

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session
January 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, January 14, 2020 at the Council's regular meeting place, 400 Lea Joyner Memorial Expressway, City Council Chambers/City Hall Building, Monroe, Louisiana.

Chairwoman Woods declared the Monroe City Council District One seat vacant due to Mr. Echols being sworn in today as State Representative District #14.

The Invocation was led by Ms. Yolonda Washington, Council's Internal Auditor and the Pledge of Allegiance by Mr. Wilson.

COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Mrs. Ezernack welcomed each one present and look forward to 2020; she congratulated Mr. Echols on being sworn in and thanked him for his service.
2. Mr. Wilson welcomed each one present; he congratulated City Attorney on her recent nuptials. He thanked the city workers for getting debris from ditches; there will be metal receptacles placed on Orange Street and throughout the district; he showed pics of trash and debris that could affect drainage and asked citizens for their help in alleviating the debris.
5. Mr. Clark welcomed each one present; he stated that he looked forward to serving for his remaining term.
6. Mayor Mayo announced the upcoming MLK celebration on tomorrow beginning at 11:30am-1pm, and awards will be presented including the MLK award. A meeting to be held at the public safety center, 5:30 p.m. -7:00pm for updates on flood projects. A meeting on January 27, at Macedonia Baptist Church, involving District 2 and 3 to talk about the issues of those districts. He asked that the Monroe Police Department detectives and investigators would come forward and introduce themselves. Councilmembers thanked them for their service. He stated he would be attending the US Conference of Mayors next week.

Ms. Woods commented regarding the rain and the administration giving warnings in case of flooding; she encouraged the citizen to clean out the ditches; she announced a new upcoming campaign in District 3

Upon a motion of Mr. Clark and a second by Mr. Wilson, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of December 23, 2019 were unanimously approved. (There were no public comments).

PRESENTATION: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS: Public Comment: NONE.

ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS: Public Comment: NONE.

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTE ENTRIES:

Council: Public Comment:

- (a) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7623, granting an exception to the Open Container Ordinance to the Twin Cities' Krewe of Janus (Mardi Gras Parade) pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Department of Administration: Public Comment:

- (a) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Consider an Application by Schulte Catering Pecanland LLC dba Courtyard Monroe, 4915 Pecanland Mall Drive, 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).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Consider an Application by Schulte Catering Pecanland LLC dba Residence Inn Monroe, 4960 Millhaven Road, 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).

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7624, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a Professional Services Agreement with Watson, McMillan & Street, LLP as per the attached agreement and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Clark asked the purpose and the rate; Ms. Baldwin explained it was to hire for collection of outstanding sales taxes and the rate is a contingency rate.

Department of Planning & Urban Development: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7625, reappointing Clara “Mossy” Sartor to the Heritage Preservation Commission of the City of Monroe, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Clark asked from which of the District was she being appointed from; Mrs. Ezernack said it was District 1.

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7626, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute a professional service agreement with Strategic Community Solutions of Louisiana, LLC. for professional services and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack asked for a brief synopsis; Ms. Hill said the consultant would be working with them to complete the 5 year HUD consolidated plan and they need help due to office staff being down to three or four office people and need help to gather data; Mr. Clark asked if they were down to 3 or 4 people due to administrative decisions or due to not finding talent; Ms. Hill said it was an administrative decision and doing it this way, they are saving money than someone doing it in house.

Legal Department: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7627, authorizing Mayor James E. Mayo to enter into an agreement with Louisiana Lobbying Solutions LLC for Governmental Relations and related Professional Services and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

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. 7628, authorizing Mayor James E. Mayo to accept and execute an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (La Dotd) for improvements at the Monroe Regional Airport for the Runway 14/32 Extension Phase III (Construction) and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7629, authorizing Mayor James E. Mayo to enter into a Service Agreement with Electric Motor Repair for the Public Works Department for jobs in the amount of \$4,999.99 or less on an as needed basis and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Ms. Woods asked for explanation of item; Ms. Baldwin said asking for Council approval to authorize; she explained the process that has been in place since 2004 wherein there would need to be three quotes, a purchase order approval and this would allow council to approve anything at \$5,000 or less for electric repairs; a one year agreement and renewal option. Mr. Westrom said it would take occur of repairs that happen late at night and to get things up and running quickly. Ms. Baldwin said it is a specialized item; Ms. Woods said it concerned her due to someone else having the skill set and not being able to do the job, because it has a renewable option. Mr. Westrom said to contract it and after one year to evaluate it. Mrs. Ezernack asked if this same thing was in place but at a lower price point adhering to what the policy was in 2004. Ms. Baldwin said he

retired. Mr. Westrom said they had an agreement with the same individual who was the low bidder last time and they are low bidder this time; had one for electric repair and one for machine work; provide immediate response time. Mr. Wilson voiced his concern about DBE's. Mr. Clark said he favors it without the automatic renewals and when it is re-evaluated after one year that it should be done in open forum with council being given information on it. Ms. Baldwin said they would remove the renewal option. Mr. Clark asked that motions would be amended to reflect that before there is any one year renewal or any renewal that it come back before the Council for Council approval. Initial motions were removed, and votes were taken on the amended motions by Mr. Clark.

Department of Community Affairs: Public Comment: NONE.

Police Department: Public Comment: NONE.

Fire Department: Public Comment: NONE.

Engineering Services: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7630, authorizing Mayor James E. Mayo to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Petroleum and Automation Consultants Inc. on an as needed basis and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Clark asked if a contract was currently in place; Ms. Golden said no, there is a similar one in place for asbestos testing; this is broader and will help with unique things about permitting and don't have this specialized knowledge on staff; Mr. Clark said he didn't like these types of professional service agreements where someone is picked and then it is voted on as opposed to going through the normal process; he said he looked up the company and they are domiciled is out of Vicksburg, however Mary and Dean Blackett lives at 109 Canterbury Road in Swartz; he wanted to know how did they come up with this company and where did they come from and asked for more about the company since it is not going out for bids. Ms. Golden said the agreement was not exclusive; it is an on call and as needed and the city currently has a contract with them for young's bayou, and the closing of the oxidation pond at the airport; they have worked with other departments in the city on different things. Mr. Clark asked the owner what the specialty area was because the City already has a contract with Denmon Engineering; Ms. Golden said the city has a general master services agreement with Denmon helps with sewer projects, SE Huey helps with water projects and Lazenby Associates helps with road projects and it helps for the availability and their expertise in an area; she said this company's expertise is in the environmental area and it fills a gap in the information and skills set in the department. Mr. Clark asked Mr. Blackett to explain how many people he employed, etc. Mr. Blackett stated he employs eight people and he certifies and trains in asbestos mold in different states and permits directly with DEQ, EPA and do a lot of consulting with townships and worked for Monroe many years and have worked to keep from having fines in the future; has been in business for 50 years. Mr. Clark stated that no one is disputing the level of expertise and how long been in business; he said it's coming before them tonight and they have questions, and it's a unilateral deal where the city is saying to go with this person as opposed to going out and getting bids and hearing from others; Mr. Clark stated if Mr. Blackett has already been doing it on an as needed basis and the language on the agenda states entering into a professional services agreement with the company on an as needed basis; he asked why was a master contract needed to say that they are being used on an as needed basis as opposed to just using them on an as needed basis. Ms. Golden said if she gave them impression that they were being called on an as needed basis, then she was wrong and he has worked with the city on various tasks pursuant to contracts; this contract allows the department when an area and he is called on a needed basis to what questions are needed to be asked, the scope of the matter discussed and then a written cost proposal from him and approved by the Mayor before work. Mr. Clark asked for the amount of money. Ms. Golden said it would be paid out as a line item from their budget or project funding. Mrs. Ezernack asked if he did environmental study projects for the private sector. Mr. Clark said it was more of a checks and balances, and don't like professional services agreements this long without there being some type of review process. Mr. Blackett said a lot of times it is on an emergency basis.

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7631, accepting the base bid of Traxler Construction Company in the amount of \$479,000.00 for the MTS Bus Wash Facility Project, and further authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a contract for said work.

Comments: Mr. Eugene Payne, citizen, asked for an explanation of the agenda item, almost a half million dollars for a project; Mr. Keenan said they have a car wash for cars and there is a bus wash that does same things and their wash was purchased in the 1990's and it has some wear and tear and part of it does not work, and do need to replace it. They are replacing the bus wash and separator, and this is \$479,000; there are 15 buses daily going through the car wash. The source of funds will come from 80 per cent from federal grants; Mr. Clark asked where the 20% would come from; Mr. Keenan said it would come from city funds. Mrs. Ezernack asked if the EPA check the types of water run offs and Mr. Keenan said yes, it's the reason for the old water separator. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Keenan if the current worked and he said part of it doesn't and parts are very expensive, and some can't get and have to handwash parts of the bus; Mr. Clark asked why were we not able to get parts and Mr. Keenan commented that it was made during that time period and his understanding is they don't make them anymore because they are obsolete and for the parts that you can get, they are expensive and then having to wait for them to be shipped and now it has to be replaced. Mr. Clark said his information is that it has to be replaced because it is in bad shape and asked how much transit has in its budget as of today. Ms. Rowell said she would have to look it up; Mr. Keenan said they had the 20% and Mr. Clark said he understands having the 20%, but wanted the amount that they have in the transit budget; she left to get the information; Mr. Janway said they are switching the electrical system and the old water separator was piped to the storm drain and the new will be piped to the sewer system; this company was the lowest bidder. Ms. Rowell left to get the amount and the next agenda item was acted on. Ms. Rowell stated that 20% of the \$479,000 would be \$95,800 and as of Monday morning, Transit had \$683, 279 left in their budget.

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7632, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Change Order No. Four (4) to the proposed Booster Station Contract, between the City of Monroe and Dixie Overland Construction, LLC, for an increase in the contract time of 34 days and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack asked if the delay was due to lane and weather delays to finish out parts of the project and no additional money; Mr. Holland said that was correct and it is operational now.

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson 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 Gresham Smith, to provide Professional Engineering Services for the Hawes and 10th & Willow Pump Stations Limited Rehabilitation Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: The city attorney explained the item is to be removed and to add the correct one; the agenda item currently listed states that it is to provide professional engineering services for the Hawes and 10th & Willow Pump Stations Limited Rehabilitation Project, and the corrected resolution should be for the stormwater station backup pumping evaluations at two sites project.

To Add: Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson 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 Gresham Smith, to provide Professional Engineering Services for the Stormwater Station backup pumping evaluations at two sites project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7633, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a contract with Gresham Smith, to provide Professional Engineering Services for the Stormwater Station backup pumping evaluations at two sites project 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: NONE.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: NONE.

1. Eugene Payne, citizen, he congratulated Mr. Echols on being State Representative; he thanked Mr. Wilson and Mr. Clark for their service.

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

2. Gene Tarver, citizen, spoke regarding last council meeting's presentation of the Audit for fiscal year ending April 30, 2019.

Mayor Mayo said he along with the Chamber of Commerce, and some City Council members would be traveling to Washington DC on next week.

3. Jacqueline Kidd, citizen, acknowledged the Council and Mayor on a job well done. She explained her complaint of not being allowed on city property to deliver parts from her present place of employment to the transit department. Ms. Woods told Mr. Keenan that she wanted to talk with him to learn more about the complaint.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m., upon a motion of Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Wilson. (There were no public comments).

Ms. Juanita 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.**