

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session
March 10, 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, March 10, 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 and thanked them for their attendance.

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, Attorney Eddie Clark.

Council member(s) absent: Mr. Kenneth Wilson.

Chairwoman Woods declared a quorum.

The Invocation was led by Mr. Robert Johnson, Community Affairs Director and the Pledge of Allegiance by Ms. Woods.

Ms. Woods acknowledged and conveyed her condolences to the family of Mr. Freddie Bear McHenry, a long time football coach and athletic director in Ouachita Parish.

COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL

1. Mr. Harvey welcomed each one present; he commented his District and other areas are still being affected by the taste and smell of the water and is looking to receive updates on the project to see results.
2. Mrs. Ezernack welcomed each one present.
3. Mr. Clark welcomed each one present.
4. Ms. Woods commented their being a lot of trash in the city and there was a city sponsored event to bring large items; she asked that the citizens would be mindful of the illegal dumping and asked if the citizens would say something when they see someone illegally dump, as it will take everyone to get the city cleaned.
4. Mayor Mayo thanked everyone who came out to the public arena event/hotel project and he thanked those who have an open mind to the project.

Upon a motion of Mr. Clark and a second by Mrs. Ezernack, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of February 25, 2020 were unanimously approved. (There were no public comments).

PRESENTATION: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS: Public Comment:

Public Comment:

1. 413 North 24th Street (D2) (Owner - Eula Mae Beard) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or April 10, 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: Chief Code Enforcement Officer, Mrs. Robinson showed pictorial evidence and stated the property had been before the environmental court and it was deemed blight; the owner has not met the compliance

requirements; Mrs. Robinson requested condemnation. There has not been any contact with the owner after numerous attempts and there was a curator.

2. 315 Morris Ave. (D5)(Owners Richland State Bank (non-curator), Hanco Properties, LLC) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to be removed from the agenda. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Robinson stated the property ownership changed during the time it was in legal.

3. 3623 Cooper Street (D3) (Owner - Ellen H Jones et al c/o Linder Henry) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or April 10, 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 showed pictorial evidence of the structure and stated the property had been before the environmental court and it was deemed blight and her office had contact with Ms. Henry and Ms. Thompson; Ms. Ellen Jones is deceased. Ms. Henry hasn't met compliance although having had conversation with them. Ms. Woods stated the property is in her district and she has received many calls regarding this structure.

4. 712 Reed Street (D5)(Owner - Bertha O Robinson) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or April 10, 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 showed pictorial evidence of the structure and stated the property had been before the environmental court and it was deemed blight and a nuisance; they met with the owner to assist with noncompliance and the owner did not assist.

5. 3817 Barlow Street (D3)(Owner - Katie Paster Taylor, et al) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to be removed from the agenda. (There were no public comments).

Comments Mrs. Robinson stated that the structure had been demolished by the property owners.

6. 3802 Segrest Mercy Street (D3)(Owner - Silas & Bessie L. Wright Est.(non-curator) And Mary Felton) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to be removed from the agenda. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Robinson stated that the structure had been demolished by the property owners.

ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS: (Public Comment) None.

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTE ENTRIES:

Council:

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7670, authorizing funds for the construction of a catch basin in the City of Monroe's dedicated public easement in Belle Landing and further providing with respect thereto. (Harvey) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Clark asked where the source of funds would come from for the project; Ms. Woods said that Mr. Harvey would be using his Council dedicated funds.

Department of Administration:

Public Comment:

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session
March 10, 2020
6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers-City Hall
MINUTES

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Consider an Application by S&M Entertainment 1 LLC-Michelle Wilson dba Dolche', 3113 Breard Street, Monroe, LA 71202 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:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7670, authorizing James E. Mayo to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Monroe and the Miss Louisiana Organization as per the attached agreement and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Department of Public Works: Public Comment: None.

Department of Community Affairs: Public Comment: None.

Police Department: Public Comment: None.

Fire Department:

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7672, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to apply for and accept an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency on behalf of the Monroe Fire Department for funding to pay for emergency medical technician training and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Chief Williams said this was a reapplication of a grant that they previously received. The funding will come from the ten percent fire insurance fund.

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7673, authorizing the Monroe fire department to be included in a regional grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the purchase of portable radios and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Chief Williams said this was a regional grant application request and for portable handheld radios. The funding will come from the ten percent fire insurance fund.

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7674, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor to purchase Fire Department Vehicles off the Louisiana Procurement and Contract Network List. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Chief Williams said it was a request for the purchase of upgrading their fleet.

Engineering Services:

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved Adopt Resolution No. 7675, authorizing James E. Mayo, mayor, to execute a Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to superseding agreement

with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for the S.P.N. H.007289 Kansas Lane Extension US 80 & US 165 Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Ms. Golden explained this was reflective of a reimbursement method wherein, the city would pay the vendor first and then get their funds reimbursed back to them from DOTD.

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved Adopt Resolution No. 7676, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a contract with Miller Nictakis Group to provide professional grant writing & consulting services for the Build Grant Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Ms. Golden explained the build grant was the current version of the Tiger grant, for large regional infrastructure projects. The application is for fifteen million dollars for the Kansas Lane connector. The fee is \$5,000 and includes the benefit cost analysis.

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved Adopt Resolution No. 7677, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a contract with Denmon Engineering, to provide professional engineering services for the Water Distribution System Improvements Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey commented the paperwork reflected a date of November 1, 2019 for twelve weeks, something of the past. Ms. Golden explained the work is almost completed and going to committee next week and it will be asking for it to be advertised at next meeting.

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved Adopt Resolution No. 7678, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a Professional Services Agreement with Lazenby & Associates, Inc., to provide engineering services for the Tower & Bienville Drive Intersection Improvements Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(e) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved Adopt Resolution No. 7679, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a professional services agreement with S. E. Huey Company, to provide engineering services for the Water & Sewer System Improvements – Fulton Drive Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Clark asked for the fee amount and Ms. Golden stated the amount was \$20,500 and includes the construction inspection.

(f) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved Adopt Resolution No. 7680, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to a contract with Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc, to provide professional engineering services for the Water Treatment Plant Renovation and Expansion Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Ms. Golden said this project consisted of implementing an activated charcoal system and testing to calibrate what types of chemicals to use in the system. Mr. Harvey asked if there was anything that was of a specialty for the rates that were being paid in comparison to what's being paid on an hourly rate.

BREAK IF NEEDED:

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance approving and authorizing the granting of a servitude on, over and across certain property of the City of Monroe in favor of the Parish of Ouachita through the Ouachita Parish Police Jury (OPPJ), and further providing with respect thereto. (Legal) (There were no public comments).

b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance authorizing an Equipment Lease Agreement with TCF National Bank for VMware Computer Servers and Datacenter Switches for the IT Division and further providing with respect thereto. (Admin.)

Comments: Mr. Jeff Liner, citizen, spoke regarding local vendors for the equipment; Mr. Clark asked him if there were local banks that offered the equipment. Mr. Liner said there were local vendors and named them.

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor to enter into a Lease Purchase Agreement with JP Morgan Chase Bank for Fire Department Vehicles and further providing with respect thereto. (MFD)
(There were no public comments).

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance amending and adjusting the City of Monroe Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020. (Admin.) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Dan Richard, accounting department, explained that there needed to be some amendments and explained.

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. Clark and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 11,983, 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).

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION:

1. Mr. Deotis Pruitt, citizen, commented that he wanted to endorse Mayor Mayo.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m., upon a motion of Mrs. Ezernack and seconded by Mr. Clark. (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.**