

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session
February 25, 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, February 25, 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.

Ms. Woods welcomed each one present tonight and wished everyone a Happy Mardi Gras. She asked that everyone to refrain from conversations due to the acoustics in the chamber because conversations can be heard up front. Chairwoman Woods announced for the sake of time during the meetings and going forward with the council meetings, asked that citizens who come forward to speak for or against an item would be able to do so, but it is not a time to drill down and ask a lot of questions; she said they want the citizens to have the information, but would like for you to refer to the individuals that are in charge who can answer the questions and she can be in the loop; she said the agenda and agenda packet information with all of the details are available prior to all meetings on the city's website for all to read.

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.

Council members absent: Attorney Eddie Clark.

Chairwoman Woods declared a quorum.

The Invocation was led by Tom Janway, Public Works Director and the Pledge of Allegiance by Mrs. Ezernack.

COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Mr. Harvey welcomed all present including District One constituents; he commented that he has received calls from constituents, particularly a coffee shop owner, regarding the smell in the water and understands work is getting ready to be done to add chemical and the purchasing of new equipment; he asked for an update regarding the water concerns.
2. Mrs. Ezernack welcomed each one present.
3. Mr. Wilson welcomed each one present.
4. Mayor Mayo welcomed each one present; he made a presentation to a parent, Mrs. Monica Goldsmith for her contributions as a parent and a foster parent to seven children. She was selected as the Adoptive Parent of the Year in 2018, by the Department of Children and Family Services.
5. Ms. Woods yielded his time to Mr. Tipps Taylor, the area coordinator for the 2020 US Census. Mr. Tipps explained the importance of the Census and acknowledged the great work being done by the City of Monroe concerning the 2020 Census.

Upon a motion of Mr. Wilson and a second by Mrs. Ezernack, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of February 11, 2020 were unanimously approved. (There were no public comments).

PRESENTATION: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS: Public Comment:

1. 1506 South 5th Street (D4) (Owners - Nebraska Realty, OPPJ, Anita Dangerfield) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or March 25, 2020, in which to bring the structure into compliance with the code or demolish the structure and clean the lot.

Comments: Mrs. Robinson, Code Enforcement provided and explained pictorial evidence of the structure.

Ms. Anita Dangerfield explained why she thought the property wasn't her property due to not having a deed; the city attorney said she was listed as the owner; Ms. Robinson commented that Ms. Dangerfield had ownership and then the property was adjudicated in 2017 with OPPJ and Nebraska Realty.

2. 824 Beverly Street (D5) (Owner - Reginald W Howard) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or March 25, 2020, 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: Mrs. Robinson, Code Enforcement provided and explained pictorial evidence of the structure.

ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS: Public Comment None.

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTE ENTRIES:

1. Council: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7656, granting an exception to the Open Container Ordinance to the Twin City Art Foundation (Off the Wall) at Masur Museum of Art pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7657, granting an exception to the Open Container Ordinance to the Twin City Art Foundation (Exhibition Reception: 57th Annual Juried Competition at the Masur Museum of Art) pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7658, granting an exception to the Open Container Ordinance to 2 Dudes Brew & Cue (Downtown Block Party) pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack asked if the resolution would be subject to receiving the corrected updated insurance policy with the limits the city has enforced.

(d) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7659, granting an exception to the Open Container Ordinance to the Downtown Monroe Alliance (Downtown River Jam) pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (Bry Park) (There were no public comments).

(e) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7660, granting an exception to the Open Container Ordinance to the Downtown Monroe Alliance (DoMo Beer & Wine Crawl) pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey asked if the resolution would be amended pending the updated insurance policy. Mrs. Ezernack asked if the resolution would be subject to receiving the corrected updated insurance policy with the proper dates. Initial motions withdrawn and resolution amended.

(f) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7661, granting an exception to the Open Container Ordinance to the Downtown Monroe Alliance (Downtown River Jam) pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (Desiard) (There were no public comments).

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Comments: Mr. Harvey asked if the resolution would be amended pending the updated insurance policy. Resolution amended to reflect necessary updated insurance policy.

Department of Administration: Public Comment: None.

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

Legal Department: Public Comment: None.

Mayor's Office: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7662, authorizing the acceptance of a Donation of a Monument Honoring Joe Delaney from Marvin Dearman and further providing with respect thereto.

Comments: Mr. Marvin Dearman spoke regarding his donation of a monument that would honor the late Mr. Joe Delaney.

Department of Public Works: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7663, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to piggyback off of the City of Alexandria for the purchase of two new Ford F-750 Regular Cab Dump Trucks by and between the City of Monroe and St. Martin Parish Acquisitions, LLC dba Courtesy Ford in the amount of \$87,608.00 each and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey commented that one of the funding mechanisms, water distribution for the purchase had been exhausted during this time period and asked what would be done in that situation. Mr. Janway said they had enough funds in the capital account to cover the purchase. The street department is funded from the CIC and there are funds.

Department of Community Affairs: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7664, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Change Order Number 2, between the City of Monroe and RDR Construction LLC, for an increase in the contract amount of \$15,000.00 and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Johnson explained the miscalculations and the scope of the project. The increased amount would reflect the changes that were necessary.

Police Department: Public Comment: None.

Fire Department: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7665, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor on behalf of the Monroe Fire Department to execute Construction Change Directive No. One (1) to the Breard/Betin St. Fire Station #5 Contract. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey inquired if a site analysis was done for this project with there being a big change order at the start of the project. Chief Williams passed out additional information to Council and explained the issues regarding the project that included the soil testing that was done. The change directive included additional dirt for the project. The DBE participation is fifteen percent.

Engineering Services: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7666, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Change Order No. Fifteen (15) to the north area Sewer System Improvements Basin MR-27(a)30/31 Rehabilitation Contract, between the City of Monroe and Jabar Corporation, for an increase in the contractor amount of \$28,548.60 and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Ms. Woods noted the typo error and to correct it as being change order no. fifteen. Mrs. Ezernack thanked Engineering for the work done on getting the project issue corrected. Mr. Harvey asked the difference between this item and item D; Ms. Golden said both items were the same and explained the emergency ordinance procedure as both are covering the same work.

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7667, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for State Project No. H.013937 Kansas Lane Extension Clearing & Grubbing Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack asked for the difference; Ms. Golden explained the agreement and the disbursements of money by DOTD and are changing it to reimbursement where can pay vendors first and then get reimbursed.

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7668, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute a Right of Way Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company for the State Project No. H.011895 City of Monroe Guardrail Installation Project, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey asked what was being paid; Ms. Golden said it was the permit fee to the railroad to be able to put the city guardrail in their right of way.

(d) Add-On: Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to Adopt a Resolution authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute supplemental agreement No. 1 to the contract with Denmon Engineering for the North Area Sewer Projects (Dec 09-11-01 & -02), to provide professional engineering evaluation services for the Texas & Standifer gravity sewer line project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7669, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute supplemental agreement No. 1 to the contract with Denmon Engineering for the North Area Sewer Projects (Dec 09-11-01 & -02), to provide professional engineering evaluation services for the Texas & Standifer gravity sewer line project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Mr. Harvey asked what the supplemental agreement was in addition to; Ms. Golden said additional work was being added to the contract so that the vendor could be paid through the DEQ funds.

BREAK IF NEEDED:

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance authorizing the City of Monroe to take Corporeal Possession of the property described below and sell to Kenneth Lavall all rights, title and interest that the City may have acquired to Lot 31, Sq 2, Parlor City Resub, Sq. 26, Terminal Heights Addition, Ouachita Parish, 2906 Georgia St., District 4, Monroe, La, by Adjudication at Tax Sale dated July 1, 2013, and further with respect thereto. (Legal) (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:

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. Wilson and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 11,979, approving the Restatement of a Commercial Lease Agreement confirming multiple modifications and supplemental terms at the Monroe Regional Airport by and between the City of Monroe and Daveair, L.L.C. and, further providing with respect thereto. (Airport) (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 11,980, declaring the failure of the Bar Screen at the Texas Avenue Pump Station which provides sewer service to areas of north Monroe an Emergency necessitating immediate repair and or replacement and further providing with respect thereto. (Public Wks.) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey asked what was the repair work that required an emergency ordinance to repair it; Ms. Sturdivant explained why the public bid law allowed deviation from the bid law for emergencies. Mr. Westrom said the bar screen failed last week during the large rain; they are manually raking the screen to keep it clean and a bypass pump has been set up around the screen.

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 11,981, declaring the failure of the Electric Motor #4 at the Pine Street Storm Water Station an Emergency necessitating immediate repair and further providing with respect thereto. (Public Wks.) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey asked if this was an inline spared; Mr. Westrom said it was and has four points for normal operation and need to get the pump up and running as soon as possible. It's a motor repair and removed and contracted out to a motor shop for repair.

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 11,982, declaring the Sewer System Repairs discovered by Smoke Testing be an Emergency necessitating the immediate repairs and further providing with respect thereto. (Public Wks.) (There were no public comments).

Citizens Participation

1. Nick Farrar, citizen, commented regarding the public records request that he and Mr. Hakim made. He asked if Council would ask for an AG opinion regarding the request. Mrs. Sturdivant stated that she wouldn't comment on a pending litigation, and couldn't seek an AG opinion because by law they only had five days and the state's stature states what you would have to do; also sought to whether or not there was a conflict, and there is none; Ms. Woods said the Council was not in a position to make a decision one way or the other, but will get with Legal and have conversation to see what is the best avenue to take.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m., upon a motion of Mrs. Ezernack 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.**