

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session
March 24, 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 24, 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.

Council member(s) absent: Attorney Eddie Clark.

Chairwoman Woods declared a quorum.

Ms. Woods welcomed each one present and stated in lieu of the COVID -19 Virus that they were taking precautionary measures to make sure the social distancing is practiced and also following through on an Ordinance by Governor Edwards who asked that all meetings be restricted to the gathering of 10 people. She thanked the citizens for tuning in; Due to the Covid-19 and the social distancing she motioned that the citizens participation segment would be suspended at tonight's meeting only. It was seconded by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved. There were no public comments to the removal of the segment.

The Invocation was led by Minister Price and the Pledge of Allegiance by Mr. Wilson.

Council Chairwoman Woods acknowledged the Covid-19 pandemic and asked that the citizens would adhere to Governor Edward's words; she asked that citizens stay home and only travel when needed to help minimize the spread of the virus. She expressed her condolences on the passing of Dr. LaVargne Gunn-Ford.

COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Mr. Harvey thanked the first responders, healthcare workers during this time; it is a time to come together and support each other; support the small businesses.
2. Mrs. Ezernack asked that the citizens adhere to the instructions of Governor Edwards regarding the virus and asked that everyone would be safe; she thanked those who are first responders, medical workers and the community for all of their assistance.
3. Mr. Wilson thanked Minister Price for offering the invocation; he acknowledged the passing of Dr. Ford; she was his campaign manager and will be missed. He thanked the employees for all of their work and to be safe.
4. Mayor Mayo offered his condolences to the family of Dr. LaVargne Gunn-Ford. He asked prayers for those who are suffering from the effects of the Coronavirus. There is additional information on the city website regarding the coronavirus. He is in touch with the Governor's office each day regarding the virus; He asked that the department heads would get to him the mitigation measures plan by twelve noon and are reviewing them, and in addition to closing of some areas to make determinations in moving forward; the employees are essential employees to provide services to the public. The employees are working hard to provide the services.

Ms. Woods thanked the Mayor his effective leadership and the decision to not cut off the water, as it is essential. She thanked the city employees for all of their hard work.

Upon a motion of Mrs. Ezernack and a second by Ms. Woods, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of March 10, 2020 and the Legal and Special Budget Hearing Meeting of March 4, 2020 were unanimously approved. (There were no public comments).

PRESENTATION: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS: Public Comment:

Chairwoman Woods commented due to the coronavirus, the condemnations would be removed and placed on the April 14, 2020 agenda, to give the owners time to be present for the condemnations. Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to remove items and place on the April 14, 2020 Council agenda.

1. 415 N. 26th Street (D3) (Owner - Frank Bradley Estate and Helen B Caldwell, Sallie Baker)
2. 3914 Cooper Street (D3) (Owner - Leroy Milton)
3. 4000 Owl Street (D3) (Owner - Mattie & Patricia A Ward)
4. 1308 South 3rd Street (D4) (Owner - Community Trust Bank, Christopher Michael Irby & Cropprue Rental Props LLC) (Not curator - Cropprue Rental Properties, LLC c/o Shannon Cropprue)
5. 409 Parker (D5) (Owner - Charles & Evelyn Jean Jackson)
6. 2707 Lee Avenue (D4) (Owner - August Muller Hochendel, et al, August Muller Hochendel, Jr and Ferdie Hochendel)

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 Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7681, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to purchase the Forcepoint License renewal off of the Louisiana Procurement Contract list and further providing with respect thereto. (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 Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7682, authorizing Mayor James E. Mayo to accept any grant offers from the FAA through December 30, 2020, for the Monroe Regional Airport that do not require matching funds, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Consider request from the Water Pollution Control Center (WPCC) Division of the Public Works Department for permission to advertise for an addition to the WPCC Administration Building. This addition will add one new office to make room for the plan operators and one new conference room. The estimated cost of this expansion is \$135,400.00. The DBE Goal is 12%. Funds for this expansion will be derived from the WPCC Capital Account, which has a balance of \$171,744.00. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack and Ms. Woods stated they spoke with Mr. Westrom regarding the item and he explained the criticalness of moving this forward. Mr. Wilson commented that he was pleased with the DBE participation.

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7683, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute a Professional Services Agreement with LJA Engineering Inc. relating to storm water management program implementation services and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Sturdivant commented the item was an unfunded mandate.

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. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7684, accepting as substantially complete work done by and between the City of Monroe and Peck Construction, Inc., for the WTP Water Filter No. 1, 3 & 4 Improvements Project, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7685, authorizing the Purchasing Manager to advertise for bids on the City Street Striping Phase IV Project. The estimated cost of this project is \$752,084.00. The DBE Goal is 5.79% and source of funds are Capital Infrastructure Funds. (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7686, authorizing the Purchasing Manager to advertise for bids on the Water Distribution System Improvements Project. The estimated cost of this project is \$727,927.00. The DBE Goal is 14.42% and source of funds Water Capital Funds. (There were no public comments).

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7687, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Change Order No. Two (2) to the Grammont Tank Rehabilitation Contract, between the City of Monroe and Utility Service Co., Inc., for an increase in the contract time of forty-nine (49) days and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(e) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7688, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute Supplemental Agreement No. 3 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).

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 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).

b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and it was approved to Introduce an Ordinance 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). (Mr. Harvey voted no)

Comments: Mr. Wilson commented on the budget needing to be revised due to the virus, because of there being possible sales tax loss. Mr. Dan Richard explained; Mayor Mayo commented.

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(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance 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).

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. 11,984, 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).

Open Public Hearing/Public Comment/Close Hearing:

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to remove from the agenda to Finally adopt 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.) (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.

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 11,985, 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).

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.

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 11,986, amending and adjusting the City of Monroe Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020. (Admin.) (There were no public comments).

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: NONE.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m., upon a motion of Mrs. Ezernack and seconded by Ms. Woods. (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.**