

**City of Harahan  
6437 Jefferson Highway  
Mayor and Harahan City Council  
Council Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2018**

**Date: March 15, 2018**

**Time: 7:31 pm**

**Mayor Pro Tem Baudier opened the meeting at 7:31 pm.**

**The City Clerk led the pledge of allegiance.**

**The City Clerk called the roll.**

**In Attendance were:**

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

**Absent CPA Linda Lulue, Mayor Miceli**

**Mayor Pro Tem Baudier asked for a moment of silence for Tom Benson, owner of the Saints football team, who passed away today.**

**He announced that he is discussing a project with Councilman Wheeler. He mentioned the drain behind the Whitney Bank – 2 years and not being fixed. If he is elected – it wouldn't stay there 2 seconds. Corner of Erin Ct. & Jefferson Hwy. – the power lines are holding up a tree & he can't figure out how this happened – this gentlemen has been asking for 2 years to cut it down. ABC Tree does not do a good job – he called J&W but the Mayor did not give permission. She disrespected me because he can't read his email. He's working really hard – call any one of us and we'll be there to help you.**

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Darlene Schwartz, Community Liaison – She announced that the Drug Take Back Day will be held April 28<sup>th</sup>. Usual locations will be open from 10 am to 2 pm. Faith Lutheran is holding their annual fund raiser on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-10 pm. Adult beverages & food, and a silent auction will be available. She is not sure about the price but Brenda Doyle is the contact and her number is 737-7765. Property taxes – April 1<sup>st</sup> will mean additional charges if taxes are not paid. Benefit for Michael Lesslie – he broke his back on a skiing trip. It will be held at the Mill Bar at 5808 River Oaks Rd. South on Sun., May 20, 2018. To donate for a silent auction, call Ms. Schwartz at city hall. \$10 includes food. Noon to 4 pm. On March 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 1 pm at the Pontchartrain Center there will be a Sr. Center Exposition. Admission is free and lunch is provided. Health screening available. Call Robin at 207-4141 to sponsor or for additional information. Ms. Schwartz looked into the tree issue mentioned by Mayor Pro Tem Baudier. The tree is located on private property. She is not sure what sort of line it is resting on, but Entergy is coming out to inspect it. She said JW Tree Service will cut it for the homeowner for a charge.**

**2. Current State of the Harahan Police Department**

**Chief Walker has questions for the Mayor and Finance Director – he received financials – 2 weeks ago –thru Nov. 2017 – but nothing for 2018. Ord. 1839 has passed giving him access for Incode but it is still not in place. He said he is still being charged for Mr. Buras and Ms. Lulue's time as well as the city auditor. On March 3 in the early morning hours at Mayo and Jefferson Hwy. they stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation and found that the passenger was wanted for burglary. He said the citizens are their eyes and ears and thanked the citizens for working with police dept. to keep the city safe. Signs directing people to the police dept. have finally been put up by the state after 2 years.**

**ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

**Eric Chatelain – 700 Colonial Club Dr.**

**Keith Moody – 6601 Jefferson Hwy.**

**Evelyn Riehm – Renpass Ave.**

**John Riehm – Renpass Ave.  
Chief Tim Walker**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Councilman Johnston offered a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the February 22, 2018 council meeting seconded by Councilman Benton.**

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**Councilman Johnston offered a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2018 council meeting seconded by Councilman Benton**

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

**YEAS: Benton, Johnston, Baudier**

**NAYS: Huete, Wheeler**

**MOTION PASSES**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

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

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2018 – 2**

**A Resolution accepting funds from Jefferson Parish, in the amount of Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) for the benefit of the Recreation Department to provide funding for upgrades and improvements to Wilcox Field in Harahan Playground.**

**The City Clerk read the resolution in its entirety.**

**Public Hearing: Eric Chatelain, Pres. Of Harahan Athletic Assoc. He thinks the dollar amount is \$75,000 and wants to make sure that the money goes to the playground.**

**Councilman Wheeler said she thinks the money was supposed to go to the HAA.**

**Eric Chatelain – work has to be approved by Mayor and then they get reimbursed.**

**A motion was proposed by Councilman Johnston to put this on the table until**

**Councilman Paul Johnston comes to the meeting, seconded by Councilman Wheeler.**

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2018-3**

**Cooperative endeavor agreement by and between the City of Harahan and the John Curtis Christian School.**

**This Resolution was proposed by Councilman Baudier.**

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

**Mr. Buras asked to be copied on Councilman Wheeler's questions. Ms. Wheeler said she would send her questions – she asked Mr. Buras to notify the board when the Mayor is not going to be at the meeting.**

**Councilman Wheeler asked if this contract was the same as the Dominican contract.**

**Mr. Buras said the Mayor would like consistent contracts and that Curtis uses the field for 4 months and sometimes comes in at other times.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Baudier – agrees with the Mayor on consistent contracts for all.**

**Open Hearing**

**Tommy Budde, Stoneleigh, said this is comparing apples and oranges – Dominican is not a Harahan organization, Horseshoe group is Harahan based; HAA – should not be compared to outside entities using the property.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Wheeler seconded by Councilman Benton to defer to the next council meeting.**

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

## **MOTION PASSES – RESOLUTION DEFERRED**

### **ORDINANCES FOR APPROVAL**

#### **PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2017-39 (Deferred 1/25/2018)**

**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. (Harahan Police Department)**

**This Ordinance was offered by Councilman Wheeler and seconded by Councilman Baudier.**

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

**Open Hearing:**

**Chief Walker – the police dept. has received other monies that were accepted by Resolution, but they need an Ordinance to accept the monies or they lose it. He suggested the council vote for this ordinance or his dept. will lose the money during the audit.**

**Councilman Johnston asked about the line items.**

**Chief Walker and his secretary, Tracy Whittle explained the line items.**

**Councilman Johnston asked if the dept. had already received the monies.**

**Chief Walker said yes, & this ordinance will give them credit for it.**

**Ms. Whittle said that when she prints reports from Incode – they don't get credit for receiving the monies & the auditor changes it.**

**Councilman Johnston said that the city received the money – but not by ordinance.**

**Councilman Benton said she understands the financials were not accurate because the council didn't adopt the budget ordinance with amendments.**

**Chief Walker complained again about Ms. Lulue's salary. He said he is tired of getting bills for the city atty., the auditor & for Ms. Lulue.**

**Terri Valenti, Colonial Club, admonished the Chief for taking so much of the Council's time. She said the rest of city needs to have their business done – there are serious problems with the Fire Dept., but meetings are dedicated to police dept. affairs – the Chief complains about the same things over and over again. She suggested having a separate meeting for the chief.**

**Jason Bruzik, Stoneleigh – reminded the council of statute. He accused the Mayor and Ms. Lulue of malfeasance in office. He has read the law, and if elected officials don't do what's mandated by law – it's malfeasance. Not giving financial information is malfeasance.**

**Tommy Budde, Stoneleigh – if council didn't pass an amendment to the budget, Ms. Lulue can still close the books – the auditor will change it if necessary. He said that changing balances for 2018 does not affect 2017. Amendment affects whether things were recorded properly. It's incumbent upon Ms. Lulue to close the books – she's a CPA & paid a heck of a lot of money – she cannot keep the books open – it's malfeasance by her and the Mayor – this is an excuse – most accountants close the books at year end. He said EXXON closes their books 4 days after the year ends. You need financial information – it's malfeasance not to get current information. The books should be closed no longer than 30 days after the year ends. He comes to most of the meetings – all depts. should get numbers and the council should too. How can the council do its job when they don't know where they are? You can't just say we can't close the books. It is an unprofessional situation. Month after month – waste of time and money – we pay enormous amounts of money to Ms. Lulue. Paying through the nose for clerical work – can't close books – it's unacceptable. Hopes Mayor can fix it ASAP – he could fix this in 30 days – need a change of personnel. She is a CPA and should know what to do. A failure by the administration, but he won't point fingers.**

**Fred Maillian, Posey said he is pointing fingers at the Mayor and CPA. He assumes Ms. Lulue has input on the budget.**

**Tracy Whittle, said agrees with Teri Valenti about the Chief preaching month after month – only received financials through July – projected through the end of the year. She works with dept. budget every day – she knows what they spend and about the grants. It's impossible to estimate in Oct. through the end of the year. To ask to amend the budget with projected figures – she wouldn't pass it either. Don't have any figures for 2018. The budget is pages & pages & pages.**

**Mr. Buras said Mr. Bruzik had a public records request for Ms. Lulue's invoices. He listed the invoices.**

**Mr. Bruzik disputed his figures.**

**Council Discussion**

**Mayor Pro Tem Baudier – commented that they are not on the same page with citizens – we should all listen.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to pass the Ordinance.**

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

**YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: Benton**

**ABSENT: None**

**ORDINANCE PASSES**

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2018-1**

**An Ordinance relating to asphalt repairs around the City of Harahan to be performed during the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2018.**

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

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

**Open Hearing – No one spoke.**

**Council Discussion – Councilman Johnston said he is waiting for a spread sheet on a breakdown on the actual repairs and a list of the streets. He wants it delineated as to street repairs, curbs, etc.**

**A motion to defer was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Benton to the April meeting.**

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

**YEAS: Baudier, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: Benton**

**ABSENT: None**

**ORDINANCE DEFERRED**

**ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION (First Reading)**

**PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2018 – 3**

**This Ordinance was proposed by Councilman Wheeler.**

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

**An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 1841, the annual Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2018 for the Police Department of the City of Harahan, Louisiana.**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2018 – 2**

**A motion was made by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Wheeler to take Proposed Resolution No. 2018 – 2 from the table for discussion and a vote.**

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**Councilman Johnston asked Jeff. Parish Councilman Paul Johnston to come to the podium to answer some questions. He asked if the agreement was for \$70,000 or \$75,000 and whether the money was going to the city or to the Harahan Athletic Association.**

**Councilman Paul Johnston said the agreement was for up to \$70,000 depending on the actual cost. He continued, saying this is a reimbursement – the city does the work and the parish reimburses it for the work.**

**Bryan St. Cyr, Mr. Johnston's aide, came to the podium and said the payment could be done in 2 ways. The money could go to the Harahan Athletic Association because it is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization or to the city – but it is still a reimbursement. He also said the invoice for the work could be sent directly to the Parish and the vendor could be paid directly. He reiterated that the resolution was for up to \$70,000, but if they don't spend \$70,000 – they only get the cost of the invoices.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Baudier asked what's going on with the lights on Earhart Blvd.**

**Councilman Paul Johnston said that the lights should be on by end of the month. He said someone stole the copper wiring and put 26 lights out of operation from N.O. to**

Clearview Pkwy., but it is supposed to be repaired by the end of the month and all the lights will be turned on.

Mayor Pro Tem Baudier said that Councilman Paul Johnston, Bryan St. Cyr and Carlo Ferrara are a wealth of information and thanked them all.

Councilman Wheeler asked if they need to modify the Resolution – because Section 1 says the money is coming to the city for the recreation dept.

Mr. Buras started to reword the section but Councilman Wheeler asked for a 5 minute recess to get the wording correct

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Wheeler to take a 5 minute recess.

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

The meeting resumed at 9:10 pm.

Mr. Buras read the new wording for Section 1. This replaces the current Section 1.

**SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Parish of Jefferson and the City of Harahan, the City of Harahan shall contract for the work described in the Intergovernmental Agreement and submit invoices for same to the Parish of Jefferson for reimbursement. The Mayor of the City of Harahan is encouraged to utilize the expertise of the Harahan Athletic Association in selecting the contractors to perform the work described in the Intergovernmental Agreement.**

A motion was made by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to amend the Resolution.

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES – RESOLUTION AMENDED**

A motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman Wheeler.

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES – RESOLUTION ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **1. Civil Service Board Appointment (Deferred 02/22/2018)**

**Council Discussion:**

A motion was made by Councilman Wheeler seconded by Councilman Johnston to appoint Gerard J. Brady to the board.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

##### **2. Appointments to the Fire Dept. Advisory Board. (Deferred 02/23/2018)**

A motion was made by Councilman Baudier to appoint Rena Sanders to the Fire Advisory Board.

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

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

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

A motion was made by Councilman Benton to appoint Mr. Robert Johnson to the Fire Advisory Board.

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

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**  
**NAYS: None**  
**ABSENT: None**  
**MOTION PASSES**

**A motion was made by Councilman Huete to appoint Councilman Wheeler to the Fire Advisory Board.**

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

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**  
**NAYS: None**  
**ABSENT: None**  
**MOTION PASSES**

**A motion was made by Councilman Johnston to appoint himself to the Fire Advisory Board.**

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

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**  
**NAYS: None**  
**ABSENT: None**  
**MOTION PASSES**

**A motion was made by Councilman Wheeler to appoint Mr. Darrin O'Connor to the Fire Advisory Board.**

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

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**  
**NAYS: None**  
**ABSENT: None**  
**MOTION PASSES**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Ms. Judy Roman on behalf of St. Rita of Cascia Parish would like to request barricades and a police escort for the following annual events:**

**1. May Crowning Process on Sunday, May 6, 2018 after 11:30 am Mass.**

**2. Feast of Corpus Christi Procession on Sunday, June 3, 2018, after 11:30 am Mass.**

**A motion was made by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman Wheeler to approve the request.**

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

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**  
**NAYS: None**  
**ABSENT: None**  
**MOTION PASSES**

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

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

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

**YEAS: Baudier, Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**  
**NAYS: None**  
**ABSENT: None**  
**MOTION PASSES**

#### **ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

**Eric Chatelain – announced the May 19<sup>th</sup> St. Rita Dads' Club Crawfish Cook-off – and their Fish Fry for this Friday night.**

**Jason Bruzik, Stoneleigh – after 9 – shortest meeting – congratulations – humility – so much better.**

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

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

**Total revenue \$522,548.17.**

## **REPORTS**

**Chief St. Cyr – 2nd Fish Fry will be held on Friday, March 23 – Lunch – 11-1 & Dinner – 5 – till - \$8 per plate. Fire rating change happened several months ago and we are now a Class 3 – manpower issues of several years. Evaluated every 5 years. They can come back when there is a change – and it can change at any time.**

**Councilman Baudier – asked about rating affecting a homeowner's insurance increase? Asking for money is not just for fun – the updates could bring a lower rating.**

**Chief St. Cyr said that the manpower number is mandated by state. We are undermanned. Volunteer fire companies have dwindled because of regulations and training. They have 4 volunteers who respond but it should be 9.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Baudier said that home owners are now paying 5 mils – future needs more commercial businesses to pay that 5 mils.**

**Chief St. Cyr said that revenue must come from homeowners – they don't want to pay more – the city budget has grown but not the fire department's budget. We need to grow the fire budget. We annexed, but the revenue did not come in as predicted. The development at Colonial will tax the department's abilities.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Baudier said he spoke to Mayor Zahn and Plaquemines' President and they both promote commercial ventures. He said our drainage facilities and our sewer plant and system are in terrible shape – we need to promote commercial.**

**Chief Walker read his stats for February, 2018 – Happy Easter**

**Councilman Benton said she agrees with Councilman Baudier that the city needs to be more unified – she has questioned the expenses of the police dept. because we are very limited in our funds – wished the Chief had been more of a team player and disbursed some of the revenue he received from the parish. The fire department's hoses are 45 years old.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Baudier – the firemen are buying supplies out of their own pockets.**

**Councilman Huete no report – last few statements – let's take the money from the Police to help the Fire Dept. but the accounting is overspent – that's where the money should come from. City Hall won't burn down if the accountant is paid less.**

**Councilman Johnston commented on the repairs on streets & sewer repairs. Mr. Hoppmeyer notified the contractor about restoration of the streets – no payment will be made until it is fixed. We have capitol money for equipment.**

**Councilman Wheeler gave a huge thank you to John & Evelyn Riehm for helping with the fire dept. fish fry. 900 plates were sold. Happy Easter.**

**Mayor Pro Tem Baudier said Happy Easter. He said if he becomes the Mayor – he gave his platform – unity is strength – the sun will shine and make New Orleans look like we used to – we need to be united. He plans to get out and work.**

## **PAY BILLS**

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

**Total expenditures \$363,068.02**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

## **ADJOURN**

**A motion was offered by Councilman Johnston and seconded by Councilman Wheeler to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.**

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

**YEAS: Benton, Huete, Johnston, Wheeler**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**MOTION PASSES**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:35 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.; 24<sup>th</sup> JDC, Case 744-961, Div. "I"**
- 2. Suzanne K. Scalise vs. City of Harahan LA, Anne Gordon, Louise Slayden, Ronald Gordon, Gail Gordon; 24<sup>th</sup> 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, 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:**