

**MINUTES. CITY OF GRAMBLING, GRAMBLING, LOUISIANA.**

**Monthly Meeting**

**June 1, 2023**

Mayor Alvin Bradley, Sr. opened the regular session of the Grambling City Council on Thursday, June 6, 2023, at 6:00 pm. at Grambling City Hall. Mayor Alvin Bradley offered the invocation and led the council and others into the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were the following Council Members: John Brown, Jr., Cathy H. Giles, Jerry Lewis, DeVaria H. Ponton, and Delores W. Smith. Absent: None. A quorum was present. Attorney Ronald F. Lattier was present. It was moved by Council member Delores W. Smith and seconded by Council Member Cathy H. Giles to adopt the agenda dated June 1, 2023.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Council Member John Brown, Jr.	X			
Council Member Cathy H. Giles	X			
Council Member Jerry Lewis	X			
Council Member DeVaria H. Ponton	X			
Council Member Delores W. Smith	X			

The motion was carried.

- It was moved by Council Member John Brown, Jr. and seconded by Council Member Cathy H. Giles to adopt the minutes of the Monthly Meeting for May 4, 2023.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Council Member John Brown, Jr.	X			
Council Member Cathy H. Giles	X			
Council Member Jerry Lewis	X			
Council Member DeVaria H. Ponton	X			
Council Member Delores W. Smith	X			

The motion was carried.

**Part II.**

Public Comments – The City will announce any public comments received prior to the meeting and will allow five minutes for anyone to call in to make public comments.

Ms. Theresa Wyatt announced her intentions to run for Police Jury.

Dr. Danielle Williams and Mr. David Ferguson (Lincoln Parish School Board) spoke about their intentions for transparency and test scores of all students. The administration suggested closing some schools to open an alternative school. The idea was put to a vote amongst the voters of Lincoln parish and was voted down seventy percent to thirty percent, with 70 percent not in

favor of the closing of schools. Mr. Ferguson also spoke about a coalition that has been formed to help students and parents with resources to succeed in school. Sign-up for the coalition will immediately follow the meeting.

**PART III Old Business**

**PART IV New Business**

- It was moved by Council member Cathy H. Giles and seconded by Council member Jerry Lewis to adopt 2023/2024 budget for the Lincoln Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Council Member John Brown, Jr.	X			
Council Member Cathy H. Giles	X			
Council Member Jerry Lewis	X			
Council Member DeVaria H. Ponton	X			
Council Member Delores W. Smith	X			

The motion was carried.

- It was moved by Council member Jerry Lewis and seconded by Council members Delores W. Smith and John Brown, Jr. to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION TO SELL SURPLUS PROPERTY**

**The City of Grambling has in its possession the following: a 1993 GMC/Dump Truck: Vin #1GDJ6h1PJ500662, 1998 Dodge PU: VIN #1B7FL26P3WS564417, 2000 Chey PU: VIN #1GCEK14T3YZ102300, 2008 Ford C-Vic: VIN #2FAFP74V98X123139, 2008 Dodge PU: Vin#3D7KS28D78G161934, & 2009 Dodge Charger: Vin#2B3KA43VX9H642272, which the Mayor and the Board of Alderman have determined is no longer needed by the City of Grambling and is hereby deemed surplus property.**

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Council Member John Brown, Jr.	X			
Council Member Cathy H. Giles	X			
Council Member Jerry Lewis	X			
Council Member DeVaria H. Ponton	X			
Council Member Delores W. Smith	X			

The motion was carried.

Mayor Bradley introduced a resolution to introduce amendment to the ordinance for simple possession of marijuana. The current ordinance does not coincide with what the state of Louisiana defines as simple possession of marijuana.

Attorney Lattier stated that in 2021 the legislature amended Title 4066 to implement a fine of \$100 if the person was found in possession of less than 14 grams of marijuana. The ordinance

that is currently in effect fines a person \$1000, the ordinance needs to be consistent with state law. Doesn't matter how many times they are caught with less than 14 grams they're still going to be subject to a fine and/or community service. Arrest is no longer a viable option if it's less than 14 grams a summons will be issued to come to court and pay a fine. The amendment to the ordinance will put us in compliance with Louisiana law.

- It was moved by Council member DeVaria H. Ponton and seconded by Council member Cathy Giles to introduce an ordinance to amend the simple possession of marijuana ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO. 0703023-1**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 13-03-01013-2, CITY OF GRAMBLING CRIMINAL CODE, TO IMPLEMENT A REDUCED MUNICIPAL PENALTY FOR MISDEMEANOR POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA, TETRAHYDROCANNABINOL, OR CHEMICAL DERIVATIVES THEREOF, AND TO OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO, CONSISTENT WITH 2021 La. HB 652 (amending La. R.S. 40:966)**

The Grambling City Council will hold a Public Hearing, Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 5:45 p.m. at Grambling City Hall & Community Center, 127 King Street, Grambling, Louisiana for the purpose of amending the Ordinance #0703023-1.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Council Member John Brown, Jr.	X			
Council Member Cathy H. Giles	X			
Council Member Jerry Lewis	X			
Council Member DeVaria H. Ponton	X			
Council Member Delores W. Smith	X			

The motion was carried.

- Mrs. Christina Anderson for Amtrak gave an update on the plans for I-20 corridor. The plan for the I-20 corridor is to connect the Dallas/Ft. Worth area with Atlanta through northern Louisiana. The plan is to connect the railway between Marshall, Tx and Meridan, MS totaling 345 miles. This will allow for an East-West connection between Dallas/Ft. Worth and Atlanta. The plan is now in the last phase of implementing this railway.
- Councilmember John Brown, Jr. announced that he is currently working on implementing a mass communication system called Civic Ready. This system will ensure the capacity to communicate with citizens of Grambling. It will be used to quickly and effectively alert citizens of emergencies and routine information that applies to their area. There are multiple ways for all citizens to sign-up i.e., website, text-to-join, or mobile app. They can opt in to receive notifications from specific groups. Residents can select preferred delivery method of messages.


- Council member Devaria Ponton gave an update on the Community Garden. Mr. Samuel Spearman is local farmer here that has been helping with the garden. Plants have gone into the ground. The water system was fixed from the previous garden. There are about twenty-eight rows in the garden that are about seventy feet long. There were over one hundred and twenty- five crops planted. May see some growth in about forty days.

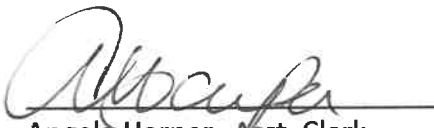
Deidre Dunbar gave an update on the activities for Juneteenth. The event dates are June 9<sup>th</sup>- June 19<sup>th</sup>. There are several events throughout the week starting with a Gospel concert on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Greater Grambling Commerce will host an “Under the Tent” with Mrs. Thelma S. Williams. The “Then and Now” of Grambling will be discussed. There will also be a “Most Beautiful Yard” contest. Free t-shirts for the winner.

**Announcements:**

- Mayor Bradley announced giving back the auditorium to the citizens of Grambling. It will be used by the elderly of the community.
- Celebration of life for Mrs. Victoria Pruitt, mother of Dr. Rhonda Pruitt, will be at the Memorial Funeral Home. Viewing will be Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 1-5 pm. The celebration of life will be at Mr. Calm Baptist Church Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 @ 2pm.
- New Rocky Valley Baptist will host Vacation Bible School for one week starting Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 @ 5pm.

It was moved by Council member Jerry Lewis and seconded by Council member Delores W. Smith to adjourn this meeting @ 7:20pm.

  
Alvin Bradley, Sr., Mayor

  
Angela Harper, Asst. Clerk



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