

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session  
April 14, 2020  
6:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers-City Hall  
MINUTES

There was a legal and regular session of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Louisiana held this date, April 14, 2020 at the Council's regular meeting place, 400 Lea Joyner Memorial Expressway, City Council Chambers/City Hall Building, Monroe, Louisiana.

The Honorable Juanita G. Woods, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order.

The roll call was done by the Council Clerk, Ms. Riley.

Council members present for roll call: Mrs. Gretchen Ezernack, Ms. Juanita Woods, Mr. Douglas Harvey, Mr. Kenneth Wilson, (Attorney Eddie Clark was present via teleconference)

Council member(s) absent: NONE.

Chairwoman Woods declared a quorum.

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Councilman Wilson.

Ms. Woods asked prayers for all impacted by the storms on Easter Sunday. She thanked everyone for all of the alerts that the community received and asked prayers for all who suffered damages. She asked that the citizens take precautions and not cross the downed wires; she thanked all of the organizations that have offered services to those who were impacted by the storms and for those impacted to call 211. She said Covid 19 is very real and people are dying and for social distancing to continue and if not there will be a spike.

Mr. Harvey thanked Mayor Mayo and the response during the pandemic, first responders, public works; he said in times like this it's good to see people coming together and that's something that's needed. He encouraged those who are impacted to use 211.

Mrs. Ezernack offered her thanks to the first responders and public works for all their help with the storms and the Covid 19. She offered her prayers to those affected by Covid 19 and to continue the social distancing. She asked if anyone has suffered damage to report it to 211.

Mr. Wilson thanked all of the organizations that have offered assistance to the victims; he thanked the Mayor for his concern and Councilman Harvey for all of his work, as he was in his District 3; he asked that everyone would stay home unless you have an emergency; He will be providing 100 masks on a first come basis and hopefully have more masks to come. He thanked Chairwoman Woods for her work during this time. He asked that the citizens stay away from downed power lines.

Mr. Clark thanked everyone on the front lines who have worked for the pandemic; He asked that everyone would pray for the world and is encouraged knowing that the problems don't come to stay, but they will pass; this is an opportunity to regroup; prayers for those who have lost loved ones, lost jobs, and lost homes after the tornadoes. He thanked his colleagues for their work in coordinating with the officials to assist the community.

Mayor Mayo stated that Ouachita Parish city was currently under three emergency declarations, the rising water, the Covid 19 and the tornado; He asked prayers for those who lost their homes during the tornado; he has communicated with officials and also Governor Edwards was in town to assess damages. He thanked the employees for the great jobs being done. He thanked the local jurisdictions for working together. He will be giving regular updates, including series of press conferences regarding the power outages, etc. He has been receiving calls from all over from those offering help; Entergy power outages are at a total of 4,000 and 3,800 was in Monroe. Entergy brought in over 100 crew members and 50 trucks to assist in the massive effort.

Ms. Woods thanked the Mayor, Chief of Police and Fire Chief for the phenomenal jobs they are doing.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack to suspend the citizen's participation segment due to the stay at home order and until it has been lifted by Governor Edwards and the pandemic is over, a second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved. (There were no public comments).

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Upon a motion of Mrs. Ezernack and a second by Mr. Wilson, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of March 24, 2020 were unanimously approved. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey commented that his vote on the introduction of the budget was Nay. The minutes were changed to reflect his vote on the budget.

PRESENTATION:  
NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:  
NONE.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS:  
Public Comment:  
NONE.

ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS:  
Public Comment

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Accept the bid of Ferrara Fire Apparatus for Fire Hoses Ref#2020-00000040 for the Monroe Fire Department as recommended by the Director of Administration for meeting the specifications of this bid. The Vendor responses meet the specifications of this bid. The funds will be derived from the Fire Department Supply Account. The Tax and Revenue Division has confirmed that this bidder is Tax compliant. (There were no public comments.)

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Accept the bids of Central Poly Bag and Economical Janitorial Products for Janitorial Paper Supply Ref#2020-00000038 for the Purchasing Department as recommended by the Director of Administration for meeting the specifications of this bid. The Vendors responses meet the specifications of this bid. The funds will be derived from the Inventory Account and billed to the divisions accordingly. The Tax and Revenue Division has confirmed that this bidder is Tax compliant. (There were no public comments.)

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Accept the bid of Quill Corporation for Computer Paper & Stock Forms Ref#2020-00000037 for the Purchasing Department as recommended by the Director of Administration for meeting the specifications of this bid. The Vendor responses meet the specifications of this bid. The funds will be derived from the Inventory Account and billed to the divisions accordingly. The Tax and Revenue Division has confirmed that this bidder is Tax compliant. (There were no public comments.)

(d) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Accept the bids of Harcross, Shannon Chemical, Allied Universal, Thatcher Chemical & C & L Aqua for Water Treatment Chemicals Ref#2020-00000039 for the Water Treatment Department of Public Works as recommended by the Director of Administration for meeting the specifications of this bid. The Vendor responses meet the specifications of this bid. The funds will be derived from the Water Treatment Supply Account and billed accordingly. The Tax and Revenue Division has confirmed that this bidder is Tax compliant. (There were no public comments.)

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTE ENTRIES:

Council: Public Comment: NONE.

Department of Administration:  
Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Consider an Application by Rydhan Investment Inc. (Al Dahal) dba Smokers's Express 3405 Desiard Street, Monroe, LA 71203 for a New 2020 Class B Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been Cleared, CO-Cleared, Distance Report Cleared. (There were no public comments.)

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Consider an Application by Lane & Ida Clark dba Junkyard Bar LLC, 110 Hall Street, Monroe, LA 71203 for a New 2020 Class A Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been Cleared, CO-Cleared, Distance Report Cleared. (There were no public comments.)

Department of Planning & Urban Development:

Public Comment:

NONE.

Legal Department:

Public Comment:

NONE.

Mayor's Office:

Public Comment:

NONE.

Department of Public Works:

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7689, authorizing the renewal of a Fuel Permit with respect to sale and/or storage of gasoline or other fuel at the Monroe Regional Airport to Avflight Monroe Corporation, which permit will be for a period of twelve months and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Comments: Mr. Harvey commented moving forward that the process would be reviewed as it relates to the permit expiring. Mrs. Sturdivant said she spoke with Mr. Phillips and also checked as to when the permit expired, all fees have been paid even when expired and will look at process. Mr. Wilson thanked Mrs. Sturdivant for the information regarding the fees.

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7690, authorizing James Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute Task Order #2 (minimum standards) between the City of Monroe and Kutchins and Groh L.L.C., for the Monroe Regional Airport, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Department of Community Affairs:

Public Comment:

NONE.

Police Department:

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Consider request from the Monroe Police Department for Council Approval to advertise for bids for Gun Fire Detection and Positioning Software and Hardware. The funds for this will come from the MPD Police Capital Account. The current balance in this account is \$668,206.00. (There were no public comments.)

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack said this would be helpful and there are several vendors providing this type of service. Ms. Woods commented glad to see on the agenda, as it works in other places. Mr. Wilson said this is needed and the citizens will be pleased once in place.

Fire Department:

Public Comment:

NONE.

Engineering Services:

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7691, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Change Order No. Five (5) to the proposed Booster Station Contract, between the City of Monroe and Dixie Overland Construction, LLC, for an increase in the contract time of 90 days and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7692, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Change Order No. Two (2) to the WTP Handrail Improvement Contract, between the City of Monroe and Dixie Overland Construction, LLC for an increase in the contract time of 66 days and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7693, authorizing posting of weight limit recommendation for the cross drainage structure under Deborah Drive at Jefferson Davis Drive, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Comments: Mr. Harvey thanked Mr. Janway for identifying the work that's needed to be done.

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to remove from the agenda to Adopt a Resolution authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a contract with Dumas & Associates, Inc., to provide Professional Surveying Services related to two city bridge projects in the LaDotd Off System Bridge Program and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

BREAK IF NEEDED:

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Public Comment:

NONE.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND FINAL ADOPTION AND SUBJECT TO PUBLIC HEARING:

Open Public Hearing/Public Comment/Close Hearing: Chairwoman Woods declared the Public Hearing open, and seeing no one come forward, the hearing was declared closed.

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 11,987, authorizing an Equipment Lease Agreement with De Lage Landen Public Finance LLC for VMware computer servers and datacenter switches for the IT Division and further providing with respect thereto. (MIS) (There were no public comments.)

Open Public Hearing/Public Comment/Close Hearing: Chairwoman Woods declared the Public Hearing open, and seeing no one come forward, the hearing was declared closed.

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods; Voting YES: Woods, Ezernack, Wilson, Clark; Voting NAY: Harvey; and approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 11,988 adopting a Budget of Revenues and providing for an estimate of items and expenditures for the fiscal year 2020-2021. (Admin.) (There were no public comments.)

Comments: Mr. Clark asked if the Council's discretionary funds were still available; Ms. Woods said yes, they were. Mr. Harvey asked if there were any house control measures being considered relative to sales taxes being impacted. Mrs. Rowell said they would be watching numbers and would give them some gauge and at some point, they will have some things that will be put in place and that would go into effect on May 1; but will wait and come back with a first quarter budget amendment. Mr. Harvey asked if anything had been defined at this stage; Ms. Rowell said they have talked about hiring freezes, over-time reductions, only essential purchases at this point and they are effective now.

Open Public Hearing/Public Comment/Close Hearing: Chairwoman Woods declared the Public Hearing open, and seeing no one come forward, the hearing was declared closed.

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 11,989, adopting a Capital Improvements Program for the City of Monroe and providing for a detailed statement of the contents for a five (5) year period from May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2025. (Admin.) (There were no public comments.)

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 11,990, declaring that the COVID-19 Pandemic is an Emergency necessitating the immediate waiver of bus fares and further providing with respect thereto. (Transit) (There were no public comments.)

Comments: Mr. Clark asked if there was a timetable period for the waiver of the fees; Mrs. Sturdivant said they would temporarily waive bus fares until Governor Edwards declares the state of emergency has ended upon which time the normal bus fares will be collected. Mr. Clark asked if something would need to be placed back on the agenda implementing the fees back in place or will it automatically start back. Ms. Woods said it was in the Ordinance, as it is included already in the Ordinance. Mr. Harvey asked if the routes were being changed. Mr. Keenan said, no they weren't and explained the overflow of passengers beyond the ten. Mr. Harvey asked how the attendance of the riders was; Mr. Keenan said due to the pandemic their ridership was down by sixty percent.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: NONE.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m., upon a motion of Mr. Harvey and seconded by Mr. Wilson. (There were no public comments).

Ms. Juanita G. Woods  
Council Chairwoman

Ms. Carolus S. Riley  
Council Clerk

Ms. Jacqueline Benjamin  
Council Secretary

**\*For extended details on the Council meeting please call the Council Clerk, Monday-Friday at 329-2252; also, a recording of the minutes can be sent via email to you.**