

The monthly meeting of the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Gretna was held on **Wednesday, May 14, 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 5:34 p.m. -The roll was called; a quorum of 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 Randy S. Carr, District 4.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Upon opening of the meeting, Councilman Rau, Councilman at Large offered a prayer. Thereafter, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.



3. Opening Remarks by the Mayor:

Mayor Constant announced on a city project; for all those watching on Facebook. The City of Gretna on Friday morning (10:00 AM) will be doing a groundbreaking for the **Historic Lighting Project** on Huey P. Long Avenue. To clarify confusion, she explained that fifteen years ago, the city embarked on a project on historic lighting on Huey P. Long Avenue downtown, and fifteen years later this was the final phase of the Historic Lighting Project on Huey P. Long Avenue. It was not a new project.

Fifth Street – There are many questions and telephone calls about Fifth Street due to the mobilized equipment. The respective Council Members Hinyub and Smith were paying close attention to happenings on Fifth Street. The activity on Fifth Street was just to identify utilities; Atmos Energy is out there placing their gas flags on the ground; as well as other utilities to be identified. Mayor Constant assured everyone they will be neighborhood meetings; these meetings will be publicly advertised. There will be signage on Fifth Street for dates and times, for those property owners on Fifth Street or residents in Old Garden Park will have a chance to know what is going on with Fifth Street Redevelopment; which is something the city was excited about.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

A. LA Department of Health – Gretna Water Plant, Grade A.

Mrs. Madason Priore explained that it was a newer concept that began in 2022, but it was a grade that the Louisiana Department of Health has to hold water treatment plants accountable. They were seven different categories; each category takes in consideration all different aspects of the treatment process. It involves the inside of the plant, the disinfection of operators certifications; deals with operation and maintenance to make sure that we are in compliance and adhering to the regulations; and we are happy to have obtained an “A” grade. Thanked her colleagues for their hard work and dedication; it was on call job; and takes a lot of years and experience for these men to make these decisions, which were not taken lightly; and she was happy and proud to have them recognized for their dedication to the city.

Mayor Constant read and presented Certificate of Recognition to City of Gretna employees Madason Priore, Director of Public Services; Merrill Steel; Eric Roby; Derick Gros and Adrian Holmes of the Gretna Water Department “on behalf of the Elected Officials, does hereby recognize you for your hard work and dedication toward helping the City of Gretna achieve the significant accomplishment of an “A” grade on the Louisiana Department of Health 2024 Water Grade.”

B. Recognition - Hayden Espiritu (Thomas Jefferson High School)

Mayor Constant read and presented Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Elected Officials to Hayden Espiritu “for receiving a perfect score on the ACT. We wish you well as you continue your scholastic journey, and we are so proud to recognize your achievement. Thank you for making Gretna shine! ”

C. Henry Shane and Jack Stumpf.

Mayor Constant expressed on behalf of the elected officials recognitions and thank you to Jack and Jerry Stumpf, and to Henry Shane and Pat Shane for the art sculpture and making Gretna shine. The sculptures were placed on Stumpf Boulevard and Gretna Boulevard.

Art is blooming in Gretna!

“The two stunning new sculptures have made their home in the heart of Gretna! These colorful masterpieces, created by a talented Gulf Coast artist Frank Ledbetter, were generously donated by Henry and Pat Shane, and by Jack and Jerri Stumpf.

One is located on Gretna Boulevard (Across Belle Meade Park) and the other at Stumpf Boulevard (Westbank Expressway), these vibrant sculptures are more than just eye candy—they are a celebration of community spirit and artistic flair! Whether you are taking a stroll or snapping a selfie, these beautiful additions are sure to brighten your day and spark a little inspiration.

Be sure to stop by, take a look, and experience the creativity up close!”

[#GretnaProud](#) [#PublicArt](#) [#FrankLedbetter](#) [#CommunitySpirit](#) [#CityofGretna](#)

Mayor Constant recognized retired Police Chief Arthur Lawson in attendance of this meeting.

D. 2024 Historic Preservation Showcase:

Mr. Zachary “Zack” Dieterich a member of the Historic District Commission on behalf of the Historic District Commission and Gretna Building Department. This event annually recognizes and honors preservationists, homeowners and business owners who renovate their homes and storefronts within the McDonoghville and Mechanickham Historic Districts; and the Commission looks forward to these recognitions. The commitment to preservation ensures that these structures will remain in the future, making a better Gretna for all.

717 Huey P. Long Avenue; Craig and Missy Senner, Owners

Mayor Constant read and presented Certificate on behalf of the Elected Officials to Craig and Missy Senner “your restoration has made a difference in historic preservation and is a significant contribution to the enhancement of the City of Gretna.”

735 Rupp Street; Kenneth Hoppel, Owner

Mayor Constant read and presented Certificate on behalf of the Elected Officials to Kenneth Hoppel, Owner “your restoration has made a difference in historic preservation and is a significant contribution to the enhancement of the City of Gretna.”

519 Huey P. Long Avenue; Parish of Jefferson (David Hecht)

Mayor Constant read and presented Certificate on behalf of the Elected Officials to David Hecht “your restoration has made a difference in historic preservation and is a significant contribution to the enhancement of the City of Gretna.”

332 Amelia Street; Kelli Vedros, Owner

Mayor Constant read and presented Certificate on behalf of the Elected Officials to Keli Vedros “your restoration has made a difference in historic preservation and is a significant contribution to the enhancement of the City of Gretna.”

-Mayor Constant thanked all for their contribution to the city, which was incredible, but financially in the streetscape for all streets, renovation was not easy; thank you so much on behalf of all of us here in the city.

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E. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) Class Improvement.

Ms. Danika Gorrondona, Gretna Building Official informed the Mayor and Council Members that the Association of State Floodplain Managers of the United States will be in New Orleans for the annual conference. They will be coming to the City of Gretna on Tuesday for a technical tour of all the great work we have done relative to resiliency and green infrastructure. We are a showcase city, and there was excitement about it; and many will be seeing the levees for the first time. Thanked Mayor Constant for affording the opportunity to this group of people that will be visiting Gretna for the very first time.

Community Rating System (CRS)

Ms. Danika Gorrondona explained that the Community Rating System (CRS) for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), a volunteer program; it is on scale from 10 where it start, working your way down, and that would be the percentage off your flood insurance. They are 1,500 communities participating in the CRS, National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and the City of Gretna has incredible retained the certification of a 5 scale. The City of Gretna was second in the State of Louisiana to have this rating; and accolades to the City of Gretna, and all the people who participate within the CRS. Thank you for all the support given. This rate means a savings of 25% of flood insurance.

Mayor Constant formally presented to Miss Danika Gorrondona and team, the FEMA Certificate that gives the City a 5 Class rating. “the City of Gretna successfully participates in the National Flood Insurance Program; Community Rating System. This Community has undertaken a serious and meaningful activities to protect its citizens of losses caused by flooding and has significantly achieved the requirements for National Flood Insurance Program participation effective flood plain management”.

F. Proclaiming 2025 Police Week.

Mayor Constant read and presented on behalf of the elected official with a Proclamation to Chief Brett J. Lawson; recognizing and honoring the Gretna Police Department.

On a motion by **Councilman Rau** and seconded by **Councilman Smith**, the following resolution was read, and adopted section by section and then as a whole by the following vote:

Yeas: **Councilmen Rau, Smith, Hinyub, Miller, and Carr**
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-020

A resolution by the City of Gretna, proclaiming Sunday, May 11, to May 17, 2025, as “National Police Week”; honoring the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers by protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy; and to recognize the Gretna Police Department for keeping the City of Gretna, as one of the safest cities in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the service and sacrifice of all officers killed in the line of duty will be honored during the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund’s 37th Candlelight Vigil, on the evening of May 13, 2025; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation declaring May 15, as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. Law enforcement officers from around the world converge on Washington, DC to take part in several planned events which honor those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.; and

WHEREAS, National Police Week is a collaborative effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring America’s law enforcement community; and

WHEREAS, Gretna Police Department is a devoted body of people dedicated to keeping the citizens of Gretna safe, earning the respect of all individuals they meet; and

WHEREAS, despite national crime statistics, the City of Gretna has earned national recognition as one of the top safe cities to live in Louisiana, all due to the fastest response times in the nation, an average of two minutes; and

WHEREAS, the Gretna Police Department also protects all schools within the City of Gretna. The department has its own 911 call center and dispatches police, fire, and ambulance calls; and they are the 911 call center backup for the Parish of Jefferson.

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

The City of Gretna hereby proclaims Sunday, May 11, to Saturday, May 17, 2025, as “National Police Week”; honoring the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers by protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy; and recognizing the Gretna Police Department for keeping the City of Gretna, as one of the safest cities in Louisiana.

G. Proclaiming 2025 EMS Week.

Mayor Constant read and presented on behalf of the elected official with a Proclamation to Chief Brett J. Lawson; recognizing and honoring the Gretna Police Department.

On a motion by **Councilman Rau** and seconded by **Councilman Smith**, the following resolution was read, and adopted section by section and then as a whole by the following vote:

Yeas: **Councilmen Rau, Smith, Hinyub, Miller, and Carr**
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-021

A resolution by the City of Gretna, proclaiming the week of May 18, to May 24, 2025, as National EMS Week. The theme, “We Care. For Everyone,” celebrates the roles and contributions of EMS providers in the communities they serve. Acknowledging the commitment of the Gretna EMS to provide swift, professional, and compassionate care; and urging all Americans to express their appreciation for our Nation’s EMS providers.

WHEREAS, EMS 2025, Week theme is “We Care. For Everyone,” Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's frontline;” and

WHEREAS, through service, compassion, and dedication, Gretna EMS providers represent the best of the American spirit; and

WHEREAS, Gretna EMS men and women are qualified in Emergency Medical Technician Basic to the Paramedic level; and several are trained police officers, trained in pharmacology, cardiology, and neurology, and can treat a wide range of illnesses and injuries on individuals of all ages; and

WHEREAS, is the time to show our gratitude toward EMTs and paramedics who provide lifesaving care across the nation every day; and

WHEREAS, “EMS Week celebrates the unwavering dedication and expertise of our EMS professional colleagues,.”

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

The City of Gretna does hereby proclaim the week of May 18, to May 24, 2025, as National EMS Week. The theme, “We Care. For Everyone,” celebrates the roles and contributions of EMS providers in the communities they serve. Acknowledging the commitment of the Gretna EMS to provide swift, professional, and compassionate care; urging all Americans to express their appreciation for our Nation’s EMS providers.

-Chief of Police Brett J. Lawson, thanked the Mayor and the elected officials for the recognition of the men and women of the Gretna Police Department and the men and women of the Gretna EMS; and was grateful to those men and women for placing the department in the position that they were in today. Thank you all for the acknowledgement and to the men and women who serve.

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5. Vested Rights Determination:

A. Reconsideration of the vested right termination for the property at 2224 Newton Street; further described as Lot 113-B1, Vicknair Add. Ernest Richard, Pastor. (Councilman Miller, District 3).

-Mr. W. J. LeBlanc, City Attorney recalled that many months ago, there was a vested right issued to the 2224 Newton Street property for construction of a church, which had several problems (not properly permitted) and work was not done timely; so the vested right determination expired. Several months ago, this matter came before the Council; the Council decided that it would terminate the vested rights associated with this particular project. Following that time, the Pastor Earnest Richard approached the city with counsel to try to reopen the matter. The City of Gretna considered the plea; allowing a re-hearing on the vested rights. There were certain benchmarks that needed to be met given the history the city had with the project; most of them being financial in nature. No licensed contractor could provide a cost estimate of what it was originally. The City then requested a Letter of Credit or some form of Evidence of Proof that Pastor Richard had the financial wherewithal to actually complete the project. There were several meeting had; one meeting with a licensed contractor and Pastor Richard and he in the Mayor’s office; in this meeting it was explained that they would need to provide information; and given the lack of resources that prevented them from going forward with licensed contractors initially.

This matter came up again last month, and the Pastor Richard was told he needed to provide the city with the requested additional information; and that the city had ran out of extensions and the Council was ready to move forward with a vote on the rehearing of the determination of the vested rights.

-Mr. W. J. LeBlanc questioned Miss Amelia Pellegrin, Director of Planning and City Development Department if she has received any documentation from Pastor Richard since the last meeting. – Miss Pellegrin replied, no.

-Mr. LeBlanc advised at this point, it would be appropriate for the Council to vote on the rehearing; he believed that a motion to deny the rehearing would bring this portion of the matter to a close; stating the city has bended backwards on this matter for over year in trying to help this project get done.

Pastor Richard pleaded his case before Mayor Constant and City Council to continue with this project; he wanted to have a place to worship; and he had enough stuff in the building to almost finish the project; and said he presented to Miss Pellegrin proof of the money to pay the contractor to do the job.

-Councilman Miller said the city had exhausted all avenues to help in the success of this project; and at this time he motioned to deny on the determination of the vested rights approval.

On a motion by **Councilman Miller** and seconded by **Councilman Hinyub**, **IT WAS RESOLVED**, to deny reopening of the vested rights re-hearing for the property at 2224 Newton Street (Pastor Earnest Richard); and the same was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: **Councilmen Miller, Hinyub, Rau, Smith and Carr**
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

No comments from the public or Council members.
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Amend Agenda - (May 14, 2025)

On a motion by **Councilman Rau** and seconded by **Councilman Smith**, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to amend the Agenda to ADD a resolution for adoption; A resolution authorizing Mayor Belinda C. Constant to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Parish of Jefferson and the City of Gretna to provide for the operation of the Gretna Farmer’s Market for four years, and roof repairs to the Gretna Farmer’s Market Pavilion, utilizing unexpended funds in the amount of \$350,000.00, that was budgeted for upgrades to the Gretna Farmer’s Market; and the same was unanimously approved.

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6. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

April 9, 2025, Council Regular Meeting and April 25, 2025, Council Emergency Meeting.

B. Approval of Event Request(s):

(1) **Kickball Tournament**; August 2, 2025; 10:00AM to 3:00PM. - J. B. Spencer Park.

C. Approval of Alcoholic Beverage Outlet (ABO) Permits:

- (1) Hancock Express Food Mart, LLC; 1500 Hancock Street - Maher Al-Madhrahi, Applicant
- (2) WH Seafood LLC D/B/A Big EZ Seafood; 1632 Lafayette Street - Meizi Hu, Applicant

D. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS BY CONSENT:

(1) **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-022**
A resolution by the City of Gretna requesting approval of the annual Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the Fiscal Year of April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, as mandated by State Law.

WHEREAS, as per State Law, the City of Gretna must conduct a financial audit for the fiscal year of April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire is a required part of a financial audit of State of Louisiana and local government and quasi-public agencies; and

WHEREAS, in preparation of the audit, the City of Gretna must present to the appointed auditor a completed “Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire” prior to the beginning of the audit.

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

The Gretna City Council hereby approves the annual State of Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the Fiscal Year April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, as mandated by State Laws.

(2) **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-023**
A resolution by the City of Gretna proclaiming May 2025 as “National Cities, Towns, and Villages Month”, celebrating the contributions from local governments across the nation and recognizing the National League of Cities’ historic centennial anniversary.

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities was founded in 1924 in Lawrence, Kansas, as the American Municipal Association by state municipal leagues seeking more coordination and national representation as cities, towns, and villages expanded rapidly; and

WHEREAS, the nonpartisan National League of Cities is the oldest and largest organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States, representing the interests of more than 19,000 cities, towns, and villages across the country; and

WHEREAS, today, the National League of Cities works in partnership with 49 state municipal leagues across the country to strengthen local leadership, drive innovation, and influence the federal policies that impact local programs and operations; and

WHEREAS, during this month-long observance, communities are encouraged to reflect on their rich heritage, celebrate their achievements, and embrace opportunities for growth and collaboration. Through various events, initiatives, and community engagements, “National Cities, Towns, and Villages Month” aims to foster civic pride and promote local stewardship.; and

WHEREAS, “local governments are the bedrock of American democracy, providing 336 million residents with the most accountable, responsive, inclusive, ethical, and transparent government in the world”; and

WHEREAS, from the nation’s smallest villages to its largest cities, America’s local governments have been essential in transforming the United States of America into the greatest, most influential nation in world history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gretna is a proud member of the National League of Cities, and has benefited from the organization’s research, technical expertise, federal advocacy and the opportunities to gain experience from other local governments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gretna was first incorporated in 1913 and is proudly served today by Mayor Belinda C. Constant, Police Chief Brett J. Lawson, City Council Members Wayne A. Rau, Rudy S. Smith, Michael A. Hinyub, Mark K. Miller, and Randy S. Carr, and a municipal workforce of 298, resolute public servants.

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

The City of Gretna hereby proclaims May 2025 as “National Cities, Towns, and Villages Month” in celebration of America’s local governments and hereby recognizes the National League of Cities’ historic centennial anniversary.

(3) RESOLUTION NO. 2025-024

A resolution authorizing Mayor Belinda C. Constant and the administration to execute Change Order No. 1 to the City’s contract with Pipeworks Plumbing and Demolition, LLC for the abatement and demolition of 100 Westbank Expressway, for an increase of \$63,783.88, and fourteen more days of work for additional environmental abatement work and fencing required. Funds are available in the City’s capital budget for the project.

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

WHEREAS, Pipeworks Plumbing and Demolition, LLC is the contractor for the project at 100 Westbank Expressway; and

WHEREAS, during the course of environmental abatement additional asbestos containing material was discovered; and

WHEREAS, during the course of operations, additional fencing was found to be necessary for site security; and

WHEREAS, Change Order No. 1 is for an increase of \$63,783.88.00.

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

Mayor Belinda C. Constant and the administration are hereby authorized to execute Change Order No. 1 to the City’s contract with Pipeworks Plumbing and Demolition, LLC for the abatement and demolition of 100 Westbank Expressway, for an increase of \$63,783.88, and fourteen more days of work for additional environmental abatement work and fencing required. Funds are available in the City’s capital budget for the project.

(4) **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-025**

A resolution authorizing Mayor Belinda C. Constant and the administration to execute the Cooperative Development Agreement with Chick-Fil-A, Inc. to improve public infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed Chick-fil-A restaurant at 83 Westbank Expressway in the interest of public safety, to repair generally broken, damaged, degraded public infrastructure. This is in accordance with City's focus on storm water management, providing open space, green space, and safe streets.

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

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 12 (c) of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana 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 association, corporation, or individual,” and

WHEREAS, the City desires to cooperate with the Developer by constructing certain public improvements in connection with the development of a Chick-fil-A restaurant hereinafter referred to as “the Project,” and

WHEREAS, the City has the authority to enter into this agreement as evidenced by its public purposes of increasing the quality of life of its citizens and promoting economic development to increase revenue to the City budget, and

WHEREAS, the public purpose of the improvements is to beautify the City for the benefit of its citizens and to encourage economic development that will increase the quality of life for the citizens of the City, and

WHEREAS, the Project will transform a largely vacant parcel into an economic development project that will anchor an important corner in the City of Gretna, and

WHEREAS, the Project will create jobs, generate significant tax revenue for the City of Gretna, and be a source of economic development, and

WHEREAS, the City has a reasonable expectation of receiving a benefit or value that is at least equivalent to or greater than the consideration described in this agreement, and

WHEREAS, these public improvements will benefit the City as a whole, and

WHEREAS the expenditure of public funds or property is not a gratuitous donation.

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

Mayor Belinda C. Constant and the administration are hereby authorized to execute the Cooperative Development Agreement with Chick-Fil-A, Inc. to improve public infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed Chick-fil-A restaurant at 83 Westbank Expressway in the interest of public safety, to repair generally broken, damaged, degraded public infrastructure. This is in accordance with City's focus on storm water management, providing open space, green space, and safe streets.

(5) **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-026**

A resolution authorizing Mayor Belinda C. Constant to execute the Cooperative Development Agreement between the City of Gretna (hereinafter called “CITY”) and the Parish of Jefferson (hereinafter, referred to as “PARISH”); to address public safety issues regarding sinkholes by Wildwood Road and Timberlane Drive.

WHEREAS, Article 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 and CITY 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

WHEREAS, PARISH and CITY are authorized to enter into this Cooperative Endeavor Agreement pursuant to LA R.S. 33:1324 which permits any parish, municipality or political subdivision of the state, or any combination thereof, to make agreements between or among themselves for the repair, improvement, and maintenance of roads, drainage, and sewerage; and

WHEREAS, PARISH is authorized by Section 1.01(3), Section 1.01(8), and Section 1.01(9) of the Jefferson Parish Charter to enter into this Agreement for providing and maintaining streets and operating drainage and sanitary sewerage systems; and

WHEREAS, the public purpose of the Project is described as addressing public safety issues regarding sinkholes by Wildwood Road and Timberlane Drive in Gretna; and

WHEREAS, PARISH has a reasonable expectation of receiving a benefit or value of public safety and the continued integrity of the drainage and sewerage systems which is at least equivalent to the funding provided for in this Agreement; and desires to cooperate with CITY in the implementation of the project as hereinafter provided.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Jefferson Parish will benefit from the efforts of these parties working together; and

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

Mayor Belinda C. Constant is hereby authorized to execute the Cooperative Development Agreement between the City of Gretna (hereinafter called “CITY”) and the Parish of Jefferson (hereinafter, referred to as “PARISH”); to address public safety issues regarding sinkholes by Wildwood Road and Timberlane Drive. The CITY shall provide an amount not to exceed \$29,768.75, half of the funding combined for the following projects to occur within Timberlane Subdivision within the boundaries of the CITY.

(6) RESOLUTION NO. 2025-027

A resolution authorizing Mayor Belinda C. Constant to execute Amendment No. 1, to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Parish of Jefferson and the City of Gretna to perform work details for necessary security at the Roy Wilty Bus Terminal (“Terminal”), to modify the hours worked per week from one hundred and twenty-six (126) to one hundred and sixty-eight (168) and to increase the annual contract amount not exceed Three Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Four-Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$349,440.00).

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2023, Resolution No. 143015 was adopted, which authorized the Parish of Jefferson and the City of Gretna to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (hereinafter “Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement allows for the Gretna Police Department to perform work details from 10:30PM to 5:00AM for necessary security at the Roy Wilty Bus Terminal (“Terminal”) to assure the safe operations of the facility; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Transit Authority (“RTA”) is currently providing extended hours of service at the Terminal, which runs from 10:30PM to 5:00AM; and

WHEREAS, during recent months law enforcement has observed that vagrant-related actions infringing on others' rights including trespassing on private property, theft, and vandalism, among others, are beginning to pressure the area in and around the Terminal and that to deter crime an increased police presence is in the best interest of the public; and

WHEREAS, to maintain sufficient security for the Terminal’s additional hours of operation, the PARTIES desire to amend Section 1.0 (“Services/Deliverables”) of the Agreement to modify hours worked per week from 126 hours to 168 hours; and

WHEREAS, RTA agreed to pay for the additional security required from 10:30 PM to 5:00 AM; and that agreement was memorialized by an Amendment to their Cooperative Endeavor Agreement dated October 3, 2023, which was authorized by Resolution No. 142757 and adopted on September 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, to accurately account for the increase in hours worked per week, the PARTIES desire to amend Section 2.0 (“Payment”) of the Agreement to modify the maximum yearly expenditure from \$260,560.00 to \$349,440.00; and

WHEREAS, all other terms and conditions of the Agreement, as amended, shall remain unchanged.

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 Amendment No. 1, to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Parish of Jefferson and the City of Gretna to perform work details for necessary security at the Roy Wilty Bus Terminal (“Terminal”), to modify the hours worked per week from one hundred and twenty-six (126) to one hundred and sixty-eight (168) and to increase the annual contract amount to not exceed Three Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Four-Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$349,440.00). That the maximum yearly expenditure is increased from two hundred sixty thousand and Five hundred sixty dollars (\$260,560.00) to Three Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Four-Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$349,440.00).

On a motion by **Councilmen Smith** and seconded by **Councilman Rau**, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve and adopt all items read into record from the May 14, 2025, **CONSENT AGENDA**; and the same were approved by the following vote:

Yeas: **Councilmen Smith, Rau, Hinyub, Miller, and Carr**

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

No comments from the public or Council members.

ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION: (FLOOR)

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

Yeas: **Councilmen Hinyub, Miller, Rau, Smith, and Carr**

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-028

A resolution authorizing Mayor Belinda C. Constant to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Parish of Jefferson and the City of Gretna to provide for the operation of the Gretna Farmer’s Market for four years, and roof repairs to the Gretna Farmer’s Market Pavilion, utilizing unexpended funds in the amount of \$350,000.00, that was budgeted for upgrades to the Gretna Farmer’s Market.

WHEREAS, the Gretna Farmer’s Market is located under the market pavilion between Third Street and Fourth Street along Huey P. Long Avenue in the City of Gretna, and offers fresh produce, prepared foods, and assorted homemade goods year-round; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. 26751, (March 6, 2024), Jefferson Parish Council approved the transfer of \$750,000.00 from the Hospital Service District No. 1 – Westbank Health and Wellness Fund to the City of Gretna for upgrades to the Gretna Farmer’s Market, however, the parties did not enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the \$750,000.00 has not been expended and remains in an expense account budgeted for the Gretna Farmer’s Market upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to enter into this Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to allow the CITY to use \$350,000.00 of the unexpended funds towards operating the Gretna Farmer’s Market for four years and repairing the roof at the Gretna Farmer’s Market Pavilion; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Sec. 14(B) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, provides that public funds may be used for programs of social welfare for the aid and support of the citizens of Jefferson Parish; and Article 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 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

WHEREAS, PARISH is authorized by Section 1.01(15) to enter into this Agreement for the development and administration of recreation and cultural facilities and programs; and to promote the happiness and general welfare of the people; and

WHEREAS, the public purpose of the Project as to promote the general health and well-being of the community by providing citizens of Jefferson Parish with access to fresh and healthy food; and

WHEREAS, PARISH has a reasonable expectation of receiving the benefit of receiving increased access to healthy eating and living initiatives, enhanced recreational opportunities, and resources to improve the health and well-being of the citizens of Jefferson Parish which is at least equivalent to the \$350,000.00, provided for in this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Jefferson Parish will benefit from the efforts of these agencies working together.

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

Mayor Belinda C. Constant is hereby authorized to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Parish of Jefferson and the City of Gretna to provide for the operation of the Gretna Farmer’s Market for four years, and roof repairs to the Gretna Farmer’s Market Pavilion, utilizing unexpended funds in the amount of \$350,000.00, that was budgeted for upgrades to the Gretna Farmer’s Market.

No comments from the public or Council members.

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6. Adoption of Ordinances:

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

Yeas: Councilmen Rau, Hinyub, Smith, Miller, and Carr.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

ORDINANCE NO. 5019

An ordinance as amended declaring vehicles and equipment surplus property, and no longer needed for public purposes; and to authorize, the sale of said surplus property at a public auction.

WHEREAS, the City of Gretna has an obligation to provide its citizens with ordinances that clearly describe permitted activities in the City; and

WHEREAS, the Gretna Police Department, Public Works and the City Administration have declared certain vehicles and equipment, surplus property and unnecessary to the daily operations of the departments; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to replace certain vehicles and equipment so that the city can continue to provide the citizens of Gretna with quality daily services.

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

SECTION 1. The following vehicle was designated surplus property by the Gretna Police Department and should be sold at an auction to the highest bidder:

GRETNA POLICE DEPARTMENT – VEHICLES

Year	Make	Model	VIN / Serial No.
2017	FORD	EXPLORER	1FM5K8ARXHGH15876

SECTION 2. The following vehicles and equipment were designated surplus property by the City Administration and should be sold at an auction to the highest bidder:

CITY ADMINISTRATION – VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Year	Make	Model	VIN No.
2012	Ford	F150 (323)	1FTMF1CMXCKD31570
2012	Ford	F150 (325)	1FTMF1CM3CKD31572
2015	Ford	F-250/sewer Jetter skit, (381)	1FTBF2A60FEA58742
2015	Isuzu	Street Sweeper (445)	JALE5W164F7901612
2016	Ford	F-350 4X4 Crew Cab (469)	1FD8W3GTXGED28523
2016	Ford	F-350 4X2 Crew Cab (470)	1FD8W3GT1GED28524
2017	Ford	F-150 SUPER CREW CAB (484)	1FTEW1C81HFA67274
2021	Ford	Explorer (587)	1FDXF7DC6MDF05366

Provided that a majority of the City Council of the City of Gretna have 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 same, unsigned, to the Clerk during that ten-day period.

No comments from the public or Council members.

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

Yeas: **Councilmen Hinyub, Carr, Rau, Smith, and Miller**
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

ORDINANCE NO. 5020

An ordinance to require the production of financial suitability to establish the sufficiency of financial resources, for good cause shown, prior to extending time periods for vested rights and conducting major site plan reviews.

WHEREAS, there is a general concern for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Gretna; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gretna is desirous of improving public safety for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gretna has an interest in the renovation of blighted structures and development of new structures in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gretna seeks to ensure that applicants/owners/developers have sufficient financial resources to timely complete said projects.

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

An ordinance to require the owner/applicant/developer to provide evidence of financial suitability to establish the sufficiency of financial resources, for good cause shown, prior to extending time periods for vested rights and conducting major site plan reviews.

Definitions: For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

“Evidence of financial suitability” may include, but not be limited to, financial records and/or statements, letters of credit, loan approval documents, and similar information that show sufficient financial resources to timely complete the proposed project.

“Good cause shown” may include, but not be limited to any records and/or information such as bankruptcy, failure to complete prior projects within a timely manner, litigation as a result of breach of contract or fraud, etc. which casts doubt on the owner/applicant/contractor’s ability to complete the proposed project in a timely manner.

Provided that a majority of the City Council of the City of Gretna have 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 same, unsigned, to the Clerk during that ten-day period.

No comments from the public or Council members.

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

Yeas: **Councilmen Rau, Smith, Hinyub, Miller, and Carr.**
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

ORDINANCE NO. 5021

An ordinance pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes §§ 33:4712 to declare certain weapons formerly used by the Gretna Police Department as surplus property because of their age and obsolescence, authorizing the private sale of same to current or former Gretna Police officers and fixing the minimum price of same.

WHEREAS, the Gretna Police Department wishes to declare 115 Glock manufactured Model 21 and Glock manufactured Model 21-SF semi-automatic firearms as surplus property; and

WHEREAS, said semi-automatic firearms are described (Exhibit “A”) are no longer sufficient as department issued firearms for police officers engaged in active law enforcement due to their age and obsolescence; and have been replaced with newer, more current and more efficient semi-automatic handguns and are no longer needed for public purposes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Louisiana Revised Statutes §§ 33:4712, these weapons may be declared as surplus property by the City Council since they are no longer used by the Gretna Police Department and no longer needed for public purposes; and, may be sold at private sale; and

WHEREAS, Gretna Police Department has obtained a current market value from a local, reputable, licensed firearms dealer of \$250.00, each; and current/former Gretna Police officers have expressed interest in purchasing these firearms from the City at current market value; and

WHEREAS, said minimum price should be fixed by the City Council at the current market value of \$250.00, cash only at the time of sale; and

WHEREAS, each sale of each firearm shall be conducted by a FFL licensed firearms dealer complying with the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes §§ 40:1789; and

WHEREAS, the proposed ordinance shall be advertised in the New Orleans Advocate three (3) times within fifteen (15) days, one (1) week apart; and any opposition must be made in writing and filed with the Gretna City Clerk within fifteen (15) days after the first publication; and

WHEREAS, this proposal is recommended to the City Council as necessary and in the best interest of the City of Gretna, Louisiana.

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

The Glock manufactured Models 21 and Model 21-SF semi-automatic firearms are hereby declared to be surplus property by the City Council. Pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statutes §§ 33: 4712 the City of Gretna is hereby authorized to conduct the private sale of these semi-automatic handguns to current or former Gretna Police officers. The minimum price is hereby fixed at \$250.00 each. Each sale of each firearm shall be conducted by a FFL licensed firearms dealer who will comply with the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes §§ 40:1789.

Provided that a majority of the City Council of the City of Gretna have 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 same, unsigned, to the Clerk during that ten-day period.

No comments from the public or Council members.

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8. Major Site Plan Review:

- 1. 83 Westbank Expressway; Chick-fil-A Restaurant** - Review for drive through only.
Re-application for site plan review of the prior approved site plan.(2023).

Miss Amelia Pellegrin, Director of Planning and City Development Department provide a detailed report on the major site plan review re-application that was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission in 2023. These major site plan reviews expire after 12-months, so this was a re-application of essentially the same information. Miss Pellegrin summarized the minor changes; which were to the building itself. So, the site plan in all of the information related to that, was identical to the 2023 application.

This request was reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission this past Monday, May 12, 2025; the owner’s representative was here. The property was posted the property, and sent out certified mail and to date the city had not received any public comments on the project.

Miss Pellegrin summarized that this development have met all of the requirements in the Unified Development Code. In the UDC, required the need to have space on the property for four cars for a drive thru; this particular proposed development has space for 57 vehicles on the property, with three drive-thru lanes. This will be bounded by Hancock, Truxton Streets and the Westbank Expressway with an entrance and exit on each of those streets.

In summary the Planning and Zoning Commission and Staff recommended approval with the following conditions:

1. A signed agreement between the City and the applicant (Chick-Fill-A) as to the scope and responsibilities for site improvements in the surrounding public right of ways is executed. (Resolution approved by City Council earlier this evening.
2. The applicant (Chick-Fill-A) agrees that a right turn lane on Hancock Street will be explored if needed after opening.

- 3. Building design be revised slightly to meet the 40% transparency on the Westbank Expressway façade; UDC requires 40% transparency (windows, doors, or building materials as otherwise discussed) two to eight feet above first floor elevation for restaurants.
- 4. As defined in the UDC, the applicant shall have twelve months to begin construction from the date of the site plan approval, or a new application will be required. An extension may be requested in writing to the Planning Director, or the project is underway.

There was a detailed traffic impact study completed for this project, which went through review, State Department of Transportation and Development, therefore we were not anticipating traffic issues with the amount of vehicles on this property to fit on this property and the three entrances.

Miss Rebecca Geiger, Representative for Chick-Fill-A in representation of Sherman Strategies, LLC; expressed they were excited to finally get this project underway. The specifics of the project had not changed, just minor modifications to the building; which would be a better looking building.

On a motion by **Councilman Smith** and seconded by **Councilman Hinyub**, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to approve the Major Site Plan request of the applicant (Chick-Fill-A) with the conditions recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Staff; and the same was approved by the following vote:

Yeas: **Councilmen Smith, Hinyub, Rau, Miller, and Carr**
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

No comments from the public or Council members.
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9. **Unified Development Code Text Amendments: (Council Approval) This matter was deferred.**

- 1. The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed amendments to the Unified Development Code (UDC), Chapter 58; Article IV. -Site Development and Design Standards; Division 3. -Signs; by amending Sec. 58-191 through Sec. 58-202, by edits for addition, clarification and modification with recommendations by City Administration Staff.

On a motion by **Councilman Hinyub** and seconded by **Councilman Miller**, **IT WAS RESOLVED to defer** consideration of the text amendments to the Unified Development Code per the Administration; and by unanimous consent of the City Council the same was deferred.

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10. **Adoption of an Ordinance:**

- 1. An ordinance amending the Unified Development Code, Chapter 58; Article IV. -Site Development and Design Standards; Division 3. -Signs; by amending Sec. 58-191 through Sec. 58-202, by edits for addition, clarification and modification with recommendations by City Administration Staff . (Exhibit "A")
Requested: Administration Sponsor: Councilman Hinyub

On a motion by **Councilman Hinyub** and seconded by **Councilman Miller**, **IT WAS RESOLVED** to defer consideration and adoption of an ordinance amending the Unified Development Code, Chapter 58; Article IV. -Site Development and Design Standards; Division 3. -Signs; by amending Sec. 58-191 through Sec. 58-202, by edits for addition, clarification and modification with recommendations by City Administration Staff . (Exhibit "A"); and by unanimous consent of the City Council, the same was deferred.

11. **Monthly Reports:**

- A. **Police Department.** None
- B. **City Engineer Projects Monthly Report:** (Report in Agenda Packet)

-Mr. David Boyd, City Engineer (Burk-Kleinpeter Inc.) summarized May 14, 2025, report for the Council Members. The report is in the Agenda packet.

Mr. Boyd clarified with regard to the Old Garden Park Decorative Lighting Project; it has been determined that electrical lighting will be used instead of solar lights in that neighborhood.

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C. Departmental Monthly Reports submitted (Novus Agenda):

- (1) Finance Department "Actual vs. Budget for Major Funds" report.
- (2) Building Department - Permits Issued.
- (3) Code Enforcement - Code Violations.
- (4) Historic District Commission (May 5, 2025, Meeting)
- (5) Planning & Zoning Commission (May 12, 2025 Meeting)
- (6) Planning and City Development Status Report.
- (7) Parks and Parkways Maintenance Project Status Report.

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Entergy Customer Service:**-Mr. D. J. Taylor, Entergy Customer Service Manager.**

- Mr. Taylor addressed the Mayor and Council Members and stated that last month Entergy was requested by the City Council for a presentation on Entergy's Resilient Plan. Invitees to this meeting were Abigal Ortolano, Regional Manager, and Michele Bourg, Vice- President of Customer Service for Entergy Louisiana.

Miss Bourg provided an overview of the outages that happened on May 7, 2025. Entergy had an estimate of 27,000 customers without power. Most of those customers were concentrated in the City of Monroe (north Louisiana). The Westbank of Jefferson Parish, there were 7,000 customers without electricity; the City of Gretna had about 2,800 customers with outages (homes and business) about 1/3 of the overall customer count. Entergy mobilized teams from other areas because the damages, were so localized; moved resources from the Eastbank to the Westbank. Entergy found significant damage in the Timberlane area, there were 70 customers, later on in day on May 7th, without electricity due to a tree damaged by the weather that fell onto our facility and that outage carried over through the night into the next morning. There were 30 poles across the Westbank on the ground with about 50 spans of wire; they were hundreds of customers out and transformers, and those get prioritized through the process and the restoration happened accordingly.

-Councilman Hinyub thanked the Entergy-Louisiana crew for coming tonight, it was appreciated. He said he was shocked by the number of outages in Gretna; and questioned the locations or areas of the outages. He informed driving the city for 2-1/2 hours after the rain, mostly on the north side of the Expressway, and there were no Entergy trucks to be seen. He was curious about the areas where the outages happened, there was no damage on the north side of the Expressway; and that was the reason he was shocked by the number of outages. The lack of response by Entergy on the north side of the Expressway. When speaking to Mr. D. J. Taylor, they were outages in Gretna, the Gretna City Hall building was out of electricity. He received calls from the businesses in the area, expressed he was perplexed, if the city had that many outages, where was the response; and it seemed to his constituents, wanted to know. The time from the event to restoration; which he tried explaining the difference of response and restoration. They were four fuses out that controlled City Hall, the restaurants on Huey P. Long Avenue; but it took 7 seven hours to replace the four fuses. He pointed out that Entergy should be cautious, when saying the restoration or the response was going to be midnight; and Entergy customers need to know the truth. He would like to know, when he gets the response, he will call the network, and he would like to know who, is the network. In times of such weather events, they have to be somebody, boots on the ground they have to be someone that I or a resident can look at and get answers to questions.

-Miss Bourg explained that just because you do not see somebody working at your location, does not mean that there were not things happening; because they likely could have been other issues upstream of that where that could not have been apparent to the customer. how Entergy executes restoration; it first looks for the critical customers; and certainly, City Hall was impacted and was first on the list as they were working with the network peers to effect restoration. Other things Entergy considers, is the backbone of the system; so, if you have down wires and poles outside of their substation, which will mean that everybody beyond cannot received electricity until the upstream problems are handled. As the morning hours went on, there were still assessments for damage, as restoration was happening. Entergy appreciates the patience of their customers. As it relates to the network, those are the gals and guys that do the work, and they are the true heroes of the restoration event; and they served the entirety Westbank of Jefferson Parish.

-Councilman Rau said he rode the south side of the city reporting that he did not see that many power outages Gretna, could there have been a possibility that Entergy statistics were from Gretna, LA 70056, and not 70053. – **Miss Bourg** said the outages entailed 70053, 70054 and 70056 zip code areas. It was difficult for him to believe that the City of Gretna had 40% of the outages.

-Councilman Miller said he received a few phone calls; received call of a broken pole on Elm Street and Creagan Avenue; the rear of Bellevue out; front of Mason Street was out. Councilman Miller believed he was well versed in determining whether or not is something that is feeding off from down line and needs to be repaired or it is mobilized issue. He believed that perception becomes a problem because, the back was a smaller fix, the pole was a bigger fix; and the front had another fix, this becomes confusing to the public when you return and fix this portion of the neighborhood and leave one block away; this causes confusion and frustration to the residents. Entergy could be more informational so that it can be relay and inform when residents have concerns.

- **Miss Bourg** informed that Entergy also has the online Blue Outage Map, which is detailed information.

-Councilman Miller questioned Mr. Taylor on the pole situation on 34th Street and Cypress Street, because it was of concern and needs to be addressed, what was the update on that situation. – **Mr. Taylor** said they will be addressing that situation next week. The network has scheduled the installation of the pole. He is to update Councilman Miller on the details of that pole. – Councilman Miller requested he be updated on the date of the repair, so the residents know the area needs to be cleared of any obstruction.

- Miss Bourg continued to report that in April of 2024, Entergy-Louisiana was approved to move forward with Phase One of Resiliency Program.

Grid Resilience Program in Jefferson Parish

\$233 million investment to strengthen nearly 200 miles of power lines across the parish.

Overview:

Entergy Louisiana representatives and local officials celebrated the start of Entergy Louisiana's comprehensive grid resilience plan in Jefferson Parish with ribbon cutting ceremony, marking a critical step toward enhancing the electric grid's resilience supporting a stronger Gulf Coast economy.

Key Highlights

Invest in infrastructure: Entergy Louisiana was investing 233 million dollars over five years to strengthen nearly 200 miles of power lines in Jefferson Parish, upgrading approximately 7,400 distribution poles to withstand of up to 140 mph.

Impact on Local Economy: This initiative will support the Gulf Coast's \$2.4 billion dollars seafood industry, as well as other economic growth, including \$262 billion dollars in Gulf Coast energy investments.

Jobs and Partnerships: United Utility Services and Ampirical Solutions have been contracted to complete these essential upgrades.

Grid Resilience Program Details:

Comprehensive Planning: Using a data-driven approach, Entergy-Louisiana evaluated thousands of potential storm scenarios to identify priority projects.

Economic Benefits: The program is expected to avoid \$1.2 billion dollars in future storm restoration costs, improve daily reliability, and reduce post-storm outages for faster recovery.

Scope of Work: Over 2,100 projects will reinforce approximately 69,000 distribution and transmission structures across the state. (Source: Entergy-Louisiana)

Miss Bourg informed that Entergy-Louisiana was celebrating its 100th years birthday by being a proud partner to the communities it serves in the State of Louisiana; and recognizing that they want to be here for another 100th years, or plus to come.

Smoke Detectors; David Crockett Steam Fire Company No. 1.

Mr. Tim Rhoto, Fire Prevention Officer the city with the David Crockett Steam Fire Company No. 1; for the City addressed the Mayor and Council Members informing of the partnership with the Louisiana State Fire Marshal Office; David Crockett Steam Fire Company No. 1, and Councilman Rudy Smith were offering a free smoke detector installation program, which was offered by the state; but were actively working with the program locally; informed they had an estimate of 100 smoke detectors in the office.

Household eligibility: Must live in the 70053, zip code area; Single-Family homes, NO apartments. For more information, please call (504) 263-2122; installation is free of charge.

Councilman Smith said that Tim Rhoto and he have been working for the last couple of months to resurrect the Smoke Detector Program, at the local level. They have been fortunate to have the help of Miss Summer Cook, Tourism, help to put the program together; notices have been sent out and hopefully get some response. It was a good program; installation of the smoke alarms was free; talk to residents about fire safety. Hope to get feedback.



D. Council District Monthly Report.

Councilman Rau – Councilman at Large – Councilman Rau congratulated everyone for the good in the handling the May 7, rainstorm; there was five inches of rain, which was impossible for the pumps to handle that amount of water in such short time. He reported high water in various parts of the city; he also questioned the impact of the Blenk property being cleared, and the drainage taken out; and it could be overloading the drains nearby. The city would need to evaluate the causes of the overloading.

Councilman Smith, District 1 – Councilman Smith informed on the ground-breaking of the Burmaster Transfer Station; it would be 90 to 120-days; it would be good for the residents; and was looking forward to.

Councilman Hinyub, District 2 – Council Hinyub congratulated Miss Danika Gorrondona and the CRS team on the Class 5 rating from FEMA; they worked hard at it. It showed that this administration works hard at taking care of the city, which ultimately resulted in direct savings on the flood insurance. The rating was important because it transfers or relates to savings on the flood insurance. It was a labor of love of the Gretna CRS team; thank you Mayor Constant for participating. The May Fest event scheduled for last Saturday, has been rescheduled for this Saturday, May 17, 2025, on Huey P. Long Avenue from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

Councilman Miller, District 3. – Councilman Miller reminded all about the Gretna Observatory, open Monday and Wednesday nights, weather permitting. The Observatory has had good crowds from 25 to plus people visiting per night. Mr. Thomas Alvarado has been doing a fabulous job at the Observatory. Thanked our State Representative Vincent Cox for his assistance and hard work in securing funding for street repairs throughout the district, happening within the next few weeks. Thanked Representative Cox again in helping the city achieve its goals.

Councilman Carr, District 4 – Councilman Carr reported that successful fundraisers were held at Timberlane Golf & Recreation. The Gretna Green Tournament and Les Dudes tournament, both raised money for worthwhile charities. This showed that TGR and Café Hope were back as a venue for the city. -Councilman Carr plans to meet this month with Garden Park residents concerning the recent street flooding to collect information.

Mayor Constant – Mayor Constant invited everyone to come and celebrate our outgoing chief of police Arthur Lawson out Saturday, May 17, 2025, between 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. There were so many good things to say about Chief Lawson and his 50 years of service; therefore, we need to celebrate his 50 years of service.

-Mayor Constant informed on the First Tee Summer Program at Mel Ott Park; will have two weeks for children to register for the program, please visit www.firsttee.org. The Hometown Heroes Program benefiting the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW, which are the banners hanging on the historic lights of Huey P. Long Avenue, representing heroes that have served in the service; and family members who have served in many capacities. Call Ms. Dodie Rackley at (504) 343-3661, to sign up for that program.

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12. Citizen Addressing the Mayor and City Council:

Mr. Chris Trosclair a Gretna resident addressed the Mayor and City Council addressing issues with their internet and WIFI with AT&T; which have magnified with the May 7th storm. When AT&T finally came out, the technicians spent 12 hours at their house trying to fix the problem. The technician refused to climb any of the poles behind their home, by the railroad, because six of the poles were in bad condition. Nobody seemed to know who was responsible for those poles. The technician laid their line through the ditch behind their house; and was afraid of what would be the outcome with the next rainfall; and also, when grass spraying, cleaning and cutting the grass begins it could be precarious; and just wanted the city to be aware of that line in the ditch. No date was given on the repair of the bad poles or to properly get their line professionally installed; the poles on the right of way behind their property along the ditch; they were also tree issues along that line.

Mr. Trosclair also thanked the Mayor and City Council for the demolition of the building (motel); when will it be completed? -Miss Amelia Pellegrin replied that it could be by the end of July 2025.

– **Mayor Constant** said that Entergy’s collaboration on the Troxclair’s situation will be appreciated.

-Miss Bourg informed that approximately 20% of the poles serving infrastructures are owned by other parties and 80% are owned by Entergy-Louisiana. The ownership can be determined by a birthmark or a seal of the poles where you delineate the ownership of the pole. For everyone’s knowledge, every pole was not owned by Entergy; which is process Entergy has to work through with other utilities who are attached to their poles or Entergy was attached to their poles; and this does provide some complication, but it does serve the public good. There was a need to get that cable line out of the ditch. – Mayor Constant said Mr. Trosclair should meet with Councilman Carr for the coordination with AT&T and Entergy.

-Councilman Smith questioned who was actually responsible for disconnected and loose and hanging wires. Future discussion on that situation to be had.

-Mayor Constant said that was a discussion to be had with AT&T and other utility companies; sometimes Cox Cable; the city needs to coordinate with them by having them come to a meeting so that they can provide answer to the poles’ situation. -Mayor Constant thanked Miss Bourg and appreciated her collaboration for helping the Trosclair Family.

Mr. Sam Schmidt, a Gretna citizen addressed the Mayor and City Council to present or offer solutions to the flooding. Mr. Schmidt directed his attention to Entergy representatives on the neglected poles and the repair of same; streetlights; hanging wires, etc. He pointed out and questioned the drainage in the vicinity of the Westside Shopping Center complex, addressing the canal on Stumpf Blvd., that canal overflows fast, because the water does not drain through the concrete. Mr. Schmidt pointed out various sites that flood in the vicinity of his district; he said his street (Porter Street) never floods, but in the last three or four years, his street has flooded; but the city does not have the funds to redo drainage; he wondered if trucks needed to be scheduled. -Mr. Schmidt questioned Mr. David Boyd on the timeframe and status of the 25th Street canal.

Mayor Constant said that the 25th Street Canal needed to be 100% financed.

13. Other Matters: NONE

14. Meeting Adjournment.

There was no further city business to conduct, and on a motion by **Councilman Rau** and seconded by **Councilman Smith**, the Wednesday, May 14, 2025, Council Regular meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM; and the same was unanimously approved.

/S/ NORMA J. CRUZ, LCMC
CITY CLERK
CITY OF GRETNA
STATE OF LOUISIANA

/S/ BELINDA C. CONSTANT
MAYOR
CITY OF GRETNA
STATE OF LOUISIANA

A TRUE COPY:

/S/ NORMA J. CRUZ, LCMC
CITY CLERK
CITY OF GRETNA
STATE OF LOUISIANA