

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session
May 26, 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, May 26, 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, Attorney Eddie Clark (present via teleconference).

Council member(s) absent: NONE.

Chairwoman Woods declared a quorum.

The Invocation was led by Mr. Tom Janway, and the Pledge of Allegiance by Councilwoman Ezernack.

Ms. Woods asked prayers for the families of Robert Johnson on the loss of his mother and also for the Sharp family on the loss of Mrs. Barbara Sharp.

COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Mr. Harvey welcomed everyone present; he thanked everyone and the departments for the trash pickup and all working together.
2. Mrs. Ezernack welcomed all present and asked that everyone would continue the social distancing; she offered her condolences to Mr. Robert Johnson on the loss of his mother.
3. Mr. Wilson welcomed all present; he offered his condolences to the families of the Johnson and Sharp families; he congratulated Principals Sylvia Brass and Ms. Dawson on their retirements.
4. Mr. Clark welcomed all present.
5. Mayor Mayo welcomed all present and asked that all be cautious due to Covid 19; he welcomed Mr. Ben Marshall, former Ouachita Parish Police Juror; condolences to the Sharp family and also to Mr. Robert Johnson.
6. Ms. Woods thanked Mayor Mayo for the work being done in making sure everyone is informed of events. The press briefings are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. on Facebook live.

Upon a motion of Mr. Harvey and a second by Mrs. Ezernack, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of May 12, 2020 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: NONE.

Department of Administration: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Consider an Application by Royal of Monroe LLC (Dilbagh Singh dba Super Save #11, 4217 Sterlington Road#1, Monroe, LA 71203 for a New 2020 Class B 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. Wilson, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Consider an Application by Hub Music Hall LLC (Matt & Amanda Lyon) dba Hub Music Hall LLC, 201 Washington Street, Monroe, LA 71201 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 Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7725, authorizing the City of Monroe and the Rotary Club of Monroe, Louisiana Inc. to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and further providing with respect thereto.

Comments: Public comments were made regarding the agreement, explaining the project. Dr. Russ Greer commented it was a project that educates children where they can learn about patriotism. It helps Rotary do things locally and around the world.

Department of Public Works: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7726, adopting the City of Monroe/Monroe Transit System Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey asked if this was a new plan; Mr. Keenan said it was a new plan and it is needed so that it can be a part of the FTA plan. Mr. Harvey asked for an explanation of the classification of a safety event; Mr. Keenan said it could be a near miss or an accident, any incident. Mr. Harvey asked for a leading indicator of a safety event and Mr. Keenan stated the plan was made jointly with the LaDotd.

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 7727, authorizing Monroe Regional Airport to do a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for an On-Call Training Services Agreement for FAA Certification and Compliance, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Phillips stated this was needed for the benefit of improving the skill level of staff and to provide training as needed.

Department of Community Affairs: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7728, authorizing the City of Monroe to advertise for bids for the Jack Howard Theater Renovations and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Dr. Cannon explained the asbestos removal project was due to material that had disintegrated and some of fire proofing and sound proofing materials used over 52 years ago contained asbestos and need to be removed from the ceiling. There has been aggressive monitoring since the fall before and after events and it has been safe.

Police Department: Public Comment: None.

Fire Department: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7729, 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 personal protective equipment for fire department responders 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. 7730, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to apply for and accept a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the purchase of three thousand (3,000) Smoke Alarms and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Engineering Services: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7731, accepting as substantially complete work done by and between the City of Monroe and Utility Service Co., Inc., for the Grammont Tank Rehabilitation Project, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7732, accepting as substantially complete work done by and between the City of Monroe and C W & W Contractors, Inc., for the Davis Drive Drainage Improvements Project, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7733, accepting the base bid of Highway Graphics, LLC, in the amount of \$665,004.00 for the City Street Striping Phase IV Project, and further authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a contract for said work. (There were no public comments).

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7734, accepting the base bid of Jabar Corporation, in the amount of \$540,263.20 and Alternate No. 1 in the amount of \$12,285.50. for the Water Distribution System Improvements Project, and further authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a contract for said work. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack commented there was an error stating the project was a booster station project and to correct it. Mr. Holland stated the correction should be for the replacement of the water mains along five city streets.

(e) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7735, authorizing the Purchasing Manager to advertise for bids on the repairs to Bayou Bartholomew Pump & Motor No. 1 Project. The estimated cost of this project is \$170,000.00. The DBE Goal is 0% and source of funds Water Capital Funds. (There were no public comments).

(f) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7736, authorizing the Purchasing Manager to advertise for bids on the Texas Lift Station Bar Screen Replacement Project. The estimated cost of this project is \$460,000.00. The DBE Goal is 5.2% and source of funds Sewer Funds & DEQ Loan Funds. (There were no public comments).

(g) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7737, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to a contract with S.E. Huey Company, to provide Professional Engineering Services for the Fulton Drive Water & Sewer Improvements 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. Wilson and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance amending Chapter 9, Buildings, of the Code of the City of Monroe, Article II Building Codes, Section 9-21 Adoption, (a) ICC Standard Codes (3) International Property Maintenance Code—2015 Edition. As prepared by the International Code Council by Reference and further providing with respect thereto. (PUD) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey asked what the retroactive impact would be and changes for adopting the code; Ms. Robinson explained that it was mainly the language, for example from a minimum of, to not less than. The change is needed to update to the 2015 edition for the housing inspector exam. Mr. Harvey asked why it wouldn't be updated to 2018 or 2019, because there are updated codes and there has been an annual update for the last two to three years. Ms. Robinson said 2015 is what they use for all of the building codes and this would bring the property manual up to code for 2015, and it is state regulated.

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance amending and adjusting the City of Monroe Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021. (Admin.) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Dan Richards, gave a summation of the budget amendments and answered questions by Council.

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. Wilson and unanimously approved to Finally Adopt Ordinance No. 11,992, authorizing the City of Monroe to take Corporeal Possession of the property described below and sell to Willie Nat all rights, title and interest that the City may have acquired to Lot 16, Sq 60, Unit 10, Booker T. Washington Addition, Ouachita Parish, 1508 Sherrouse Ave., District 3, Monroe, La, by Adjudication at Tax Sale dated July 1, 2010, and further with respect thereto. (Legal) (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.

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Finally Adopt Ordinance No. 11,993, amendment to Chapter 37, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Monroe, Article III Use Districts, Section 37-37 Commercial Use District, table 3.3 commercial districts permitted and conditional uses. (P&Z) (There were no public comments).

Open Public Hearing/Public Comment/Close Hearing: Chairwoman Woods declared the Public Hearing open:

1. Mr. Ben Marshall spoke regarding the proposed renovation of the Miller Roy Building.

Seeing no one else come forward, the hearing was declared closed.

(c)) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Finally Adopt Ordinance No. 11,994, Adopting and Amending the Zoning Map for the City of Monroe, Louisiana and authorizing the Clerk to publish notice of a Public Hearing to rezone a ±1.55 acre tract of land presently located in Ouachita Parish from B-1, Neighborhood Mixed Use District to B-3, General Business/Commercial District to operate elderly/retirement housing, retail and offices, and is more particularly described as follows: Lot 1, 2, 3,

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4, 5, the west 10' of Lot 7, Lots 8 - 9 and the West 10' of Lot 7 Square 38 Filhiols 1st Addition. And otherwise known as 1001 DeSiard Street: APPLICANT – Miller Roy Building, LLC (P&Z) (There were no public comments).

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: NONE. (due to the Covid 19 Stay-at-Home order)

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m., upon a motion of Mr. Harvey 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.**