

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session
November 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, November 24, 2020 at the Council's regular meeting place, 400 Lea Joyner Memorial Expressway, City Council Chambers/City Hall Building, Monroe, Louisiana.

The Honorable Douglas Harvey, Chairman called the meeting to order.

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

Council members present for roll call: Mr. Douglas Harvey, Mrs. Gretchen Ezernack, Ms. Juanita Woods, Mr. Carday Marshall Sr., Mrs. Kema Dawson.

Council member(s) absent: None.

Chairman Harvey declared a quorum.

The Invocation was led by Mr. Marshall's designee, Mrs. Aircinia Jones-Marshall; Mr. Marshall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Mr. Harvey thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers, as he was recovering from Covid. He encouraged everyone to practice safety during Thanksgiving. He asked if citizens would consider donating to organizations during this time because they need help due to Covid.
2. Mrs. Ezernack, welcomed each one present and offered wishes to everyone for a Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday.
3. Ms. Woods welcomed each one present; she recognized Trinity Williams a student at ULM as she is participating in a mentor program. She thanked Chief Zordan and Mayor Ellis for their assistance with the 18 wheelers issue in Booker T; reminded the citizens to be careful during the Covid19 and to wear masks, and social distance; she wished all a Happy and safe Thanksgiving.
4. Mr. Marshall welcomed each one present; he thanked Chief Zordan for his leadership and assistance with speeding in his District and also extra patrol. He asked that citizens would be safe with the Covid19. He wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.
5. Mrs. Dawson welcomed each one present; she wished everyone a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving; she thanked the nonprofits for providing meal to those less fortunate and also thank you to former City Councilman Wilson's organization P.E.E.P. organization for their thanksgiving benevolence to the community. She thanked Chief Zordan for his leadership and assistance for the speeding issues in her District.
6. Mayor Ellis thanked everyone for attending; He and Chief Zordan spent time in Parkview and meeting with citizens in the area, thanked the City for their help. The City collected in all of 2019 a total of 79,232 cubic yards of debris, and the total amount of debris collected from August 2020-November 2020, three short months was a total of 147,067 cubic yards of debris. He thanked the Sanitation crew for their hard work in getting the neighborhoods back to where we need to be. Mayor Ellis introduced his latest hire, the new Communications Director, Mrs. Michelli Martin. Mayor Ellis commented regarding his telephone call with Governor Edwards today, and the news that the State is moving back to Phase Two which included restricted capacities for businesses/gatherings; some at risk businesses are able to operate with limited capacity and the City will be sharing on social media, an information graphic from the Governor's office regarding the restrictions. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving to employees and citizens and asked that everyone would celebrate responsibly. He thanked the citizens for their trust and vote in him to help lead the City and do appreciate the opportunity to serve the citizens.

Upon a motion of Mrs. Dawson and a second by Mrs. Ezernack, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of November 10, 2020 were approved; Voting Yes: Ezernack, Woods, Marshall, Dawson; Mr. Harvey abstained. (There were no public comments).

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PRESENTATION: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS: Public Comment:

Public Comment:

1. 313 Cedar Street (D2) (Curatorship - Louis Joseph) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or December 26, 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: Pictorial evidence of the current state of the property was presented by Code Enforcement office, Catherine Robinson and discussion on the property's condition. It was declared a blighted property.

2. 415 North 26th (D3) (Curatorship – Frank Bradley Estate and Helen B Caldwell; Sallie Baker) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or December 26, 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).

3. 321 Bell Street (3) (Owner-JLL Properties, Jeff Guerriero and Joe D. Guerriero) (This item was passed over at the last meeting pending compliance.) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 60 days or January 26, 2021, in which to bring the structure into compliance with the code or demolish the structure and clean the lot.

Comments: Pictorial evidence of the current state of the property was presented by Code Enforcement office, Catherine Robinson and discussion on the property's condition. Mr. Guerriero, owner of property was present, spoke and agreed that the property needed to be demolished.

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 Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Consider twenty-two (22) 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 Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Consider twenty (20) 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 Ms. Woods, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Consider two (2) Renewal Applications for a New 2021 Class E 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 Ms. Woods 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).

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

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(f) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7848, authorizing the purchase of Arctic Wolf off the Louisiana Procurement Contract# 4400010663 and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack asked if there were any other municipalities using the system. Mrs. Jeshirl Brice and Ben George of the MIS department explained the agenda item.

Department of Planning & Urban Development: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7849, appointing Karlis Jackson to the Planning Commission of the City of Monroe, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Mr. Karlis Jackson was in attendance and the Council thanked him for offering his service to the community.

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7850, reappointing Jott Delcambre to the Planning Commission of the City of Monroe, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7851, reappointing William "Cookie" Cookston to the Heritage Preservation Commission of the City of Monroe, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(d) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Consider request from Verbon Muhammad for this Major Conditional Use Permit authorizing the use of the existing (418 Winnsboro Road) for worship and training youth and adults. The Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance allows a house of worship/church as a Major Conditional Use in the B-3, General Business/Commercial District. Major Conditional Uses are those uses that require two levels of approval; therefore, this request comes before the City Council for their approval in addition to that of the Planning Commission. Planning Commission recommends approval with a 4-0-1 vote.

Comments: Mr. Creekbaum explained the waiver; there were discussions among Council concerning the waiver. Mr. Muhammad explained the proposed religious business and was in agreement with waiving his right and he has no problem with future businesses that served alcohol locating within 300 feet of his business. Councilwoman Woods offered her concerns of what could possibly be built in the area of the business in the future. Chairman Harvey amended the request to include future alcohol sales inside of a 300 feet radius from the location. Mr. Creekbaum said it was a waiver.

Legal Department: Public Comment: None.

Mayor's Office: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7852, authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into an agreement with CreateLore for Professional Services and further providing with respect thereto.

Comments: Mr. Michael Jordan presented a PowerPoint presentation on the services that will be provided to the City through his company. Mrs. Ezernack and Ms. Woods said they were excited about the project.

Department of Public Works: Public Comment: None.

Department of Community Affairs: Public Comment: None.

Police Department: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7853, authorizing the Director of Administration to accept and execute an agreement with the Department of Justice to accept funding in the amount of \$52,060.00 for the Project Safe Neighborhood Program and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

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(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Dawson, second by Mr. Marshall and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7854, authorizing the purchase of seven Chevrolet Tahoes for the Monroe Police Department off of state contract 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. 7855, authorizing the purchase of 100 Safariland Bothell pd Carriers off of the Louisiana Procurement Contract# 4400006361 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 Mr. Marshall and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7856, accepting as substantially complete work done by and between the City of Monroe and McLemore Service Contractors, LLC, for the Calypso Street Waterline Rupture Repairs Project, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7857, accepting the base bid of Alpha Services & Products Inc. in the amount \$49,627.20, for the Guardrail Replacement Project, and further authorizing an authorized city representative, to enter into and execute a contract for said work. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack asked for an explanation for the locations of the guardrail project; Mr. Holland commented they were in isolated locations and doing repairs, Loop Road and Pecanland Mall and two on Plum Street.

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7858, authorizing an authorized city representative, to execute Change Order No. One (1) to the Tower at Bienville Intersection Improvements Contract, between the City of Monroe and Patrick Electric Service, LLC, for a decrease in the contract amount of \$2,000.00 days and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Dawson, second by Mr. Marshall and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7859, authorizing Friday Ellis, Mayor, to enter into and execute a Professional Services Agreement with S. E. Huey Company, to provide engineering services for the enhancement project on Jackson Street S.P.N. – H.007530 and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(e) Upon a motion by Mrs. Dawson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7860, authorizing Friday Ellis, Mayor, to enter into and execute a Professional Services Agreement with S. E. Huey Company, to provide engineering services for the enhancement project on Winnsboro Road S.P.N. – H.007531 and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(f) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7861, authorizing Friday Ellis, Mayor, to execute an Entity/State Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for State Project No. H.014348 Lee Avenue: Jackson St - Standifer Ave Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(g) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7862, authorizing Friday Ellis, Mayor, to sign and approve submittal of a Design Waiver Request for the State Project No. H.011895 City of Monroe Guardrail Installation Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(h) Add-On: Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to Adopt a Resolution authorizing Friday Ellis, Mayor, to execute an Entity/State Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for State Project No. H.014347 South Grand St: Orange St - Standifer Ave Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Upon a motion by Mrs. Dawson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7863, authorizing Friday Ellis, Mayor, to execute an Entity/State Agreement with the Louisiana Department of

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Transportation and Development for State Project No. H.014347 South Grand St: Orange St - Standifer Ave 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 declaring certain immovable property in Monroe bearing municipal address 3303 Dick Taylor St. as no longer being needed for public use and authorizing the same to be sold to Naomi Carter pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 33:4712, and further providing with respect thereto. (Legal) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Creekbaum commented that the legal description and the cash sale deed for the property were incorrect and will be corrected prior to the next Council meeting.

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance 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).

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

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

(e) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Marshall and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance declaring certain immovable property in Monroe located along Pendleton Street between Desiard Street and Adams Street, as no longer being needed for public use and authorizing the same to be sold to Michael Echols Enterprises, LLC pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 33:4712, and further providing 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:

Chairman Harvey opened the Public Hearing and seeing no one come forward, the hearing was closed.

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 12,027, accepting the donation of real property into the City of Monroe from Marcus A. Drummer, and further providing with respect thereto. (Legal) (There were no public comments).

Open Public Hearing/Public Comment/Close Hearing:

Chairman Harvey opened the Public Hearing and seeing no one come forward, the hearing was closed.

(b) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 12,028, adopting and amending the Zoning Map for the City of Monroe, Louisiana to zone a ±1.2-acre tract of land located in Ouachita Parish from I-1, Commercial/Industrial Business Park District to B-3, General Business/Commercial District in order for the applicant to be able to operate a baseball and softball facility - **2920 Commerce Street - APPLICANT: Bradley Emaus (P&Z)** (There were no public comments).

Citizen's Participation

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1. Mr. Damian Coleman, spoke regarding Covid 19 and the homelessness issue in the City.
2. Mr. Verbon Muhammad, spoke regarding the former Holsum Bakery property.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m., upon a motion of Mrs. Ezernack and seconded by Mrs. Dawson. (There were no public comments).

Mr. Douglas Harvey

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.**