

MINUTES. CITY OF GRAMBLING, GRAMBLING, LOUISIANA.
Public Hearing & Monthly Meeting
November 2, 2023

Mayor Alvin Bradley opened the Public Hearing of the City of Grambling on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 5:45 p.m.; the purpose of the public hearing was to get input from the citizens concerning the following:

ORDINANCE NO. 01102023-1

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRAMBLING INCREASING WATER RATES IN COMPLIANCE WITH BOND REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER OPERATIONAL NECESSITIES.

After the aforementioned information was presented and explained, the hearing was opened to discussion from the citizens. There were no comments.

The public hearing was closed at 5:50 p.m.

Mayor Alvin Bradley, Sr. opened the regular session of the Grambling City Council on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Grambling City Hall. Minister Brenda Daniels 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 Jerry Lewis to adopt the agenda dated November 2, 2023, with an amendment to add Council member Delores Smith.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

Yea: Council members John Brown, Jr., Cathy H. Giles, Jerry Lewis, DeVaria H. Ponton, and Delores W. Smith
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

The motion was carried.

- It was moved by Council member Jerry Lewis and seconded by Council member Cathy H. Giles to adopt the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting dated October 5, 2023.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

Yea: Council members John Brown, Jr., Cathy H. Giles, Jerry Lewis, DeVaria H. Ponton, and Delores W. Smith
Nay: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

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. Gloria Statham, gave a presentation concerning the preservation, adoption, and beautification of African-American Cemeteries.

- Attorney Ronald F. Lattier stated that an Ordinance for Short Rentals (Airbnb) is forthcoming.
- Ms. Valena Lane stated that the Grambling JoyFund and the City of Grambling will be working together for the Toy Drive. Toys will be received December 9th – 13th, at New Rocky Valley Baptist Church and will be given away December 15th, at New Rocky Valley Baptist Church.

Part III. Old Business

- It was moved by Council member Jerry Lewis and seconded by Council member Cathy H. Giles to adopt the following:

ORDINANCE NO. 01102023-1

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRAMBLING INCREASING WATER RATES IN COMPLIANCE WITH BOND REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER OPERATIONAL NECESSITIES.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

Yea: Council members John Brown, Jr., Cathy H. Giles, Jerry Lewis, DeVaria H. Ponton, and Delores W. Smith

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion was carried.

Part IV New Business:

- It was moved by Council member John Brown, Jr. and seconded by Council member DeVaria H. Ponton to Award the construction contract for the Wastewater Collection System Renovations; Water Sector Program Round Two project to the low bidder, ***Womack and Sons Construction Group, LLC*** of Harrisonburg, Louisiana, for the bid amount of \$2,698,931.00.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

Yea: Council members John Brown, Jr., Cathy H. Giles, Jerry Lewis, DeVaria H. Ponton, and Delores W. Smith.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion was carried.

- Attorney Hardy Andrews, Foley & Judell, L. L. P.- Discussed the Preliminary approval of the issuance of not exceeding Five Hundred Forty-Seven Thousands Dollars – (\$547,000) Taxable Excess Revenue Bonds
- It was moved by Council member Cathy H. Giles and seconded by Council member Delores W. Smith to adopt a Resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not exceeding Five Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$547,000) Taxable Excess Revenue Bonds of the City of Grambling, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

Yea: Council members John Brown, Jr., Cathy H. Giles, Jerry Lewis, DeVaria H. Ponton, and Delores W. Smith.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion was carried.

- It was moved by Council member Delores W. Smith and seconded by Council member Jerry Lewis to introduce the following:

ORDINANCE NO. 01207023-1

ORDINANCE PROVIDING THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF GRAMBLING, LOUISIANA FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

Yea: Council members John Brown, Jr., Cathy H. Giles, Jerry Lewis, DeVaria H. Ponton, and Delores W. Smith.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion was carried.

A Public Hearing will be held on the Ordinance and the Ordinance will be considered for adoption at the meeting of the Mayor and the Council held at 6:00 p.m., on December 7, 2023, Council Chambers/ Courtroom, City Hall, 127 King Street, Grambling, Louisiana. The public hearing will be at 5:45 p. m.

- It was moved by Council member Jerry Lewis and seconded by Council member DeVaria H. Ponton the Approval of the following, with the necessary correction:

2024 Holiday Schedule

1. **New Year's Day**- Monday, January 1, 2024
2. **Martin Luther King, Jr.** – Monday, January 15, 2024
3. **Mardi Gras- Fat Tuesday**, Tuesday, February 13, 2024
4. **Good Friday**- Friday, March 29, 2024
5. **Easter**- Monday after Easter April 1, 2024
6. **Memorial Day**- May 27, 2024
7. **Juneteenth**- Friday, June 14, 2024
8. **Independence Day**- Thursday, July 4, 2024
9. **Labor Day**- Monday, September 2, 2024
10. **Veteran's Day**- Monday, November 11th
11. **Thanksgiving**-Wednesday, November 27 (noon) - Friday November 29, 2024
12. **Christmas**- Tuesday, December 24- Thursday, December 26, (extra time set by Mayor, with approval of city Council)
13. **New Year's Day Eve**- Tuesday, December 31st

*** All full-time employees get their birthday off with pay after one year of employment

*** If any of the above holidays fall on Saturday, employees will not work on Friday; and if they fall on Sunday, employees will not work on Monday.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

Yea: Council members John Brown, Jr., Cathy H. Giles, Jerry Lewis, DeVaria H. Ponton, and Delores W. Smith.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion was carried.

- It was moved by Council member Delores W. Smith and seconded by Council member Cathy H. Giles to introduce the following:

Ordinance 120723-2

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRAMBLING AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GRAMBLING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023; AND TO PROVIDE FOR ALL MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO; AND TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT OR IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

Yea: Council members John Brown, Jr., Cathy H. Giles, Jerry Lewis, DeVaria H. Ponton, and Delores W. Smith.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion was carried.

A Public Hearing will be held on the Ordinance and the Ordinance will be considered for adoption at the meeting of the Mayor and the Council held at 6:00 p.m., on December 7, 2023, Council Chambers/ Courtroom, City Hall, 127 King Street, Grambling, Louisiana. The public hearing will be held at 5:45 p.m.

- It was moved by Council member Delores W. Smith and seconded by Council member Jerry Lewis to introduce the following:

ORDINANCE NO. 120723-3

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRAMBLING ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GRAMBLING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024.

Roll call or yea/nay was as follows:

Yea: Council members John Brown, Jr., Cathy H. Giles, Jerry Lewis, DeVaria H. Ponton, and Delores W. Smith.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion was carried.

A Public Hearing will be held on the Ordinance and the Ordinance will be considered for adoption at the meeting of the Mayor and the Council held at 6:00 p.m., on December 7, 2023, Council Chambers/ Courtroom, City Hall, 127 King Street, Grambling, Louisiana. The public hearing will be held at 5:45 p.m.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the amended 2023 Budget and 2024 Proposed Budget for the City of Grambling is now available for public inspection between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., in the Administrative Office located at City Hall, 127 King Street, Grambling, Louisiana. A public hearing on the 2023 amended budget and 2024 proposed budget will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2023, before the monthly December meeting of the Mayor and the Council at 5:45 p.m., in Council Chambers/Courtroom, City Hall, 127 King Street, Grambling, Louisiana.

Announcements:

- Council member DeVaria H. Ponton reminded the citizens that early voting will be November 3rd – November 11th (excluding Sunday, November 5, 2023) from 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p. m. Lincoln Parish Registrar of Voters Office is located at 100 W Texas Ave., in Ruston.
- Councilmember Jerry Lewis announced he would be the guest speaker at a Fall Safety Class at Clifton Lewis Center-Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, November 18th at 11:00 a.m.
- Mrs. Mary Gipson, City of Grambling Beautification Committee, is asking all businesses and residents in the city to participate in the “Glow Up Grambling” activity by decorating.

It was moved by Council member Cathy H. Giles and seconded by Council member Jerry Lewis to adjourn this meeting at 6:50 p.m.


Alvin Bradley, Sr., Mayor


Pamela J. Stringfellow, LMMC



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."