MOTION PASSES**

Richard Brown, Kenner, La. – This sounds like a red light camera but it is a speed camera ordinance. He has studied this subject for 10 years. He was in a meeting with then Mayor Johnston and Councilman Baudier and they were against it – more cities are abandoning automated cameras than are adopting them. The public does not like them – not in Harahan, not in La. not in Jefferson Parish. They are defeated when the public votes on it.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston seconded by

**Councilman Baudier to grant more time.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

**He continued – Jeff. Parish got rid of them – Redflex had been paying kickbacks to officials. Problems of traffic cameras - they cause accidents – speed cameras make school zones more dangerous. You need a police officer not cameras.**

**Bill Triad of the Mayor Landrieu’s Military Advisory Committee – said that the military has to pay 300 times in insurance in New Orleans. Redflex collected \$19 million in fines that had to be given back. Redflex higher ups have pled guilty to bribes – they falsify data concerning their accidents – Automobile insurance companies like cameras – most insurance cos. use the tickets to raise the insurance rates.**

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

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

**He continued – he understands the frustration – cameras are not made for a street with a 20 miles per hr. speed limit. He thinks 25 mph would be better for today’s cars. He found the error in the timing of the yellow light they used to give tickets. Institute of transportation can provide an engineer to come out and give you an alternate solution. Kenner puts a policeman in a car but sometimes it’s a dummy and drivers can’t tell the difference so they slow down.**

**Jason Bruzik, Riverside Dr. said they are talking about red light tickets not speed cameras. Don’t raise the speed limits – Central does not have joggers – kids play on the road and the levee. What’s your solution – if not speed cameras? In Great Britain they proved that they work – there’s no money in them because the drivers slow down. Again asked for their solution. Cameras work – it slows drivers down. He wants a 24-7 solution – he is entitled to it.**

**Tommy Budde, Stoneleigh – kids run in the street – we have a residential setback – 20 ft. setback but kids do stupid stuff – that’s why it’s 20mph in Harahan. Who gives a crap about Redflex? The contract could eliminate graft. There are children, pets and adults involved – they would reduce speeding – 90% of the people affected asked for the cameras. Do what’s right for the citizens who signed the petition for cameras.**

**Eric Chatelain, Colonial Club Dr. the citizens don’t want speed cameras - if you put the ordinance in place then the Mayor can decide if she wants to stop speed cameras. Citizens make up stuff and put it on facebook – wasting our time – I’ll work with the council. Residents talk about me - they need to talk to me. I’ll talk to anyone – arguing about this is a waste of time.**

**Mike Bowler, Glenwood – how many fatalities on River Road in last 5 years – Chief Walker said none that he knows of. He grew up in**

Harahan and when he drives on River Road it's for a leisure drive – I don't see the cars that were there in 1995.

**A motion was made 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, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

**Council Discussion:**

**Councilman Johnston said he feels that the majority of citizens don't want it and he's going with the majority. He wants to help them out, but speed cameras are not the best solution.**

**Councilman Benton said she will uphold the veto. Another means to control speeders needs to be found.**

**Councilman Baudier asked Councilman Benton if she will vote to give the chief more money.**

**Councilman Benton said the Mayor's budget gives the chief one extra policeman.**

**Mayor Miceli reminded the Council that a super majority vote of the Council (4-1) is needed to overturn the veto.**

**Mr. Buras said that they need a 2/3 vote of all in attendance.**

**Councilman Baudier asked for a 5 minute recess.**

**The Mayor called the meeting back to order at 9:17 pm**

**Councilman Baudier said he will vote to uphold the veto – but he will give Chief Walker 2 more policemen. He has seen the speeding and he called the Mayor about it.**

**Councilman Wheeler said they will give Chief Walker additional manpower.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler overturn the veto.**

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

**YEAS: None**

**NAYS: Baudier, Benton, Johnston, Wheeler**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**ORDINANCE FAILS - VETO UPHELD.**

**Mr. Buras said that during the recess he researched the matter of the auditor. The Mayor withdrew the resolution. It would need to be reintroduced unanimously by the Council.**

**A motion to reintroduce the resolution accepting the audit firm by Councilman Benton, but there was no second.**

**The Mayor said she asked Councilman Johnston to be on the selection committee to determine a new auditor. Councilman Johnston refused and said we are the council – we are not the grading committee, we do not determine ahead of time. Information should come to us after the fact. The Chief of Police was on the committee and everyone on the committee selected the same firm. At no point did the Mayor receive communications from the council about the auditor or the process to determine it. Councilman Johnston questioned the time between the committee selection and the time it was put on the agenda. Ms. Lulue said that it had gone to the council. Councilman Johnston said he would not vote on it tonight.**

**The Mayor called for a special meeting to re-consider the resolution of the appointment of the auditor for Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm – the council is notified.**

**Councilman Wheeler asked for another 5 minute recess saying we just got the contract 3 minutes ago.**

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

**The Meeting was called back to order.**

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2016 – 21**

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

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

**An Ordinance amending the annual Budget of Revenue and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2016 for the City of Harahan, Louisiana.**

**Mayor Miceli addressed the liability insurance matter that Chief Walker has concerns about. Estimated policy figures were used in the audit by percentage. The actual number for the police dept. is \$32,550. Other departments need a higher number so they don't get caught over budget. This was done in the 2014 audit – the auditor arbitrarily during the audit put an expense on the departments and that wasn't fair. In 2015, we noted that and we put up a budget amendment to correct this – but the council refused to second the ordinance. One of the departments affected was the police department. The City received an email from the Legislative Auditor accepting the new method of using the real costs instead of a percentage – so there are no surprises during the audit. The proposed budget amendment reflects what will actually be used for allocations of liability insurance. It's not taking away money from the police dept. – it is putting in the correct actual amount. It has been approved by the Legislative auditor and the former auditor.**

**In an email – the city CPA informed the council of a change in operations – 3 major changes – 1 to sewer fund; 2 sales tax fund & 3 all DEQ funds. The proposed amended 2016 budget gives the truest numbers for the 2017 budget.**

**Ms. Lulue said that two bonds had been paid off. That has saved us \$235,000.**

**Chief Walker – since he has been in office – prior to this year all elected officials salaries came out of administration – now his salary is out of his budget – he is also now paying part of the electric bill. We haven't increased in funds – we have increased in bills. The percentage is up by the there is no increase in funds.**

**Ms. Lulue said that the ending fund balances in 2015 is different from the beginning numbers.**

**Chief Walker asked the council not to touch the 2016 budget – the year is not out. It's strange that more money was put in his budget and now they want it back for the general fund. I'm asking that you leave my budget alone. Software is Incode and he tries to track his numbers, but can't – the first set of financials were given in Oct. and they were only through July. The numbers in the software are all wrong. You said you wanted to take \$60,000 but my secretary said it's more like \$89,000. I'm asking to let the money stay in his budget – let me finish the year.**

**The Mayor explained that the liability insurance in 2015 budget was an estimate and when the actual figures came in we tried to rectify it with an amendment – but it did not get a second so there was no vote on the amendment, the police dept. was denied \$55,000.**

Chief Walker said other departments are not his responsibility – leave his budget alone. He has no idea where where budget is at this point in time.

Chief Walker sat down and kept talking off mike.

Mayor Miceli tried to explain but the Chief kept interrupting.

The Chief kept arguing from his chair off mike.

Ms. Lulue reiterated that in 2014 it was the first year the auditor allocated liability insurance – they estimated instead of using the actual numbers from the policies. She explained the procedure.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Benton 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**

Eric Chatelain, Colonial Club Dr. – if you take this money from the police chief it's not fair – he does his job to save his money and you take it from him. He thinks the money donated for the bullet proof vest was taken out of the chief's budget. That's the way he understands it. I believe that was said at one of the meetings.

Chief Walker responded from his chair not on mike.

Jason Bruzik said he thinks that if he has a line item of \$500,000 & it comes out less – he should get the extra money – say thank you and how did you do it.

Tommy Budde – this is not the forum to do this – it should be done off camera – less trust amongst our leaders and that results in a huge cost to our city. If the city was running smoothly it would be better because the lack of trust is costing the city.

Rena Sanders said in October he got his first run thru July, 2016 – how are you supposed to know what's going on with the budget. She was so proud that she learned from Barbara Butera, Carlo Ferrara, Paul Johnston & Vinny Mosca – all of these years the accounting has been good. I find it hard to believe that someone would say that the way things were done was dumb. We had college educated people but now you say that way was dumb.

A motion was made 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, Johnston, Wheeler

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Huete

**MOTION PASSES**

### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Councilman Johnston – said 3 councilmen have said they will not take any money from the police dept. He understands that it should not have been there – but it's extra money and he should keep it. He is not going to vote to take it. Maybe we should have been in the back room discussing it.

Councilman Wheeler said she will not vote to take the money away.

Mayor Miceli said the budget in its former form was not in the accepted form. Now the budget is in the appropriate form. We did have problems with budgets in the past administration – there wasn't even a budget in place when she took office. The past administration took a \$1 million dollar surplus and ran it into a

**\$1.25 million dollar deficit. Most of the departments are not self funded – and should be budgeted by need. We brought the city back from the brink of bankruptcy and now are on a good financial footing. It takes months to work up a budget – at the end of 2015 and start of 2016 there was no CPA for several months. The new CPA started in January 2016 without a budget in place and immediately had to work on creating the 2016 budget. The CPA then had to work on the 2015 audit conducted in 2016 that started a month early and the auditor went back to 2012 to correct findings, and then the administration had to address the DEQ loan and its requirements which should have been done in the prior administration when the loan was taken out. She is proud of doing more with less – a predecessor had 3 assistants and a CPA – she has only a CPA. The council can simply amend anything in the budget instead of fighting. If we pass the 2017 budget tonight that would be a great accomplishment.**

**Chief Walker – said the problem is trust. As far as the allocated overhead – I am paying for portions of other people’s salaries and department’s overhead.**

**Ms. Lulue said that overhead costs being allocated were recommended by Postlewaite & Netterville because all departments benefit from the other departments.**

**Councilman Johnston called for the vote and Councilman Wheeler seconded the motion.**

**Mr. Buras said that RS: 33:1310 says that the council shall adopt an amendment to the budget when necessary. There is a change in the budget line items and it is your obligation to adopt an amendment.**

**Councilman Johnston said he is not voting on this tonight.**

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

**YEAS: Benton**

**NAYS: Baudier, Johnston, Wheeler**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**ORDINANCE FAILS**

#### **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2016 – 22**

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

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

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**No one spoke**

**A motion was made 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, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

Councilman Johnston said he has been working with Councilman Wheeler and they have so many amendments that he wants to propose another budget.

Councilman Wheeler asked to defer it until January. She said there are many amendments and she has emailed questions and didn't get answers until today at 3:30 pm.

Councilman Johnston said he doesn't have all his amendments – he is still working on it.

A motion was offered by Councilman Benton to defer to a special meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>. It did not receive a second.

A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston to defer to the January meeting. It did not receive a second.

Mr. Buras said state law says it should be adopted by December 31<sup>st</sup> but there is an emergency backstop. He said this is not the first time this has happened but it could affect the bond rating. He suggested that the council form a budget sub-committee with council members to be in on the budget process and then report back to the council in sufficient time – then you would have all the information you need on a timely basis. It would prevent actions like this. Councilman Johnston said he has a problem with that – what we suggest does not get acted on.

Mr. Buras said you should try it again. He appreciates that the accountant had to fix past problems. When I came in I looked at how the budgets were done before and they looked like they were written on a cocktail napkin – now you have an official looking document that conforms to the law.

Mayor Miceli said she would like to go beyond what is happening now. She wants budgets in place when we are supposed to have them. Numbers can not be updated until we have a budget. Amendments need to be done on a regular basis – to be in line with the law.

Councilman Johnston said they rarely get information.

Mayor Miceli said the more we postpone the later the information will be.

Councilman Baudier said that every time the budget comes up the Mayor talks about the past administrations and how everything was their fault. We had two major storms that brought in \$600,000 from a lawsuit that makes your numbers look good. And we are paying an accountant over \$120,000 this year and Save Harahan posts hate on top of hate – he is tired of hearing how the past administrations are at fault.

Councilman Johnston said there was \$1.2 million in capital funds that's why there so little elsewhere in the budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to defer the vote to the regular January meeting on the January 19, 2017.

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Huete

**ORDINANCE DEFERED**

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION – First Reading - None**

**OLD BUSINESS – NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2017 Holidays**

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Baudier to approve the 2017 Holiday schedule.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION APPROVED**

2. The 500 block of Gordon Ave. is requesting permission to hold their annual New Year's Eve Block Party from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am. The street will need to be blocked off from Sixth St. to Wilson Ave. Mayor Miceli asked Chief Walker if an officer had been assigned as a detail. He responded yes.

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

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

3. High content ABO application for Dollar General #11751, located at 7335 Jefferson Hwy.

Mayor Miceli asked Chief Walker if the application has been approved by his department and by the state. He replied that everything was in order.

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Baudier to grand the permit.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MOTION PASSES**

**ADDRESS THE COUNCIL - None**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Secretary's Report for November, 2016 - Total Revenue \$447,154.11**

**REPORTS:**

Chief Walker gave his report for November, 2016. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman Johnston - He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman Baudier said he received a letter from the Mayor dated Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> about Ed Krause's appointment as a volunteer CIO. Mr. Baudier called a press conference to let everyone know about the computer "hack". He said he told the Mayor if you don't tell the public - I will. He further stated that Mr. Krause has resigned his position because he disagreed with the Mayor. If you get on the bad side of the Mayor your budget gets cut.

Mayor Miceli said she wasn't going to speak about the TV news release, but since Councilman Baudier brought it up she would explain. The information that was released to the public was done so without her permission and it was misinformation. She explained that a malicious email was opened on her personal laptop at home and that no city files were affected. The FBI were brought in, conducted an investigation and closed their review after doing their own assessment and speaking with the City's IT

consultant. She stated that the city does not keep credit card information in our databases.

Councilman Baudier loudly interrupted and said that she should speak the truth. He said he asked the Mayor to notify the citizens, to tell them this might have happened. When you are the mayor – you tell them this might have happened.

Ed Krause interrupted from the audience and said that the Mayor is lying and asked to get up and explain.

Mr. Buras said this information should be kept inside of the City Hall and not made public. This is the most bizarre thing he has ever seen at any level of government. He met with the Mayor and the FBI and this was a non-event – and the FBI told the city as much. The email was opened on the Mayor's personal laptop and did not affect the city's system. He recommended that no further public hysteria be stirred up and he told Mr. Krause that anything he learned as a volunteer in the city should be kept in confidence.

Mr. Krause continued to speak loudly from the audience.

Mayor Miceli called a recess. Several people from the audience and council began speaking at the same time.

A member of the audience stood up and told the Council that the lack of respect shown to the Mayor in this meeting was terrible and that they should be ashamed of themselves.

The Mayor called the meeting back to order and the clerk read the amount of bills that were paid in November.

#### **PAY BILLS**

**Bills paid in November, 2016 – Total expenditures \$442,456.19.**

#### **ADJOURN**

**Motion was made by Councilman Benton and seconded by Councilman Johnston to adjourn at 11:08 pm.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: Huete**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**