

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session
March 27, 2018
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 at the Council's regular meeting place, 400 Lea Joyner Memorial Expressway, Council Chambers, City Hall Building, Monroe, Louisiana.

The Honorable Gretchen Ezernack, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order; she asked the clerk to call the roll.

Council members present for roll call: Mr. Echols, Ms. Woods, Mrs. Ezernack, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Clark.

Council members absent: None.

Mrs. Ezernack welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming; she asked if those with cellphones or other communication devices, if they would put them in the silent mode, as it can be distracting because the acoustics in the chamber will allow them to hear conversations from the back.

Mr. Echols welcomed each one and thanked the constituents and members of the public to come out and support government in an open and transparent format to ask questions and let your voice be heard; there are several issues on the agenda that will have commentary on and feedback from the public; he thanked everyone that called him and received a dozen or more phone calls on several agenda issues and thanked them for the feedback; he thanked the citizens that have called, sent pictures of debris throughout the City and has been sending messages to Mr. Janway and his team to be proactive in picking up certain areas that are in the City right of way; Mr. Janway's team have been doing a great, great job; he asked constituents to pick up any debris to help mitigate the problems so that we could continue to have good solid drainage after the rain; he asked everyone to continue to let the calls and emails come and he would notify public works throughout District 1 or any other parts of the City of his fellow council members.

Ms. Woods thanked everyone for coming out and this is one of those evenings that have been long and anticipated; it's good to see so many people present to show your interest; she thanked Council Clerk, Ms. Riley, she is a jewel and she has been at her meetings making sure everything is in place; she thanked Ms. Benjamin as she has done a lot getting out fliers, making the fliers; she said, this has generated a lot of interest and is very excited, the people are actually wanting to know more about what's really going on and that is a good thing; she thanked the Mayor and his Administration for coming out and bringing the real truth as to what is really going on and how do we move forward and do appreciate them, as they were at the couple of meetings and they were with the questions, had a lot of information and am thankful for that; he brought his whole administration and do appreciate that; she thanked Sgt. Tucker and Officer Chris Bates, she had a community neighborhood watch meeting and they came out and a lot of good information and am excited that the people in District 3 are mobilizing and trying to do positive things in the community; we are about to kick off the neighborhood watch and they are there and willing to help and that is a good thing; she said she has a great advisory team and thanked them, they won't be meeting the Monday after Easter, but will be rescheduled for the following Monday; she wished everyone a happy and safe Easter.

Mr. Wilson welcomed everyone and those from District 4; he asked prayers for Ms. Berna Dean Jones and Ms. Gloria Walker, some of the great supporters and Ms. Jones has done so much throughout the community for Monroe; he thanked public works department as they are working on removing debris; he thanked the citizens of District 4 as the residents have been picking up the leaves and debris; there is a small area in the 3200 block of Dick Taylor and he asked the residents if they would take care of that area; he acknowledged the presence of the Monroe City School Board, his friend Mr. Bill Wilson; he acknowledged the presence of some Pastors and members of SEDD and members of Delta Sigma Theta.

Mr. Clark welcomed each one present and wished them a good evening.

Mayor Mayo welcomed each one and said it was good to see everyone present; he said because of the potential oncoming inclement weather, gave a schedule of some of the things that public works department would be giving; he mentioned on yesterday at his press briefing that effective at 5:00 p.m. and until further notice, the City of Monroe will open up a self-filled sand bagging operation and it has been very popular in the past and have been able to have a number of people to come by and do want to make sure that they do know where the particular area of operations are located; they are Saul Adler Recreation Center, 3900 Westminster Avenue, Marbles Recreation Center, 2950 Renwick Street, and Emily P Robinson Recreation Center, 3504 Jackson Street; the public works department will provide shovels, sand, and bags for residents to fill bags and residents will only be allowed to fill only 15 bags per trip, it has already been mentioned that you need to make sure the residents clear their ditches of

debris and pay close attention to this because it will help considerably; he acknowledged Mr. John Ross, former Community Affairs Director by way of Parks and Recreation division head, by way of Burg Jones Lane Elementary, Principal and it's always good to see him as he did a great job while he was here; he said his birthday is actually on Good Friday, so just in case those who want to protest that too, they can go ahead and do so.

Mrs. Ezernack offered her thanks to the Administration for attending the different neighborhood and district meetings that were held concerning some of the topics that are on the agenda this evening; the Administration was ready to answer any questions they asked of them and gave up their nights and do appreciate all the effort that went into it and all of the information that was shared with those in attendance and if they missed it they really missed some good information and hopefully we will continue to have district meetings with great information and do watch for the dates and times; spring is always a time when the meetings are held, so there may be some others in the future coming up very rapidly; she said to those who would like to speak on one of the agenda items, the actual process is to come forward to the podium when asked and you would state your name and address for the record and you will have three minutes; there are a lot of people here tonight and do not know if everyone is planning to get up and speak, but we will really stick to the three minute rule this evening because of time constraints, none of us want to be here very, very late if we don't have to be and to please observe this if you are planning on speaking.

Upon a motion of Mr. Clark and seconded by Ms. Woods, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of March 19, 2018 were approved unanimously. (There were no public comments.)

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE LEGAL AND REGULAR SESSION OF MARCH 19, 2018: (Public Comment)

PRESENTATIONS: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS:

1. 2206 DeSiard, Apt. A (D3) - (Owner - Curator - Martin Navarro)(Bancorpsouth Bank c/o C.T. Corp. System) Property Condemned marked as: 2206 DeSiard Street, Apt. A marked as 100 South 23rd Street, Apt E and F; Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or April 28, 2018, in which to bring the structure into compliance with the code or demolish the structure and clean the lot. (There were no public comments.) There was service through a curator.

2206 DeSiard, Apt. A marked as 2208 DeSiard, Apt. A and B; Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or April 28, 2018, in which to bring the structure into compliance with the code or demolish the structure and clean the lot. (There were no public comments.) There was service through a curator.

Comments:

Code Enforcement Karen Goree, explained there were two structures on the lot; the property owner bought the lot and placed six structures on the lot and two of the lots are on the agenda tonight for condemnation and the first one is the pink structure, the address for that is 2206 DeSiard Street, but the structure is marked 100 South 23rd Street, Apt E and F, it is a duplex and the property has burned; an officer spoke with Mr. Navarro on May 17, 2016 and he stated he was going to make the repairs to the property and as of today, this is the condition. Mrs. Ezernack asked if the two structures were a duplex structure or was it a duplex structure and another structure; Mrs. Goree said both were duplexes, but the first one, 2206 DeSiard, Apt A is the burned structure; Mrs. Ezernack said Ms. Woods may have other questions; Ms. Woods said she was happy to see the structures come before Council, they have been eyesores in the community for a very long time; structures were condemned separately by vote.

Code Enforcement Goree, stated the second structured faced DeSiard Street, and it is marked 2208 DeSiard Street, Apt. A and B.

2. 1117 Breard Street (D4) (Owner - Curator - Darren Amelin) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or April 28, 2018, in which to bring the structure into compliance with the code or demolish the structure and clean the lot. There was service through a curator.

Comments:

Code Enforcement Goree, stated there hasn't been any contact with the property owner and it has been in this condition for some time because had to make sure had correct property owner.

Mr. Darren Amelin, owner, asked if he could get 30 days or more to get the property torn down and cleaned up; Mr. Wilson said if he needed more time after the 30 days that Code Enforcement would assist him with that time.

3. 204 Dixie Street (D4) (Owner - Curator - Mildred Gipson) (OPPJ) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 60 days or May 28, 2018, in which to bring the structure into compliance with the code or demolish the structure and clean the lot. There was service through a curator.

Comments:

Code Enforcement Goree, stated there hasn't been any contact with the property owner.

Ms. Mildred Gipson, stated she was going through store restore and they are at the level of damages leading to assessments reconstruction walkthrough; Mr. Wilson asked her to explain what she was doing to bring it into compliance; Ms. Gipson said she is needing at least four to six months; Mr. Wilson asked her if she had applied for a city permit; she said no, she is going through the steps they are taking her through and no one is living in the home; Mr. Wilson said he would give her 60 days and that if she works with Code Enforcement, they will give her extra time as needed for compliance.

4. 700 Plum Street (D4) (Owner - Curator - Corey D. Chambers, et al) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or April 28, 2018, in which to bring the structure into compliance with the code or demolish the structure and clean the lot. (There were no public comments.) There was service through a curator.

Comments:

Code Enforcement Goree, stated the property was burned and it has been in the condition for ten or more years and in the beginning they did contact the property owner and allowed him at that time to board it up and nothing has been done; she did speak with Mr. Chambers, as he is out of the country and his statement was he did not have the money currently to fix the property, he wants to be able to just board it up; she said because it is a burned structure, they are not allowing it to just be boarded and it has been in that condition for ten or more years; Mr. Wilson said he has spoken with the owner and other citizens and with the development going on in the area of third and fourth along Plum Street; there are citizens living in the home and causing fires and don't want to cause harm to other neighbors.

5. 1204 South 4th Street (D4) (Owner - Curator - Clifton & Glenda M. Evans; E. L. Hilton) (Dwain Earl McVay et al c/o George Griggs Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or April 28, 2018, in which to bring the structure into compliance with the code or demolish the structure and clean the lot. (There were no public comments.) There was service through a curator.

Comments:

Code Enforcement Goree, stated the property has been there for some time and she did speak with Mr. George Griggs and he stated that he didn't have any more interest in the property; Mr. Wilson said this area is being developed and the citizens are happy about new homes coming in the area.

ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS: (Public Comment)

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Accept the Bids of Core Main of Monroe, LA, Louisiana Utilities Supply of Shreveport, LA and Coburn's of West Monroe, LA for a one (1) year supply contract of various Water Distribution Parts, Ref#2018-00000034 as recommended by the Director of Administration for complying with the specifications of the bid. The vendors comply with the

specification of the requirements of this bid and has been cleared by the Tax & Revenue Division. Funds for these purchases will be derived from the Inventory Account. (There were no public comments.)

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTE ENTRIES:

1. Council:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7158, granting an exception to the Open Container Ordinance to the American Red Cross of Northeast Louisiana Chapter (The Bash Fund Raiser) pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Echols and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7159, granting an exception to the Open Container Ordinance to the Blackheart Affiliates LLC Spring Picnic (SpringNiQ) pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Clark and approved, Voting YES: Woods, Wilson, Clark; Voting NO: Echols, Ezernack; to Adopt Resolution No. 7160, supporting the introduction of legislation by the Louisiana State Legislature designating the Ouachita River within, abutting, or contiguous to the boundaries of the Southside Economic Development District (the "District") as a designated waterway for riverboat gaming activities and permitting voters in Ouachita Parish to decide the question of whether the berthing of a riverboat upon which gaming is conducted on the Ouachita River within, abutting, or contiguous to the boundaries of the District shall be authorized.

Comments:

Gladys Smith Coward, citizen, stated this is put before you all from SEDD and as Chair, I am asking you all to please support this and it is all about bringing economics and trying to improve and bring somebody else's money to the City instead of us just spending our money; all people go to other places, so if we get this passed and be able to bring a river boat here, we hope to help improve the City overall; I know that Charles have more to say; Mr. Theus stated no, I am just supporting you.

Jason Thomas, citizen, asked a question stating, who would be, if this is passed, who would be in charge of managing this riverboat, just a whole entity, who would be in charge SEDD, the City; Mrs. Ezernack said, not the City; Mr. Thomas, said, we don't know; Mr. Thomas said, he wants to know if this goes through, who would be in charge of managing it, that's what I want to know. Charles Theus, stated, this riverboat is a corporation owned by a corporation and a company and it would be managed by the managers and owners, stockholders of that corporation, it's one of the largest gaming facilities and they have managers; and so, just like a convenient store or hotel, one of Nash's hotels, like his business is managed probably by him or somebody else, so that's the answer; Mr. Thomas, stated, has this been vetted, has there been an economic vetting of this coming to our town, knowing what the effects will be with ingress, egress, traffic issues, potential crime issues, I mean I know there is a lot to address to a development prior to the development being put on the table; I think it's important for the citizens to know what the potential pros and cons are from something this big coming to the table before it's kind of next time it's here; Mr. Theus, said, I think that just like anything it goes before the City Council before you build anything and you have planning and zoning and at that point and tell they will tell us how many parking spaces, how much everything would have to meet all of the zoning requirements and that's what we have Ms. Joanne Poret that heads that department, that's her department and she will be so on top of this stuff; I have a lot of confidence in the City administration to make sure that this is done properly and make sure we have all of the parking and all of the requirements for space and we are so happy that Ms. Joanne will be pretty much in charge of that for the City; and then we have done the vetting because this is an existing facility, this facility is existing right now and so, they do not have and you know you have to have license and so they do not have marks against their license, it is regulated by the State and the State is going to monitor that;

Mr. Clark said, I don't want us to be like the dog chasing the tail here, if you look at what's before us tonight, for everyone involved; it is my understanding that the resolution simply says or what SEDD is seeking to do is have the Council issue a Resolution supporting the introduction of legislation by one of our State Representatives, it's not like we are voting on this today and a boat or a casino is coming tomorrow or there is a commitment in my understanding that a casino is coming; this is just a Resolution of support, it's also my understanding that a similar

Resolution of support would have to, not have to but is being requested that one comes from the Police Jury as well, then our State delegation or State Representative still has to go and introduce a bill through the State legislative process to put this out for a vote amongst the voters of this Parish, so if the voters say nay, we don't want it, it doesn't come, if the voters say yay, then that allows for a boat to come or a casino to come; it is my understanding that this one particular casino is looking at various locations, so we can go through this and a casino, still not come; Mr. Clark continued by saying, I just thought it was a lot of talk in there with all due respect to everyone, but sometimes you have to hit the nail on the head and make it real simple where a child could understand it and move on, this is simply a Resolution saying, we support it, now a State Representative introduce a bill to make the Ouachita River, you have to make it as a designated water way for gaming, so if the State Representative can't get the bill out of committee, for example, this goes in the trash, it's nothing and you still have to go through the State process and I wanted everyone to have a clear understanding; sometimes we get a little too deep.

Marie Brown, citizen, stated, I clearly understand the process and know that this is the first step for what y'all need to do, but the beginning of everything is the start of some things and this is what y'all gonna be doing, the starting of some thing; for us to be and I will speak for me, for me to be against this casino, because one its secret and two we don't need it, yeah we understand buy y'all are supposed to be representing the citizens; so yes, if it comes to you then your part is to do what the citizens hopefully that y'all will do and I am against this casino, I'm against y'all doing y'all part, even if it is a small mediocre part that don't mean nothing now, but it's going to mean something later; because everybody is going to look at what this Council does, they looking at what they doing, he wouldn't answer not one question that man had, it's totally secretive, we don't know where it's going to be, who it's going to affect or anything, but it's going to affect people, it's going to affect this community and y'all are the people to look out for the community; so if you say your part don't mean nothing, because SEDD saying they want it, then y'all give the okay, now Hunter gives the okay, now it goes up for the vote, now we gotta chase the Police Jury and it's just wrong and we do understand what's going on; yes, it's simple y'all are the start of it, because no matter what Baton Rouge is not going to be here in this community with people struggling right now to pay their bills, to do what they need to do, we don't have no will power; that casino is not going to be good for Monroe, it's about everybody else, for what we need, you can find positive things to bring to this City but you don't, why is that; but you can spend time SEDD, an out of order Board, that I have been saying for the longest, but you spend time finding a casino to come up in here and we don't know who's going to manage it, if you can't manage the \$100,000 the city give you, how can you manage anything else.

K-9, citizen, stated, real quick and simple when is we going to ever get together in Monroe, Louisiana, everything come to Monroe, it's always a shut down; if you pay attention, they are steady building around us, when is we going to stop; I understand the young man's question, fine, let him and Mr. Charles get out and talk, like Mr. Clark said, it's gotta start somewhere, but it has to go through a 990 process, don't start arguing about something that isn't even here, let's try to work on bringing something here and stop going everywhere else; casinos, arenas, everywhere else, like baseball fields, look how they are building Ruston, West Monroe, oh my bad, they skipped past Monroe and then jumped to Sterlington; if I'm wrong, just tell me I'm wrong, but I'm just saying, that as a citizen, as a community leader, I don't gamble and I don't drink, but guess what, it's going to bring more jobs; no disrespect to Mr. Echols, he is bringing a hotel here, and you have all the people that will be traveling and staying in a hotel, you don't know where they are coming from, you don't know if they coming from over here with a suitcase and drop it off; I don't want to say the wrong thing and everybody run, but you have to stop going against everything someone brings and propose to this Council, we gone have to either get on board with each other or just might as well say, let somebody else run it.

Department of Administration:

Public Comment:

None.

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. Echols and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7161 of support for a College of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Comments:

Mr. Echols stated, I want to note so that folks can understand, I know that we did this several months ago, as ULM has worked to establish a school of Osteopathic Medicine; the potential impact that this could have on our community and I have worked with President Bruno and several others that have been on the committee to develop this concept, and the long range economic opportunities of this are really unbelievable, you are talking about hundreds of jobs, tens if not millions of dollars into our economy; this is essentially setting up the potential for a medical school, a school of medicine to grow primary care physicians in our community and if you think about the benefit of what LSU school of Medicine is to Shreveport, what it is the school of Medicine is in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, it is a huge deal; now only for the fiscal health of our community, but also for the financial and medical benefits that come with growing primary care doctors and other medical doctors, D.O. doctors in this community and can't stress the importance of true, quality economic development that this potential project could have for our City and the region, it could be transformative and I am one hundred percent in support of this tonight; I appreciate the Mayor's office for bringing this Resolution of support and think this is going to be a critical pillar for our community if Dr. Bruno and his team are able to land this medical school and get it here, sometime over the next several years, again another transformative project and Mayor, thank you for supporting this endeavor.

Ms. Woods stated, I do understand that this did come before us like you said several months ago; what happened with that and why is it back, what happened; Mr. Echols stated, I believe they had several potential suitors to manage the school of medicine ,one of the suitors' board changed and they decided not to pursue it and so they had several other people they were working with and so this is another group that was on their list to come in and manage the school, so I believe that is why the Resolution is before us.

Department of Public Works:

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7162, authorizing the acceptance of the fiscal year 2018 Small Urban Federal Transit Administration Section Funds, Section 5307 Program and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

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 Mr. Wilson, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7163, accepting as substantially complete work done by and between the City of Monroe and Amethyst Construction, Inc., for the Calypso Street Sinkhole Repairs Project, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7164, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Change Order No. Three (3) to the Flood Control Improvements to the Rochelle Street, Roselawn Street, & 11th Street area of Monroe State Project No. H.010919 Contract, between the City of Monroe and Womack & Sons Construction Group, Inc., for an increase in the contract amount of \$69,652.52 and an increase in the contract time of 92 days and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Comments:

Mr. Echols stated a question to Ms. Golden, specifically when we first started this project, it was scheduled to finish up sometime in November, December and we have added some time to it and do know there were some weather delays; can you give us a timeline when the roads will be opened freely Monday-Friday, 8-5, do you have an estimated timeline; Ms. Golden stated Mr. Holland would have the information. Mr. Holland stated, our new timeline for completing this project is April 22.; Mr. Echols stated, on Rochelle, the road there that you obviously had to chop up to run your structure, would that be repaired, are you going to redirect that road at all or will you just keep the same path and it be repaired kind of as is; Mr. Holland stated, no it will be repaired, that's one of the last things we normally do, we are still moving the equipment in and out for cleanup, we don't want to tear up something that we just put down fresh and once we are done we're going to re-stripe it, so that it can look nice and clean; Mr. Echols asked if the large mounds of dirt would be moved or relocated; Mr. Holland said they will be moved and some is being moved now, it is stockpiled because some of it will be used.

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to remove from the agenda to Adopt a Resolution authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Change Order No. Two (2) to the Calypso Street Sinkhole Repairs Contract, between the City of Monroe and Amethyst Construction, Inc., for an increase in the contract amount of \$ _____ and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Comments:

Mr. Wilson commented, that he knows the agenda item is being removed and do know it has an increased amount, as it is the same increased amount as the item before it and asked why is it the same amount; Mr. Holland said with any contract they do what is called a close out change order, trying to get some things worked out and the intent was to get everything worked at in this time frame, but it didn't happen, and are not trying to rush and get everything done, but it will be taken care of and it will be a slight increase possibly.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance authorizing the City of Monroe to take Corporeal Possession of the property described below and sell to Charlon Brown-Perkins and Jermy C. Perkins, for one thousand three hundred seven and 45/100 dollars, all rights, title and interest that the City may have acquired in and to Lot Four (4) of Square Fifteen (15), Unit 8, Airport Addition, Monroe, La, by Adjudication at tax sale dated July 1, 2010, and further with respect thereto. (Legal) (There were no public comments.)

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND FINAL ADOPTION

SUBJECT TO PUBLIC HEARING:

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Finally Adopt Ordinance No. 11,836, declaring certain movable property of the City of Monroe as being no longer needed for public use and further providing with respect thereto. (Property Control)

Chairwoman Ezernack opened the public hearing and seeing no one come forward, the hearing was declared closed.

(b) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mrs. Ezernack and approved; Voting YES: Echols, Ezernack, Woods; Voting NO: Wilson, Clark, to Finally Adopt Ordinance No. 11,837, amending and restating Ordinance

11,363 and further providing with respect thereto. (City Code Sewer Rate) (Admin.) (This item was passed over at the 2/13/2018 meeting.)

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack asked if there were any amendments to this Ordinance; she said this is not the not the CPI one; Mr. Echols said it had the CPI index in it; Mrs. Stacy Rowell, stated, we would like to amend the Ordinance to read, that it has a four percent cap on the CPI; Mrs. Ezernack asked if they wanted to restate the motion with the amendment; she said what they are saying is that we would be limited with a four percent cap on the CPI, that would be the maximum it could go up when adjusted by the CPI; Mrs. Ezernack asked if anyone wanted to amend the motion or restate it to include it and withdraw the original motion; Ms. Woods withdrew her motion and Mrs. Ezernack withdrew her second; Ms. Woods restated her motion to include the amendment; Mrs. Ezernack said, that amendment stated when it was adjusted according to the CPI, it would be a four percent cap on that, so if the CPI for some reason went way beyond that, that it would still only be four percent; obviously if it was lower than that, it would be the lower number of whatever that may be.

Chairwoman Ezernack opened the public hearing:

Public Comments:

Ms. Eva Dyann Wilson, citizen, asked if they could explain what happened regarding it not being in the original; Mrs. Ezernack said there was no cap at all and they inserted the cap to ensure the cap would never go up more than that amount if there was an adjustment made, so that was an actual advantage to the consumer in that part, because the other was more open ended; if that index was six percent, it would be six percent, so now it would never be more than four, it would the actual number or never more than four; Ms. Wilson said the actual number, but never more than four and asked if they were saying it was an amendment and then you are going to adopt it with the amendment; Mrs. Ezernack said no, that motion was withdrawn and the motion was stated with it as part of the original motion; Mrs. Rowell said this is on the sewer and the rates were adopted back in 2000; Mrs. Ezernack said in 2012, maybe; Ms. Wilson asked why was it being considered in this motion; Mrs. Rowell said because the CPI was pulled out of the Ordinance; Ms. Wilson asked if the CPI was being amended back into the Ordinance; Mrs. Rowell said, correct; Ms. Wilson said, so it is an amendment; Mrs. Rowell said yes, to an existing rate; Mrs. Ezernack said yes, the Ordinance is amending an original Ordinance; Ms. Wilson said an amendment to the Ordinance that was proposed two months ago, that we didn't vote on and Mrs. Rowell said, right; Ms. Wilson said, the motion is to amend that, correct; Mrs. Ezernack said, it really is amending the original Ordinance that we passed back in 2011 or 2012, is what this is doing and we amended the language tonight and Ms. Baldwin may be able to explain it better; Ms. Wilson asked if this was the language that was passed over in February; Ms. Baldwin stated, this Ordinance is amending an Ordinance that we already have in place and the only change to this Ordinance is adding the four percent cap, which is a benefit to the citizens; Ms. Wilson said, not the Ordinance that would provide for the new and improved water treatment plant; Mrs. Ezernack said, no, this is sewer; Ms. Wilson said, strictly the sewer and asked how would this impact the other proposal; Mrs. Ezernack said, they are two separate proposals and it is next on the agenda; Ms. Wilson asked if this change being considered will automatically be included in the next proposal if though it were already there; Mrs. Rowell said no, we still have to amend the language on that one; Ms. Wilson said you will have to go back and amend this piece into the next item before it is adopted; Ms. Baldwin said the same language regarding that is in both the proposed sewer amended ordinance and the proposed amended water ordinance and they are amending it to add the four percent cap in the sewer and it is my understanding they were going to request it be the four percent cap added in the next amended ordinance regarding the water; Mrs. Rowell said the CPI is put in the water after the initial rate that was requested, the 30 and the 30 and are putting a cap on both so they won't go over four percent; Ms. Wilson said the one that is being voted on now, which will also have to be added to the next one; Mrs. Rowell said the same language would be added to the water; Mrs. Ezernack said the water and sewer are two separate operating funds and they will need to separate ordinances, one dealing with sewer and one dealing with water and the main focus and the conversations in the meetings have been mainly on the water, the sewer has really not been addressed that much because it was handled back in 2012; Ms. Wilson said the reason she asked is in the meetings that were held in the districts, the sewer information was included and now we're having legal decisions about the one that you are voting on right now as well as the one being proposed; Ms. Wilson said she is not totally convinced that they are two, but the same, the one in A is protecting the citizens and doesn't go over xyz and the one in B that one considers that you have already adopted A; Mrs. Rowell said they are two separate things; Ms. Wilson said that totally confuses her and she can't ask a question that will help her to understand; Mrs. Ezernack said, what she understood her to say and what she remembers from the meeting was, the pamphlet that they passed out had those things and they took the CPI and the rate that said sewer, took that into consideration because they had to do each item separately; Ms. Wilson asked if the figures on the pamphlet already had the ceiling; Mrs. Rowlett

said no, they used one half because it was two percent this past year and normally it's one and a half, so she used the one and a half, but as a protection, just trying to make sure that it will never go over four percent and will use the same language in the water once the new rates applied, the CPI will kick into effect and want to make sure it never goes over four percent; Ms. Wilson said the purpose of A is already in the estimate in the information that was sent out.

Ms. Vickie Krutzer, citizen, asked if the sewer funds stayed in the sewer account; Mrs. Ezernack said, yes they do, they are designated for that purpose; she asked what was the amount generated now; Mr. Janway said the amount was \$6 million; Ms. Krutzer asked if the amount was for the sewer up 165 and so forth; Mrs. Ezernack said it was for a lot of sewer projects over the years and \$100 million has been invested over the last ten years; Mr. Janway explained the six million dollars was primarily for labor and maintenance, equipment purchases and it doesn't support a large capital outlay and the majority of the one cents sales tax was used and one hundred million dollars from that was put into the sewer fund; Mrs. Krutzer asked if the \$100 million used to repair the sewer lines; Mrs. Rowell said there are so many that need to be repaired; Mr. Janway said the capital improvement program for sewer addressed approximately 25-30 per cent of the sewer basins in the districts; it produced 15 of the 75 sewer lift stations, there were 60 not touched, there are a lot of capital needs in the sewer; the CPI index is for routine operations and maintenance of the sewer; Mrs. Krutzer said with the \$100 million and the one cent sales tax that was voted upon to repair the sewer and water; many of us taxpayers are disappointed that much money was spent and we still are in the shape we are in.

Ms. Marie Brown, citizen, asked what was the sewer being capped on and how would it be regulated; would sewer meters be put in; when the sewer is based on the water and don't understand why the water wouldn't be placed first, so that we could know how it would work, since there are no sewer meters and you are capping something that you can't regulate, if you count the water, the water bill is based on the sewer bill; Mr. Westrom said they are doing operations and maintenance with the money and it is not being capped based on the amount of utilization, for example if you use five or ten thousand gallons, it is a cost of living increase; Ms. Brown asked how would the bill generated; he said it is not based on usage, it is based on a percentage of the cost and if you paid a dollar for your sewer, and if it went up fifteen percent, then you would be paying \$1.15, this is just an example; Ms. Brown said it is confusing and it will be passed and no one knows what it is and don't understand how sewer is being charged when there are no sewer meters to regulate the amount of sewerage being used; we do need to improve the water system, but the understanding of what will be paid will not be known until the first bill is received.

Ms. Eva Dyann Wilson, citizen, stated a question was raised at the SCIA community meeting for water rates about the sewage lines and it was said that was part of the whole operation, that the sewer lines in that community were probably in the worst shape of any in the City and they would have to be repaired and that was going to be a part of the new water system and improvement; Mrs. Ezernack said that was on the distribution of water lines and a lady got up and spoke about her water lines at the meeting.

Mayor Mayo, stated, I think the Council members are aware of this and I will take a page out of Councilman Clark's book when we talk about as simple as I can put it concerning this; I really wish that I could take everybody over to the Environmental Protection agency for our region which is in Dallas to listen to them tell us about what we will do, not what we may do, but what we will do because of the fact that we are under the consent decree; the number of years that we have been under the consent decree, this started years ago under Bob Powell when we knew that we had some problems, everybody know that these lines are old; the sewer plant is old, the lift station, the collection system, everything is old, but we have miles and miles of issues as it relates to the sewer plant; we understand the fact, that there are questions about cost is going to be, the CPI is going to be and those things, we understand that; what's not confusing is this work has to be done and the Ordinance was in place and it was rescinded, in place by one Council and rescinded by the next Council, which stopped us from coming out of being on the consent decree; the \$100 million is peanuts compared to what is needed to fix the entire system and I don't know if we will ever be able to fix the entire system and that one penny tax that was approved back in 1994 and rededicated in 2000 is significant to help us do a lot of things, but it was not a cure all, we have said that over and over again, it is not a cure all; even if it were a cure all, when we first rededicated it, costs escalate over the years, lines continue to break down and the guys in the sewer department continue to go out and out, and all the calls they receive to repair, it's just not enough; we need this to get done for a number of reasons, one, to try to come out of the consent decree, the environmental protection agency, EPA, they are paying attention to us tonight as they did some time ago to see what we are going to do; our Council will vote on this, we thought we were out, recently a couple of times, but they wouldn't let us out and they told us they wouldn't let us out because of actions they have seen; when we've gone to the EPA, we see the electronics stuff, the online stuff, we would

see newspapers, the News Star would be on the desk as we are waiting, they are paying attention to everything we do, not just us but everybody that they have under a consent decree; \$100 million may seem like a lot, but it is not a lot as far as fixing everything and hopefully there can be some clear understanding about what that amount will be, but also it can't by law be for or go for anything else other than sewer, that's it.

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

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and approved; Voting YES: Echols, Ezernack, Woods; Voting NO: Wilson, Clark, to Finally Adopt Ordinance No. 11,838, amending Section 36-23(a) (1) and Section 36-33 (a) (2), relative to Water Rates, of Chapter 36 of the City of Monroe Code, and further providing with respect thereto. (Water Rate) (Admin.) (This item was passed over at the 2/13/2018 meeting.)

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack stated, I am moving that with the CPI would be capped at a four percent amount, no greater than four percent.

Chairwoman Ezernack opened the public hearing:

Public Comments:

Ms. Tiffany Harrington, citizen, commented that compared to all the water tested across Louisiana, that Monroe's water tested the best of all and is the reason they decided to put the water tree franchise in Monroe; she commented what Mayor Mayo said about the EPA and the reasons for the treatment of the water and the need for clean water.

Ms. Vickie Krutzer, citizen, commented that one of her concerns and in meeting with Mr. Echols was the assurance of the money staying in the water department and if it was written in the Ordinance for it to be dedicated for water and sewer only. Mrs. Rowell referenced her to Section 36-28 and the use of water rates proceeds shall be deposited in the water fund and to expend it to the following: All proceeds of the water user fees shall be deposited in the water fund and shall be expended only as to any of the following: (1) To defray the operational costs of the water treatment facilities and water delivery system; (2) To defray the maintenance and repair costs of the water treatment facilities and water delivery system; (3) To defray the debt service incurred by the water treatment facilities and the water delivery system; (4) Transfers to the city general fund shall be limited to reimbursement for funds actually transferred to or advanced for the water treatment facilities and the water delivery system from the general fund; (5) Administrative charge-backs to the general funds shall be limited to actual costs for the services rendered as determined by the department of administration and approved by the city council. Mrs. Krutzer, asked if that was funds transferred for Administration and if this was done in every department; Mrs. Rowell said it is done for those that are standalone that can have overhead, it's in the budget and you see it in the line item, \$500,000 cost to the sewer and a \$500,000 cost to water and it's been that for years and that's to pay things like payroll and the overhead that is provided by administration and both sewer and water are enterprise funds, they operate as a business and the money that comes into those funds stay in those funds and are used for those purposes; Mrs. Krutzer asked if the infrastructure committee that is under water and sewer be the ones that approve the expenditures of the funds of the projects; Mrs. Rowell said it would go through the Engineering department and probably project management; Mrs. Krutzer asked if the Infrastructure committee have anything to do with this; Mrs. Rowell said the committee do review the project, and they get reports from the project management and the engineer; Mrs. Krutzer stated, the majority of us is not for this. Mayor Mayo said Council would have to approve it; Mrs. Ezernack said Council would have to approve the project.

K-9, citizen, stated for the record that he had to come to Council and the Mayor donated a check from his own pocket to donate water for Tallulah; he asked that the City would fix the problem now before we have to ask someone to give us some water.

Mrs. Rowell stated there was a lifeline in place that gives a discount to those who qualify, there is criteria and it includes seniors and low income and they are available; they would need to come by and fill out the paperwork and have offered to leave the paper work at various places throughout the City; some of the pastors and their church members have picked up applications and the rate is available, there have been two people on it, until we started having the meetings and one more person have joined; it is available and need to be accessed; in addition want to emphasize that what is before Council and it's not to build the plant, or to issue bonds for debt yet, we aren't there; this is the funding source to move on the other two items.

Mr. Echols stated, over the last several weeks I have had the opportunity to talk with Mr. Thompson, Mr. Ted and everybody else via email and an in person meeting to discuss these rates; our administration and everyone else has been helpful to provide most of the questions, or answers to many of the questions I have had, but I still have many more questions and I know there is a long process tied to this, especially as it relates to the dozens, if not tens of millions of dollars of projects that have been outlined, although some of the data and their estimates are 18,10,18,15 years old; where my disappointment lies is that, I have worked in finance business before and have tried to come up with other solutions that potentially could mitigate some of the costs or at least string out the costs over the period of a number of years; I'm one hundred percent for expanding our plant by certain capacity and I'm one hundred percent for having clean quality water, I think it's imperative that we do that; part of the process that's frustrating to me is that, again I had a proposal out there and right or wrong it was another proposal that stretched things out over a period of time; where my complicating factor comes in is that, I have toured our water plant and do appreciate Mr. Benton and his team for taking me through there on numerous occasions and I have gone through on last summer when we had the water issue; we were literally within days or moments, there could have been a system failure, we brought in backup systems just in case our system failed and so where it's a complicating factor for me, this is a critical infrastructure project and we've got to have it; I don't necessarily agree with the motion that is on the table, but unfortunately in this situation, do we kill our water system, do we continue to operate with the bad system, a system that needs dramatic improvement, do we jeopardize the life and health of our citizens; again, I think the project should be a longer term project and of course that issue was threatened with a veto, and I'm fairly certain, that my proposal would not carry even if I amended it tonight, so it feels like a fruitless effort for me to go through that process; at the same time I'm not going to jeopardize what I consider to be one of the most critical issues to our citizens, even though I don't agree with the current financial proposal that is on the table, so one hundred percent administration's proposal, but I'm not going to jeopardize the health and wellbeing of our citizens when we have such a massive issue that we have to address, albeit, should have done it 5, 10, 15 whatever years ago, because the system is aging; we are in this situation that we are in today and I'm in the situation I'm in with where I'm going to cast my vote because of all the circumstances surrounding my proposal and where this system is; those are my thoughts tonight and I can assure the folks that are working on these proposals, if it passes this evening, as we go forward, there will be some level of expectation from me and questions from me as it relates to the projects on this list and how we complete those going forward from a fiscally responsible stand point and so again, first step and a big hill to climb and that's all I got for this evening, thank you.

Mrs. Ezernack, stated, I would like to make some comments, really echo a lot of what Mr. Echols said; since I have been on the Council, I've had the opportunity to go to lobby Washington to try to get us some of these funds to do some of these things; at those lobbying trips, each one of us takes a project and we talk about that particular project and this water treatment plant has been my project for the last number of years, so I know the criticality of where we are with it; if we want to grow, expand our economic development opportunities and things of that nature which we all want to see happen, we have to have good infrastructure, we need to have good water, we need to have good sewer, all the things that big business expect if they decide to come to our community, we have to be able to provide that; this is the first step allowing us to be able to do that, we also need redundancy at our plant, for those emergency situations where we have an opportunity to be able to run on a lower capacity be able to get us over the hump; we have a lot of people that have medical issues, things of that nature and people that don't have the resources, if our system went down, to go out and find cases of water and bottle water and other things that a lot of us would do; we can live without a lot of things, but we can't live without water and I'm very proud of Mr. Benton and his team at that plant as Mr. Echols said, they do the best job with what they have and I think we are really respected for our product is today, unfortunately we just need to expand it more, as our city expands; thank the administration for bringing all the information to us, thank the citizens for being patient with us and I'm in hopes tonight we will take that step and we won't kick the can down the road again, as we have done over the years and we will really move forward and I think we will all appreciate the product in the end and what it can do for our community; thank you so much.

Ms. Woods, stated, I just want to once again, thank the administration, thank Mr. Benton and his group; the thing that stands out to me the most is in talking to the people that are down in the trenches that are actually doing the work and when you start talking to the people that are doing the work and then they start to tell you, that we need to do something about our water system, that's when it really starts to hit home; because they know the system better than anybody else, they know what they have to do to get us to the point of having the good water that we have, they know what they have to band aid and what they have to do to keep the system up and keep the system running, and when you start talking to the worker bees, that's when it starts to stick with me; I want to encourage those of you that need assistance, to take advantage of the lifeline, it's a benefit that is there and all we have to do is sign up for it; and in the meetings they also alluded to the fact that people that are 62 and older, there are

discounts in place for your sewer; there are a lot of benefits, that sometimes we don't know about and we don't take advantage of and I understand, it's like fifteen percent off your bill, if you can get approved and the approval process is not a difficult one, it's just a matter of being informed, thank you.

Mr. Wilson, stated, I want to thank the citizens of District 4 in the last Council meeting, thanked you all as well, but I want to thank you all for coming out tonight; I see Dr. Ford and others here tonight from District 4 and I appreciate the letters I received from you all, the phone calls, from you all as well; I appreciate some that are at home tonight, I know you want to be here and what you shared with me, a decrease in services but an increase in fares, some rode bus, and night services were cut out, you asked me the question why, you showed me your water bill, I saw where your water bill was \$70 a one month bill, on fixed income; a lady told me on last week, I need my medication, but I also need my water, so which one do I choose, I told her I work for you, she said I can't afford an increase, not a penny more; I mentioned the lifeline, if you all know, we just started hearing about the lifeline at the community meetings, why weren't they sent out in the bills every month to encourage the people to get on the lifeline, so I want District 4 to know, that your voice has been heard and I work for you, thank you Madam Chairman.

Mayor Mayo, stated, this has been a long process and I guess since I have been the longest, it's been pretty long and I guess I've experienced this for some time and you know when you reflect back to when it first came up years ago and we knew that we had to something about it because of the antiquated system; because of the current budget would not handle it, you always look for alternative measures to be able to handle it and normally you are talking about fees and taxes, and we are not talking about taxes in this case, we are talking about fees; as I fast forward on to now, when I guess six plus years ago, when we started talking about introducing this predating to this Council and getting all the way to this point and having an opportunity to do what so many wish what they could do, we talk about the low and moderate income residents and rightfully so; I often say nobody grew up as poor as I grew up and I understand that, but I also understand that when I look down the road to Tallulah, to Tensas Parish, the poor were impacted more than anybody when they didn't have any water, at all; that is what happens when you don't have any water, now the rich and those that can afford it, they have alternatives, what alternatives do you have when you don't have any water and so that's why as Mayor of this City it encompasses me to make sure that we protect the health of our citizens and it starts with a lot of things and water is no exception; I can appreciate the fact that the Council wanted to have the meetings to talk to the constituency and we did, the Administration went out and answered questions and I'm sure if we had a hundred meetings, we wouldn't get every question answered; the bottom line is we tried to do our due diligence to make sure that we communicated and we had a meeting in each district; we talk about Century Link and we all say we love and we want to keep here and do all the things that they require us to do and one of the main things have to do with water because we had to go out to CenturyLink, they said the pressure was low and we had to change the pipes from a twelve inch to sixteen inch, we didn't have all the funds here, we had to secure a grant from the Delta Regional Authority and then after we were successful in getting the grant, we had to come up with the money and had we not had the infrastructure tax money to do a match, we wouldn't been able to do that and with the new Century Village project we having to do the same; the outside companies that we sell water to that we bring revenue into our city and they depend on us, we wouldn't be able to do that, we are almost at full capacity and what I know and we all know, no matter what our thoughts are concerning these issues, when it breaks down, everybody want to know Mayor and Council, what are you going to do and we are only talking about a few dollars more; I'm sensitive to everybody, some have medical issues and whatever issues they have and also know people have cable and they go shopping and do everything they may want and not necessarily need, because I live in an area that is surrounded by individuals that I see every day and that is in a particular area where I live; we do ask for support of this measure and I know it's not perfect, but it is something that can move us forward and send a signal to our citizens that we are concerned about their health and wellbeing, as we move forward and deal with economic development and even more importantly, the health of our citizens; we do appreciate whatever support this Council can give us, thank you.

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

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

1. Charles Theus, stated, I was waiting on news from Sterlington, they are voting on Resolution tonight as our Council did and I want to thank our Council members for voting in favor and thank those who voted against and do understand the dilemma; my thoughts tonight are when you talk about economic development, I saw some people out protesting and doing things against what they felt and that's there right, we have that right to do this in this country; however, my thought comes to the disingenuousness of what I see some people talking about, when

you have Farrakhan and I know very little about Mr. Farrakhan and I can understand if some people don't like him or some do like him, it matters a little to me because everyone has a right to do what they want to do in this country; when you have a man like David Duke who was born in 1956, he was elected to the House of Representatives and this guy was a neo-Nazi, and he is a member of the alt right and then he is a member of the tea party movement, and he has stated in 2012 that the tea partyers encouraged him and they are going forth; we elected him and yet we are mad because we gave a key and I'm not saying it's right or wrong, but I'm saying to think about what we are saying, we need to come together, the Mayor has so graciously offered that everyone would come together to talk about race, some people took him up on it and some didn't; the people that I saw protesting did not do that in my opinion and they have a right to do that, but I'm saying why don't we sit at the table if we have a problem with this and instead of picking at folks, I think that David Duke has a right to do whatever he wants to do in this country and I'm one of the few that says I met David Duke, he was very cordial and also met Farrakhan and he was very cordial, I don't have a problem with people doing what they want to do, but what I have a problem with is that when you have a school board member talking about the N word and nobody's name on this Council or in this hall said anything and now we want to speak up against Farrakhan; I protect your right to do that, I think you have that right, but do it on every occasion, don't just do it when you feel like it's a political jab at the Mayor.

2. K-9, stated, always remember anything I say if someone want to talk to or challenge, I have no problem talking to you outside; Ms. Woods this is something that I want to address to you and I talked to Mr. Wilson about it and we haven't had a chance to talk to Mr. Eddie about this Chennault Park; we are trying to create something for these kids and I'm asking the Council to bring it up and I don't know how to talk to Ms. Baldwin, whatever, she look different when you see her somewhere else, so I apologize; we are asking y'all to bring it up and try to do something at Chennault park, we need to get some type of water park on that end, I know y'all talking about it's at the zoo and all that but we got all those acres and acres out there just going to waste; I remember one time and I brought this up and will keep bringing it up; I don't mind going live, tv, whatever; the Joe Delaney event is coming up and they talked about Monroe so bad and why, we give them reasons to, it's time to step up; Mr. Wilson and Ms. Woods, y'all the only two I talked to, and I haven't talked to the Mayor, Mr. Echols or Mrs. Ezernack about doing something at Chennault however, we need to come up with fundraisers or whatever we need to do to bring Chennault back, we need to try to do it; once you start getting these people from all the way, you got a big old field out there and we shouldn't have to go to Sterlington, we shouldn't have to go worry about who clean and this ball field here flooded, let's go to Chennault, let's do something instead of letting it sit up there and grow; getting help out there now, we raised enough sand to get Truck back out there, give them another worker, we got a stage that got to be built, utilize the thing and don't just let it sit there, that's ways of bringing money back in, like now I do things for the team; if you look on my Facebook page, we wrote a check for them and let them sell nachos, chips or something to raise money and I know every last one of you get hit with the AAU and the track team; as a matter of fact, I think you donated something to the Massey track team, we letting them come in and I talked with Mr. Wilson about it and we going to ask you all on days when they off like on Easter or whatever, they off on Monday, Ms. Woods or whatever, to vote on letting it stay open until twelve; curfew time I think, Mr. Eugene told me is Friday through Saturday is eleven or twelve o'clock and when they are out of school on that Monday after Easter, you get a lot of trouble to get into, they don't have anywhere to go and once you know they are there with me, you going to be there and be picked up by parents, that's less headache you have to have worried about kids out there throwing bricks in the window or shooting on one side of town; I'm asking you all to lean with it when we are doing something downtown for the team as long as it's not no commotion; if it's commotion call me, don't throw a rock and hide your hand, just come tell me if this happen, we need to control that and we will go and do something about it; I'm not hard and Mr. Kenny it is your district and I want to ask you to have the blessing on because we are doing something and you know we are doing something for the AAU football team and to let us stay open, and do something for these teenagers.

Marie Brown, citizen, stated, I'm totally disappointed tonight, totally disappointed in the Council; one minute I hear you voting against the water, but you vote for the boat, that's confusing as I don't know what; there is nothing nobody is bringing positive to this community, this community is about crime, drugs and whatever else you can add to it; there is nothing positive being brought and yes we sure do need to do something at Chennault Park, it's a beautiful place, but we don't do anything; when you say these are your people, that you listen to your people, are you really listening, you are not listening, you are doing what you want to do; I don't think half of you all up there want to be up there anymore, you are just buying time; people tell me well, this person not running no more, after tonight, I believe it, I believe it, because you doing things that are going to hurt the future of your people; I deal with these people every day, everybody is looking for that pipe dream, so yeah, they will be glad to go to that boat, economic development, but you think a casino, that SEDD is supposed to be looking out for the Southside, Districts 3,4,5 and your first move is to try to raise the tax, put another tax on the community; your

idea is to bring the casino, your idea is to paint that bridge over there for almost \$250,000, this is what you are sitting at the table planning, you are not calling the community in, he's saying let people say what they want to say, with their opinion, but you go to that SEDD meeting and they try to throw you up out of there, cuss you out, disrespect you; this the things they are doing, and y'all sitting there acting like you don't come to the meetings to see what they doing, you not trying to appoint anybody to that board, that's got any vision, no vision at all; everything you want to bring to Monroe is negative and it's going to impact your citizens, that's who it is going to impact, the people you see every day, but y'all doing fine, y'all don't care, you just voting with each other; if you can vote for that boat, I think you should have voted for that water too.

James Skipper, citizen, stated, I commend the board tonight, I came here to actually see what the board would do with the water issue, because I'm one that is for it; I spoke up for it in community meetings, I lived in a town that wouldn't do this, I worked for the administration, as the administration to the Mayor and we had to drink out of bungalows and I personally want to say kudos to Mr. Echols, because I heard you speak about something that really touched me; when you said that, I'm personally may not be for it, I personally may not agree with it, but it's the right thing for the city and I admire that tonight about you; I was looking and didn't know how you would vote, but it concerned me, but when I heard you speak, I said well that made sense, it may not be something he want or something that he agree with, but it's something that's going to make this City better because no business, no company or nothing is going to move into a town that doesn't have good drinking water, that's the first thing they look at, how's the water system there and we have to be progressive and don't want to sit here and say well what if we don't do this, well we okay we will be fine; the steps that we took tonight and the vote is going to secure that, we can have good water and we could be in the running for companies that want to move into a town our size, so I commend you for that tonight.

Vickie Krutzer, citizen, stated, I agree that we need to improve our water system, but I want to say to you elected officials, having been an elected one; you have a responsibility to take the time and the effort to follow where these funds go, to see that the projects are done timely and that the funds administered are going in the right place because we have already been down this road, the Mayor, we all met at Lexington elementary with a previous administration and City Council and we dropped an estimated \$35 million out of that \$100 million on just expenses paid to contractors and engineers; we could have used a lot of that, we citizens are going to hold you accountable, which that is what we should do, we should be there and say, you show us, we ant full disclosure of where this money goes, of where the projects are and that they are completed in a timely manner; you talk about economic development, has anyone been to the mall lately and tried to get across Garrett Road at five o'clock, what status are we in getting the I-20 service road fixed, we got a bridge they say is not built correctly, but we been sitting here for all this time, so we citizens deserve to know how our tax payer dollars, I don't care if it's from the Federal government, if it's grants or whatever, it's our money; Madam Chairman can you address that, can you tell me what is the status of the I-20; Mayor Mayo said, Kim can you address that; Mrs. Ezernack said, Ms. Golden can tell us that; Ms. Golden stated, it is involved in litigation, it's all in public record; Mrs. Krutzer stated, right, it can be in litigation but you can still go forward even though the litigation is going on to open it; Mrs. Ezernack stated, I think if you want to know a little more about it, you may call Ms. Baldwin tomorrow and she can update you on the legal aspect of it; Mrs. Krutzer, stated, I just want to ask Mr. Echols as our City Councilman that you put that on the agenda and give us a report, we would appreciate it, thank you.

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session
March 27, 2018
6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers-City Hall
MINUTES

Mrs. Ezernack thanked everyone for their patience and her fellow Councilmembers; it was a longer than usual meeting with a lot of controversial items, but we made some progress.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m., upon a motion of Ms. Woods and seconded by Mr. Clark.

Mrs. Gretchen Ezernack
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.**