

The monthly meeting of the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Gretna was held on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025;** at Gretna City Hall, 740 Second Street, Council Chambers, on the second floor, Gretna, Louisiana.

### **Notice of Public Meeting (Council Regular Meeting)**

Notice of the monthly meeting of the Mayor and City Council was duly published as prescribed by law in the legal journal of the New Orleans Advocate; and posted on the bulletin board, at the main entrance of Gretna City Hall; 740 Second Street, Gretna, LA 70053; and to the City's Website.

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Mayor Belinda C. Constant chaired the Council Regular monthly meeting; the City Clerk was present; Mayor Constant called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. -The roll was called; a quorum of all five Council Members was present; Wayne A. Rau, Councilman at Large; Rudy S. Smith, District 1; Michael A. Hinyub, District 2; Mark K. Miller, District 3; and Jackie J. Berthelot, District 4. - Absent: None

#### **2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Upon opening of the meeting, Councilman Berthelot (Council District 4) offered a prayer and a Moment of Silence. A Moment of Silence was offered for Hubert Gautreaux, one of the people who perished in the New Orleans terrorist attack on January 1, 2025; let us remember Mr. Gauthreaux and his Family. Thereafter, the Pledge of Allegiance was led and recited by Miss Rowan Lawson (granddaughter of Arthur Lawson, Chief of Police.)

#### **Amend Agenda - (January 8, 2025)**

On a motion by **Councilman Hinyub** and seconded by **Councilman Berthelot**, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to amend the Agenda to **ADD** an Event Request Application approval for the 2025 Italian Irish Parade for Sunday, March 30, 2025; and the same was unanimously approved.



#### **3. Opening remarks by the Mayor. NONE**

#### **4. Presentations:**

##### **A. In Memory of Russell I. Burgdahl.**

Chief Arthur Lawson said that the tonight's gesture to honor Russell Burgdahl, by Mayor Constant and the City Council was appreciated. He was a part of the family, the city, a personal friend; was the lead architect for the construction of the Gretna Police Complex and many other city projects. It was a loss to the family and the city; and God blessings upon him.

Mayor Constant read and presented to Kathleen M. Burgdahl a Proclamation on behalf of all elected officials of the City of Gretna, in recognition of Mr. Russell Burgdahl's "extensive contributions to the City of Gretna and its residents, and in gratitude for his exceptional work and his friendship, do hereby express our deep appreciation for his commitment to the enhancement of our community, and extend to his family our profound sympathy upon his passing."

Mayor Constant said that Mr. Russell Burgdahl was much appreciated by the City of Gretna; was a resident of the City, loved the city; and had a passion for the city.

Chief Lawson thanked the gesture of Mayor Constant and the Council Members in honor of Russell Burgdahl. He said Mr. Burgdahl was part of the family; of our city and a personal friend. He served the city well; was the lead architect on the renovation of the Police Complex. It is a great loss to the family, city and his friends.

Councilman Berthelot said he appreciated Mr. Burgdahl's friendship and guidance.

##### **B. In Memory of Mary Grace Macera Orsag.**

Chief Lawson said that Miss Mary Grace began working for the Police Department in early 1970. Began as a school crossing guard prior to him becoming chief of police. When the crossing guard phased out, she became the Senior Coordinator for the Police Department. She coordinated all the seniors' trips and activities; concerts, Luncheons, and Christmas parties. She was a vital part of the Police Department and the City Administration as well. She was the aunt of his wife (Brenda Lawson). She participated in various activities at the Police Department, St. Joseph Church and other organizations in the city. Mary Grace was a great loss to our community; she had a loving heart who cared about others.

Mayor Constant read and presented a Proclamation to the daughters of Mary Grace Macera Orsag on behalf of all elected officials of the City of Gretna, “in recognition of Mrs. Mary Grace Macera Orsag’s devotion, service, and boundless love for her family and neighbors, do hereby express our deep appreciation for her commitment to this community, and extend to her family our profound condolences upon her passing”.

Councilman Berthelot said he had the privilege of knowing this unique person. He liked and loved her like a mother, and he will miss her very much.

Mayor Constant said Miss Mary Grace was an incredible person by taking a position that meant a lot to the seniors of the city and the; she was destined to help people and wanting to be a part of the community. She had the privilege of serving with her at St. Joseph Church; and was such a wonderful lady. She was privileged to have known her; and her precious heart and spirit will always be remembered.

**C. November Campus of the Month - William Hart Elementary School.** Deferred to February’s meeting.

**C. December School of the Month - William Hart Elementary School.**

Ms. Carrie Coleman, Assistant Principal informed that Ms. Juniece Lockhart, School Principal could not attend tonight’s meeting. This school was for both their first year as principal and assistant principal of the school.

Mayor Constant read and presented to Ms. Carrie Coleman, Assistant Principal a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Elected Officials, “we would like to congratulate William Hart Elementary School for being recognized by the Jefferson Parish School System as the December 2024 – School of the Month”. “We are proud to recognize William Hart for their academic excellence and positive student outcomes, and we applaud the students, faculty, and staff for receiving this honor!”



**D. Recognition of New Businesses: NONE**



**5. Public Bid Responses:**

**A. 100 Westbank Expressway Asbestos Abatement Demolition Bid.**

Mrs. Raylyn Stevens, Chief Financial Officer informed there were six responses for the 100 Westbank Expressway Asbestos Abatement Demolition Bid; the lowest response was responsive bidder was Pipeworks Plumbing & Demolition, LLC

On a motion by **Councilman Berthelot** and seconded by **Councilman Miller**, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to accept the lowest bidder and award the project for the 100 Westbank Expressway Asbestos Abatement Demolition bid to Pipeworks Plumbing & Demolition, LLC for \$546,687.00; and the same approved by the following votes:

**Yeas: Councilmen Berthelot, Miller, Smith, and Hinyub**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Councilman Rau**

No comments from the public or Council members.



**6. Vested Rights Determination:**

A. Reconsideration of the vested rights termination for property at 2224 Newton Street, and further described as Lot 113-B1, Vicknair Add. (In District 3, Councilman Miller)

Mr. W. J. LeBlanc, City Attorney reminded the Council Members, that at the last meeting there were many items that were needed to be submitted to the city before moving forward with a determination as to whether or not the Council would grant a reconsideration.

Ms. Danika Gorrondona, Building Official updated the City Council; had several meetings with the owner of the property and met with a potential contractor who provided information today for review in the form of a contract and a letter. In her communication with this potential contractor, she communicated there were some things that needed to be discussed in depth based on site work. Because, this information was received this afternoon, there were other agencies (Louisiana State Licensing Board of Contractors) that were not able to have that review done to give the City Council a feedback; as well as interdepartmental members of administration review on this matter. More time was needed in order to provide to the City Council a confident report in the release of the permit.

Councilman Miller said that with the update provide by Ms. Gorrondona, he moved to defer this matter to the February 12, 2024, in order to collect all the needed information in order to provide a good report at the next meeting.

Mr. LeBlanc questioned if all the pertaining information has been provided to the city in order to determine whether or not there will be a consideration and a vote next month; or whether all required information has not yet been provided.

Ms. Gorrondona said that as of today, she had a meeting with the new contractor; discussed parameters of what was needed. She was given a letter informing of the takeover of the project. Does need a full contract that would discuss everything; there were some things she felt that were not fully grabbing the site work portion of it, that need to be further engaged in, and were not inclusive in the dollar amount should be for the amount of work that approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission for the vested rights; and all that should be further communicated to the contractor; and for that contractor to meet with the professionals who produced the drawings in order to attain a meaningful discussion; and Zoning and City Development department should be included in order to have a good conversation as to what that would mean at the end of the day. At this time, we are closer than we have been; the review of outside agencies and the City departments were what was missing at this time.

Councilman Miller offered a motion to defer, which was seconded by Councilman Hinyub. Now, Councilman Miller withdrew his motion.

Councilman Hinyub made a counter offer motion with the contingency of placing a deadline for all correct submissions/documents to be done by January 31, 2025, by 4:00 PM., otherwise the project would be in default.

On a motion by **Councilman Hinyub** and seconded by **Councilman Miller**, **IT WAS RESOLVED**, that the 2224 Newton Street project consideration be deferred to the February 12, 2025 Council meeting, contingent upon the applicant and the new contractor comply with all the necessary requirements in the form of surrendering all correct documents in order to process the permit, with the deadline of Friday, January 31, 2025, at 4:00 PM; and the same was unanimously approved by the following votes:

Yeas: **Council Members Hinyub, Miller, Smith and Berthelot**

Nays: None

Absent: Council Members Rau

No comments from the public or Council members.



**FLOOR: Approval of an Event Request:**

**2025 Italian Irish Parade - Sunday, March 30, 2025, and the approval of new proposed Parade Route.**

Mr. Joseph Toomy addressed the Mayor and City Council, and said they have had two successful parades in the City of Gretna; and much of the success of the parade had to do with the collaboration between the Parade Committee; the City and the Gretna Police Department. In 2024, they staged the largest parade ever on the Westbank, and now they just need to do minor adjustments, to make the parade even better. One of the adjustments was to address the route of the parade.

Mr. Paul Lehman, Irish Grand Marshall explained what the Parade Committee was trying to accomplish with the parade route. Go against traffic on Franklin Street; start everything the same like they would, it would just be on opposite side of the street and go down to Stumpf Boulevard and then make a U-turn; and then go back up to Kepler Street, this new proposed route would give the parade about four tenths of a mile more, which would give more time to get the units out; everything else would remain the same.

Chief Lawson said he did not see any issue with this deviation, it would help with the policing of the parade. This would allow the department to do their logistics properly and to provide better security for the parade goers.

On a motion by **Councilman Hinyub** and seconded by **Councilman Miller**, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the 2025 Italian Irish Parade for Sunday, March 30, 2025; and to also approve the small deviation of the parade route as explained and described; and the same was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: **Councilman Hinyub, Miller, Smith and Berthelot**

Nays: None

Absent: Councilman Rau



7. **CONSENT AGENDA:** (Read in its entirety.)

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

December 11, 2024, Council Regular Meeting.

**B. Approval of Alcoholic Beverage Outlet Permit Application:**

(1) **Minit Mart**, 2025 Claire Avenue (Duc Thao, LLC) - Fadi Elyas Abboud, Applicant

**C. Adoption of Resolutions by Consent:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-001**

**A resolution authorizing Mayor Belinda C. Constant to execute the 2025 Liquid Chlorine Supply Contract Bid, between the City of Gretna and Allied Universal Corporation; Cristianne Munguia, Bidder (through the LACPC Joint Municipal Commission.) The contract term is effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Gretna has an interest in the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of the City of Gretna; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the City of Gretna to have vendors in place for the supply of liquid chlorine; and

**WHEREAS**, through this agreement the vendor will provide Ton Chlorine Cylinders/5 Ton Minimum per Order; deliveries on a per order basis – no guaranteed yearly quantity will be purchased; and

**WHEREAS**, the price will be \$1,676.50 per ton (without escalation or de-escalation); and delivering to 1101 Burmaster Street, and 100 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gretna, Louisiana 70053.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of Gretna, Louisiana, acting as governing authority of said City that:

**Mayor Belinda C. Constant is hereby authorized to execute the 2025 Liquid Chlorine Supply Contract Bid, between the City of Gretna and Allied Universal Corporation; Cristianne Munguia, Bidder (through the LACPC Joint Municipal Commission.) The contract term is effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-002**

**A resolution authorizing Mayor Belinda C. Constant to execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Jefferson Parish and the City of Gretna to provide holiday decoration throughout the Garden Park Estates neighborhood in the City of Gretna, Louisiana for the general enjoyment of the 2024-2025 holiday season by citizens of the Parish of Jefferson, at a cost not to exceed \$26,000.00.**

**WHEREAS**, Art. VII, Sec. 14(C) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 provides that for a public purpose, the State and its political subdivisions may engage in cooperative endeavors with each other, with the United States or its agencies, or with any public or private organization, corporation or individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, Parish of Jefferson (“PARISH”) and the City of Gretna, Louisiana are constitutionally and statutorily created local political bodies of the State of Louisiana with the constitutional and statutory authority to contract, including entering into Cooperative Endeavor agreements; and the PARISH is authorized by Section 1.01(15) to enter into this Agreement for funding recreational and cultural programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the public purpose of the Project is described as: to beautify the PARISH and to promote cultural, social, and recreational activities through funding the purchase and installation of holiday decoration in Garden Park Estates in Gretna, Louisiana; and

**WHEREAS**, PARISH has a reasonable expectation of receiving a benefit or value of increased tourism, and the general enjoyment of the holiday season by visitors and residents alike, which is at least equivalent to the \$26,600.00 provided for in this Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the transfer or expenditure of public funds or property is not a gratuitous donation; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Jefferson Parish will benefit from the efforts of these parties working together; and desires to cooperate with the City of Gretna in the implementation of the project as provided hereinafter.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Gretna City Council, acting as legislative authority for the City of Gretna, Louisiana, that:

**Mayor Belinda C. Constant is hereby authorized to execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Jefferson Parish and the City of Gretna to provide holiday decoration throughout the Garden Park Estates neighborhood in the City of Gretna, Louisiana for the general enjoyment of the 2024-2025 holiday season by citizens of the Parish of Jefferson, at a cost not to exceed \$26,000.00.**

On a motion by **Councilman Smith** and seconded by **Councilman Berthelot**, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve and adopt all items read into record from the January 8, 2025, **CONSENT AGENDA**; and the same were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: **Councilmen Smith, Berthelot, Hinyub, and Miller**  
Nays: None  
Absent: Councilman Rau

No comments from the public or Council members.



**Consideration and Adoption of an Ordinances:**

On a motion by **Councilman Hinyub** and seconded by **Councilman Miller**, the following ordinance was read, and adopted section by section and then as a whole by the following vote:

Yeas: **Councilmen Hinyub, Miller, Smith, and Berthelot**  
Nays: None  
Absent: Councilman Rau

**1. ORDINANCE NO. 5014**

**An ordinance certifying that the City of Gretna voting districts are equitable.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Gretna has an interest in the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Of Gretna, has an interest in fair and equitable elections, where every person’s vote matters; and

**WHEREAS**, state law requires the city to examine its respective voting districts to determine whether or not there is a substantial variation; and

**WHEREAS**, following the receipt of the 2020 census, the City Of Gretna retained a demographer to conduct such an exam examination; and

**WHEREAS**, the demographer’s conclusion was that there was not a substantial variation that would require a change to the existing district plan, thus complying with state law; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Gretna City Council acting as governing authority of said City that:

**The City of Gretna hereby certifies that its voting districts are equitable as drawn.**

Provided that a majority of the City Council has voted in favor of this ordinance, this ordinance shall have the full force and effect of law at midnight on the tenth day following the Clerk's presentment of same to the Mayor, in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:406(c)(2) unless the Mayor returns the same, unsigned, to the Clerk during that ten-day period.

No comments from the public or Council members.



**9. Monthly Reports:**

**A. Police Department report:** None



**B. City Engineer Project Status Report:**

Mr. David Boyd, City Engineer (BKI) summarized the January 8, 2025, monthly projects status report:

**David Crockett Steam Fire Company #1 Central Station**

From Gibbs:

Heat:  
The VAV electric coils were delivered. Gibbs is awaiting the delivery of 3 VAV fuses-circuit breakers, Gibbs is in the process of scheduling Automated Controls to perform VAV work. All VAV work is to be completed in January.

**FP Door Replacement**

The door is installed, but the wrong color hinge and hardware were ordered; correct colors were re-ordered and replaced (about 4 weeks.) We asked Synergy to install the door with the incorrect colors to stop the leaks (considering that the colors do not impact the performance of the door.) I will reach out again for an update at the end of this month. Still awaiting the correct colored hinge delivery. The access control is complete and functional.

Roof: Red Iron was supposed to be on site Thursday December 5, 2024, to fix the roof leaks.

Electrical: Deficiencies are being examined, and work plans are being put together by Gibbs.

**Fifth Street Improvements**

One Hundred percent (100%) Final Plans and Specifications were submitted to LADOTD for letting. Recently, DOTD post plan certification had additional comments regarding the landscaping design within the median. Submitted a waiver request on Wednesday December 4, 2024. This waiver request has been approved by DOTD. Project is to be let by DOTD in January.

**25<sup>th</sup> Street Canal Subbasin Improvements Project.**

BKI and DBA progress to a 90% submittal for City review. We still plan to meet the schedule for advertising early January 2025. We are still awaiting a meeting date to be finalized to go over the project and project costs.

**Governor Hall Connector Project.**

The property plot survey was submitted to UP Real Estate to determine the amount of Right of Way property is needed to build the extension and new railroad crossing. This is a positive development and there is a chance the city will get approvals by year end. After checking with Olsson and UP, UP is requiring 100% design plans be submitted before their real estate section can determine whether to lease, donate it or sell the property to Gretna.

**Burmaster Transfer Facility**

Ninety percent (90%) of plans and specifications permits have been completed. A meeting to go over the design needs to be scheduled for January. Advertisement expected in January-February 2025.

**Holly Drive Extension – 4<sup>th</sup> Street Service Road**

The project is ready to be advertised. A meeting needs to be scheduled about advertising the project.

**Huey P. Long Lighting (2nd St to 5th Street)**

100% Design Plans completed. A DOTD Utility Permit Application and waiver have been submitted. A Coastal Use permit has been submitted. Project to be advertised in late January. Construction to take 120 days.

**Huey P. Long Lighting (11th to WBE)**

The design documents are completed. Project to be advertised in late January. Construction to take 60 days.

**Old Garden Park Decorative Lighting Project**

Capital Outlay request has been submitted. The survey has been completed. Design will begin when a decision has been made about using solar lights in lieu of electrical lights.



**C. Departmental Monthly Reports submitted:**

- (1) Finance Department "Actual vs. Budget for Major Funds" report.
- (2) Building Department - Permits Issued.
- (3) Code Enforcement - Code Violations.
- (4) Historic District Commission (January 2, 2025, meeting)
- (5) Planning & Zoning Commission (Meeting cancelled)
- (6) Planning & City Development, Status Report.
- (7) Parks and Parkways – Maintenance Project Status Report.



**D. Council District Monthly reports:**

**Councilman Rau – Councilman at Large – ABSENT.**

**Councilman Smith, District 1** – Councilman Smith thanked Mayor Constant, Chief Lawson and Council Member for the Christmas Caroling support event in McDonoghville. Expressed he was extremely proud to be able to add to the Christmas events happening in the City of Gretna. Looking forward to the Christmas Caroling again this year. Thanked everyone for their help and guidance.

**Councilman Hinyub, District 2 – NONE**

**Councilman Miller, District 3.** – Councilman Miller reported that he and Councilman Berthelot began some projects in Timberlane relative to landscaping; they switched contractor to do renovation work in some of the areas that were neglected by the previous contractor. He was impressed with the work they have done.

Also, Councilman Miller informed meeting with solar light company in Belleview neighborhood with the engineer and reviewed a few things, they will be submitting proposals to the City for review and discussion with the Council Members.

**Councilman Berthelot, District 4** – Councilman Berthelot thanked Councilman Miller; for the project on Creagan Avenue. Thank you to the Administration and the folks that worked to make the city look so beautiful for Christmas. He rode several people around to show them what the city has. It was definitely a plus when you can add the Christmas spirit and bring the kids some enjoyment during Christmas.



**10. Citizen to Address the Mayor and City Council: NONE**

**11. Adjournment.**

There was no further city business to conduct, and on a motion by **Councilman Hinyub** and seconded by **Councilman Smith**, the January 8, 2025, Council Regular meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM; and the same was unanimously approved.

Respectfully given,

**/S/ NORMA J. CRUZ, LCMC**  


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**CITY CLERK**  
**CITY OF GRETNA**  
**STATE OF LOUISIANA**