

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session
December 8, 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, December 8, 2020 at the Council's regular meeting place, 400 Lea Joyner Memorial Expressway, City Council Chambers/City Hall Building, Monroe, Louisiana.

The Honorable Carday Marshall Sr., Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order.

The roll call was done by Council Clerk, Carolus Riley.

Council members present for roll call: Mrs. Gretchen Ezernack, Mr. Carday Marshall Sr., Mrs. Kema Dawson.

Council member(s) absent: Mr. Douglas Harvey, Ms. Juanita Woods.

Vice-Chairman Marshall declared a quorum.

The Invocation was led by Mrs. Dawson's designee, Rev. Vance Price, Pastor, New St. James Baptist Church; Mrs. Dawson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Mrs. Ezernack welcomed each one present, thanked them for their attendance and thanked Rev. Price for the invocation. She asked prayers for Mr. Harvey and Ms. Woods during their absence.

4. Mrs. Dawson thanked everyone for joining the Council meeting and thanked Rev. Price for the invocation; she asked prayers for a speedy recovery for Mr. Harvey and Ms. Woods. Mrs. Dawson announced a Christmas Bike Driven in conjunction with Councilman Marshall; she asked that those who would make contributions or donate a bicycle for children that are in need. All bicycle donations can be taken to the Monroe Convention Center on Tuesday, December 15, between the hours of 9am-3pm.

5. Mayor Ellis thanked everyone for their attendance. He asked that everyone would be considerate and mindful to be safe and to help mitigate the spread of Covid. He thanked the City employees for their efforts during this time. He acknowledged the community for assisting a family that lost a lot; the community donated food, shelter to this family.

3. Mr. Marshall thanked everyone for being present; he encouraged everyone to be cautious and courteous as it relates to Covid. He asked prayers for Mr. Harvey and Ms. Woods. He announced the bike drive on December 15th, and also a toy drive being sponsored by Marie Brown, 1002 South 5th Street and donations for her drive can be dropped off; there is a toy drive by Damian Harris; he asked that citizens would shop local with businesses here in town. He acknowledged the homegoing of local musician, Michael Jackson and asked prayers for his family.

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

PRESENTATION: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS: Public Comment:

1. 806 Wilson Street (D5) (Owner - Claude Whitfield) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or January 9, 2021, in which to bring the structure into compliance with the code or demolish the structure and clean the lot. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Pictorial evidence of the current state of the property was shown by Code Enforcement, Catherine Robinson and discussion on the property's condition was made.

2. 108 Pershing Place (D4) (Owner - Courtney Ingram, OPPJ) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or January 9, 2021, in which to bring the structure into compliance with the code or demolish the structure and clean the lot. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Pictorial evidence of the current state of the property was shown by Code Enforcement, Catherine Robinson and discussion on the property's condition was made.

3. 605 South 3rd Street (D4) (Owner - Antonio Garcia) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or January 9, 2021, in which to bring the structure into compliance with the code or demolish the structure and clean the lot. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Pictorial evidence of the current state of the property was shown by Code Enforcement, Catherine Robinson and discussion on the property's condition was made.

4. 4201 S. Grand Street (D4) (Owner - Karlin Richardson) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to pass over agenda item until the next Council meeting.

Comments: Pictorial evidence of the current state of the property was shown by Code Enforcement, Catherine Robinson and discussion on the property's condition was made.

1. Damian Coleman, spoke regarding the use for the building
2. Lasandra Jones, spoke regarding the future use for the building.
3. Marie Brown, spoke in favor of restoring the building.

ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS: Public Comment None.

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTE ENTRIES:

Council: Public Comment: None.

Department of Administration: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Consider twelve (12) Renewal Applications for a New 2021 Class A Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been approved. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Consider eleven (11) Renewal Applications for a New 2021 Class B Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been approved. (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Consider one (1) Renewal Applications for a New 2021 Class C Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been approved. (There were no public comments).

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Consider one (1) Renewal Applications for a New 2021 Class G Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been approved. (There were no public comments).

Department of Planning & Urban Development: Public Comment: None.

Legal Department: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7864, stating the City of Monroe's endorsement of Michael Echols Enterprises and their Project #20200311 to participate in the benefits of the Louisiana Restoration Tax Abatement Program. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Dawson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7865, stating the City of Monroe's endorsement of Monroe Development, LLC and their Project #20141429 to Continue their Participation in the benefits of the Louisiana Restoration Tax Abatement Program. (There were no public comments).

Mayor's Office: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7866, approving the appointment of Lee Denny to the Board for Downtown Economic Development District (DEDD) and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7867, approving the appointment of Simran Dhaliwal Emaus to the Board for Downtown Economic Development District (DEDD) and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Department of Public Works: Public Comment: None.

Department of Community Affairs: Public Comment:

ADD-ON: Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to Adopt a Resolution authorizing a designated city representative to execute Change Order No. 1 (Masur of Art Storm Damage Repairs) between the City of Monroe and Grindstone Construction LLC for an increase in the contract time for an additional 120 days and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7868, authorizing a designated city representative to execute Change Order No. 1 (Masur of Art Storm Damage Repairs) between the City of Monroe and Grindstone Construction LLC for an increase in the contract time for an additional 120 days and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Police Department: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7869, authorizing Mayor Friday Ellis to sign and accept a Louisiana Highway Safety Enforcement Commission Grant and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Fire Department: Public Comment: None.

Engineering Services: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7870, authorizing an authorized city representative, to enter into an agreement for negotiations, title work and right-of-way acquisition and/or relocation, with Smith R/W Specialist, LLC for services related to the Kansas-Garrett Road Connector & I-20 Interchange S.P.N. H.007300 Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

BREAK IF NEEDED:

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance amending Service Category IX, FBO Land and Facilities Requirement, Section 2(c) of the 2014 Minimum Standards for Commercial Aeronautical Activities of the Monroe Regional Airport and further providing with respect thereto. (Public Wks.) (There were no public comments).

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

Open Public Hearing/Public Comment/Close Hearing: Vice-Chairman Marshall opened the public hearing and seeing no one come forward, the hearing was closed.

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 12,029, authorizing the City of Monroe to take corporeal possession of the property described below and sell to Laguarde Holding LLC all rights, title and interest that the City may have acquired to the lot in Lot 1, sq. "C" of Jackson's Land Company's Addition, Ouachita Parish, District 4, Monroe, La, by Adjudication at Tax Sale dated June 24, 2015, and further with respect thereto. (Legal) (There were no public comments).

Open Public Hearing/Public Comment/Close Hearing: Vice-Chairman Marshall opened the public hearing and seeing no one come forward, the hearing was closed.

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Dawson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 12,030, revoking a 75' wide section of Pear Street from the Levee west approximately 185' to its terminus at the Ouachita River and further providing with respect thereto. (P&Z) (There were no public comments).

Open Public Hearing/Public Comment/Close Hearing: Vice-Chairman Marshall opened the public hearing:
Comments: Ms. Marie Brown asked for clarity on the item; Ms. Joanne Poret explained the amended Ordinance. Seeing no one else come forward, the hearing was closed.

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Dawson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 12,031, amendment to Chapter 37, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Monroe, Article V, Site Development Standards, Section 37-78 Supplemental Height, Yard, and Open Space Regulation (c) Architectural Projections into Required Yards (3) to clarify the circumstances that carports and patio covers may occupy required yards. (P&Z) (There were no public comments).

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session
December 8, 2020
6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers-City Hall
MINUTES

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION:

1. Curtis Garth, citizen, spoke regarding his concerns about law enforcement.
2. Marie Brown, citizen, spoke regarding her community concerns and law enforcement; she thanked Council for announcing her toy drive on December 19th.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m., upon a motion of Mrs. Ezernack and seconded by Mrs. Dawson. (There were no public comments).

Mr. Carday Marshall, Sr.
Vice-Chairman

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.**