

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session  
April 24, 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.

Chairwoman Ezernack announced that a quorum was present; the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were led by Councilman Kenneth Wilson.

Chairwoman Ezernack thanked Councilman Wilson for the invocation.

Chairwoman Ezernack welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the young people for coming and being a part of the pledge of allegiance; she asked that side conversations would be kept down due to the acoustics in the building that are not good and do appreciate your help and to please put cell phones in the silent mode; she proceeded by acknowledging the time for special announcements and/or communications.

Mr. Echols thanked the young people for being in the audience to learn how their local government works and if any council member can answer any questions that you may have, would be happy to do that; he encouraged the young people to one day consider running for office, be a part of the public process; he announced and encouraged the public to attend the annual trip to Baton Rouge with the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and other delegations throughout Northeast Louisiana for the Northern Exposure trip, Tuesday, May 1, 2018, Baton Rouge and this can be coordinated with the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, they have a small fee; this trip is where you can find out about projects that are happening in Baton Rouge and things that should be happening in Northeast Louisiana, and it is a sharing opportunity with the Legislators and other elected officials at the State level.

Ms. Woods wished everyone a good evening, welcomed and thanked them for coming; she acknowledged Ms. Massey and Coach Smith along with their team and the wonderful people from Massey's Miracle Run; she told the young people that they sounded good doing the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wilson asked prayers for Ms. Bernadine Jones, as she is ill; he thanked Public Works for taking the calls that have come to the Council's office regarding the debris on the side of the roads; the men and women in public works are working hard and they are seen both day and night working hard to get the debris collected; he thanked Coach Massey, Coach Smith and the other coaches as the majority has always supported this organization and said when I see it on the agenda I know that the organization works hard and do appreciate what you do along with all the coaches throughout the City and State and all are doing an excellent job.

Mr. Clark welcomed everyone present, and also Coach Massey and Coach Smith, as well as the other coaches, volunteers, the students and the young people that are representing Massey's Miracle Run; he said Coach Johnson is wearing his Massey Miracle Run colors today; he said to them that they truly represent the city year end and year out in an upstanding and outstanding way, they carry themselves in the correct way, and do it the right way by practicing hard; he said when he would walk out at the field he would see the coaches getting it out of the students, the students are being pushed and are being taught life skills because the students are our future and they represent Monroe in a profound way as they travel from city to city and state to state; he said he was happy to support the cooperative endeavor agreement wherein Massey Miracle Run are blessed to receive \$10,000 and he thanked the Mayor and Administration for putting it on the agenda; he thanked his colleagues as they are the ones who have to vote on the cooperative agreement, to use the tax money in a way that will go out and bring dividends back to Monroe; he said Massey Miracle Run deserves it and some sitting up here have independently supported the organization over the years and no doubt Monroe City will see a return on its investment, not only by way of dollars, but just the fact that we are keeping kids off the street and giving them something to do; he said Massey Miracle Run deserves a hand, a round of applause, and are to be commended and saluted; he said to them to keep doing what you are doing; he acknowledged Carolyn, with Carolyn's Dance land in the audience and said it was good to see her present, but don't know if the city is giving her any money tonight, but it was good to see her and this is what it is all about and are proud to be a part of this process and do wish them well.

Mayor Mayo thanked Coach Doug Pederson from the Super Bowl champions, Philadelphia Eagles; he played ball here several years ago, and was an All-conference player and now he is coach of the Philadelphia Eagles and we have officially adopted him and his team as part of Saints country and there are a number of Saints fans here and four or five cowboys fans and two of them are in the building tonight; he said we do appreciate Coach Pederson's presence here in Monroe and there was a nice event this past weekend at ULM, and do appreciate his family members and he has a son and a couple of relatives that are a part of the athletic program at ULM; he commended the Massey track club and they are here in large numbers and we had the opportunity to see them and get their request for not only this upcoming awesome event that we will have in June, but also for their usual trip throughout the region, country, as they do a great job and they couldn't do it without their family members, parents and coaches; he thanked Coach Smith, Coach Massey and the other coaches that support this outstanding organization; he acknowledged a young man that some of us know and said he used to watch him on television all of the time and being that this is Saint's country and three or four cowboy fans; this is ULM, Grambling State and La. Tech country and of course LSU, this young man came in, and no boos please, he is from Alabama Crimson Tide, and was Player of the Year during his senior year and some may recognize his name, Mr. Walter Lewis, he stopped by the office today and he asked him to stand to welcome him to Monroe; Mr. Lewis is the managing director for Pipe Jaffrey and it is good to have him present tonight.

Upon a motion of Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Wilson, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of April 10, 2018 and the Legal and Special session-Budget Hearing of April 4, 2018 were approved unanimously. (There were no public comments.)

PRESENTATIONS: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS: Public Comment: NONE.

ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS: Public Comment: NONE.

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTE ENTRIES:

Council: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7173, granting an exception to the Open Container Ordinance to El Paso Mexican Grill (Cinco De Mayo) pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Department of Administration: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7174, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, of the City of Monroe, to sign and execute a Grant Application to the Louisiana Office of Tourism's (LOT) Competitive Grant Program (CGP)\_for the Louisiana Food & Music Festival. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to consider an application by Fred's Stores of Tennessee, Inc doing business as Fred's Store #2355, 1701 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Monroe, LA, 71201 for a New 2018 Class B Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been Cleared, CO-Cleared, Distance Report Cleared. (This item was passed over at the last meeting.) (There were no public comments).

Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to consider an application by Fred's Stores of Tennessee, Inc doing business as Fred's Store #2355, 1701 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Monroe, LA, 71201 for a New 2018 Class B Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been Cleared, CO-Cleared, Distance Report Cleared. (This item was passed over at the last meeting.) (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to consider an application by Fred's Stores of Tennessee, Inc doing business as Fred's Store #2380, 2350 Sterlington Road, Monroe, LA, 71203 for a New 2018 Class B Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been Cleared, CO-Cleared, Distance Report Cleared. (This item was passed over at the last meeting.) (There were no public comments).

Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to consider an application by Fred's Stores of Tennessee, Inc doing business as Fred's Store #2380, 2350 Sterlington Road, Monroe, LA, 71203 for a New 2018 Class B Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been Cleared, CO-Cleared, Distance Report Cleared. (This item was passed over at the last meeting.) (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. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7175, authorizing James E. Mayo to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Massey Miracle Run Foundation and further authorizing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack stated, the Resolution has been adopted and with great pride it has been adopted; she asked Coach Massey and coaches wanted to exit the building, that they would be given a few minutes to do so or if they preferred to stay for the meeting, that would be fine.

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7176, authorizing the Expenditure of Administrative Economic Development Funds for the Green Team Summer Job Program and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Department of Public Works:      Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7177, offered by the Monroe Regional Airport authorizing Mayor Mayo to execute an Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (La Dotd) for improvements at the Monroe Regional Airport specifically the design for the construction of Taxiway Delta, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Consider request from the Street Division of the Public Works Department for Council approval to purchase one (1) John Deere 50G Compact Excavator off State Contract. The estimated cost of this Excavator is \$60,000.00. Funds will be derived from the Street Division Capital Account. (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7178, authorizing the acceptance of the Louisiana Fiscal Year 2016 Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Funds and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Echols asked the difference between the \$1.1 million project cost and the \$880,000 federal award, where do the \$220,000 difference come from; Mr. Keenan said it comes from the general fund;

(d) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7179, Rescinding Resolution #6961 for a request for proposal for an intelligent transportation system base architecture system and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Ms. Woods asked why was the resolution being rescinded; Mr. Keenan said it was budget constraints in May of last year, it was approved and halfway through the year, they had to go into budget constraints and couldn't purchase anything or continue with the process, and do plan to come back to Council again in May or June with the same item to begin the process again; Mr. Echols asked if Mr. Keenan would explain what the intelligent transportation system did; Mr. Keenan said it has to do with a place on the bus that allows them to see

where the buses are and they do currently have that technology, but this has a part on it that FTA mandates that they have when they get to major intersections, locations and the driver is required to announce to the passengers where they are; he said with humans it is hard to get them to do it correctly all of the time, and there is technology that does it automatically in the bus and it is called the talking bus concept; Mr. Echols asked for the cost of the system and Mr. Keenan said it would cost between \$350,000-\$450,000 and the sources of funds would be a federal grant that has been approved for two years and twenty percent would come from the general fund; Mr. Echols asked if they were just putting off a \$70,000-\$80,000 match; Mr. Echols said we have the funds that were just approved for the new terminal, and why would this be rescinded now when we have the funds; Mr. Keenan said it was because of the timing and it is a year that it has been approved and haven't done anything with it and it is timing; Mr. Echols said if we are trying to meet the new standard, then why would this be delayed versus the terminal; Mr. Keenan said the terminal wouldn't be built for a couple of years and this is the first phase of the terminal will probably be engineering, maybe the design of the facility, the intelligent transportation item is something that can take place now once it is approved; Mr. Echols asked if the \$1.1 million was the cost of the facility; Mr. Keenan said the amount was for the engineering and design of the facility which would be \$6 million dollars and this is the first piece of it; Mr. Echols asked if the facility was an intermodal facility or an actual improvement of the current; Mr. Keenan said it was not an improvement, it was replacing the facility altogether, the concept is going to be kind of an intermodal and you have the rail line that is scheduled to come through at some point and then there are other transportation modes, like the taxi, bike paths, and were initially looking at putting in a location for Greyhound and did make an offer on that piece of it, but the concept will remain an intermodal type facility and they may also get with the Uber folks and get some connectivity with them; Mr. Echols said based on what is being said, is, you will spend five or six million bucks down the road on the current piece of property that doesn't connect to rail; Mr. Keenan said that was correct and it won't be a total connection to rail, as you know it will be a block or two from the rail line itself, but there will be some connectivity.

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 Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7180, accepting as substantially complete work done by and between the City of Monroe and Highway Graphics, LLC, for the DeSiard Street Striping SPN. H.001846 Project, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7181, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Change Order No. One (1) to the WTP Sedimentation Basin Sludge Removal System Improvements Contract, between the City of Monroe and Dixie Overland Construction, Inc., for a decrease in the contract amount of \$901.00 and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7182, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Change Order No. Two (2) to the WTP Sedimentation Basin Sludge Removal System Improvements Contract, between the City of Monroe and Dixie Overland Construction, Inc., for an increase in the contract amount of \$67,312.00 and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(d) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7183, 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 \$5,997.00 and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:    Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance accepting the donation of a Utility Easement into the City of Monroe by Holyfield Inc. and further providing with respect thereto. (Legal) (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance amending the current Chapter 9, Buildings, of the Monroe City Code, Article II, Section 9-24 – Permit Fees, and Section 9-25 – Penalties. (PUD) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Clark asked if items “b”, “c”, and “d” would be explained; Jesse Garcia, present on behalf of Chief Bryant stated the Inspections department has been breaking even for the last couple of years and this is a way to bring the current costs in line with jurisdictions, Ouachita Parish, West Monroe, Ruston, and currently the Monroe city is well below them and it will bring the city in the middle, won’t be the highest, but will be generating more revenue to offset the sales; Mr. Clark asked what the current fees were and the requested changes and the amounts; Mr. Garcia explained this agenda item is for the building permits and the current fees for the building permits are, \$25 and it will be changed to \$75 for residential and \$250 for commercial and the square footage costs will increase; the current commercial costs are \$25 base fee plus twelve cents per square foot, and it decreases as you go up; if you are over five thousand square feet, it drops down to eight cents and six cents per square foot if over ten thousand square feet and these are low in terms of comparative costs; Mr. Clark said, the change would be tripling the residential and ten times for the commercial and Mr. Garcia said yes, this will bring the city right in line with the parish; Mr. Clark said this is up for introduction, but he doesn’t have and doesn’t know if his colleagues have any information, but he doesn’t know what West Monroe, or what the parish charges and he asked if he would get him a copy and would like the information before the final; Mrs. Ezernack asked Mr. Garcia to scan the email to the Council members and the Clerk; Mr. Clark asked for a hard copy and Mrs. Ezernack said to take him off the email list; Mr. Clark asked about the agenda item “b”; Mr. Garcia said they are adding some other provisions, adding a demolition permit where one doesn’t exist for interior demolition and currently the only demolition is for the whole house, whole structure demolition and this is for selective interior demolition and it allows the building inspector to get in and look to prevent any future problems with code compliance and once the demolition takes place; Mr. Garcia said the costs for a demolition fee is \$50 for residential and \$100 for nonresidential; Mr. Clark asked if the cost was currently zero, and Mr. Garcia said that was correct; Mr. Clark asked if this would apply to every property that is demolished in Monroe; Mr. Garcia said there was already a fee that Code Enforcement applies to whole structure demolition and this is only for selective interior demolition for example, a building downtown where they are just going to tear out a portion of it and rebuild it for something else down the line, this is strictly for the demolition portion of it and if there is a renovation permit pulled where demolition is a portion of it, it’s already included in the renovation and it’s very few of the instances that come up, but there needed to be an item in it and not so much to collect the fee, but to allow the inspectors to check on things for the people and make sure they are not creating a bigger mess; Mr. Clark asked for the anticipated revenue for the proposed changes and Mr. Garcia gave an example for the base permit costs going from \$25 to \$75 and from \$25 to \$250, there were 1,077 permits of that type pulled in the last year and the amount is \$70,000 just from that portion, if those types of permits stay the same; Mr. Clark asked how much would the partial demolition permits bring in and Mr. Garcia said it would bring in very little because it is a rare occurrence and generally when a renovations permit is pulled it is included when they tear it down and build it back and it is submitted as one project, there are maybe half a dozen a year; Mr. Clark asked if this was under code enforcement and Mr. Garcia said it was under inspections; Mr. Clark asked for the difference in the Inspections permit fee and the Code Enforcement permit fee; Mr. Garcia asked if he was talking about the demolition fee and Mr. Clark said the permit fee falls under the inspections department and also with Code enforcement having its own permit fee; Mr. Garcia said it was for whole structure demolition, they assign the fee cost and isn’t sure but someone from code enforcement would be able to tell him exactly how it is calculated, but it’s not something that the inspections division assign, they just strictly take payments; Mr. Clark asked if the city had hired a building inspector because there was someone in his district that tried to get something done and there wasn’t a building inspector in place; Mr. Garcia said there was a building inspector hired by a services agreement, Inspections Unlimited and the fee increases will cover their costs until a new city employee can be hired; Mr. Clark asked for the cost of Inspections Unlimited and Mr. Garcia said they are in line with what the parish costs are; Mr. Clark asked if he could provide him with that information and email to Mrs. Ezernack.

Mr. Echols stated some of his concern about the process has been when you are re-inspecting and requesting the inspections or having to start the process and you continually have to go back and forth between the planning and

zoning office to make a lot of the transactions happen; he asked what are the plans for being able to do this online and making the requests simplistic so that builders don't have to continually commute back and forth off the job site; Mr. Garcia said they currently have a project in the works with their existing software system, and what you should be able to do is apply for a paper permit, request inspections and check the status of your inspections online and this is not yet ready to roll out, but it is something that planning and zoning and urban development department is working on; by doing this now the fee increases will not be changed when it begins online; Mr. Echols asked for the anticipated dates for it to begin; Mr. Garcia said he didn't know but hopefully in the next several months; Mr. Echols asked how do they calculate the square footage if a re-model is being done, do they include the entire structure; Mr. Garcia said on the remodel, the only thing that will increase is the permit cost and it is calculated on the dollar amount based on Section C, the second page, and it's a sliding scale up to 50-100,000 sq. ft.; Mr. Echols asked if he was adding on to a commercial building, would he have to assume the existing square footage or just the added square footage and Mr. Garcia answered yes the added.

Mr. Clark asked for the total number of permits pulled after the 2016 flood; Mr. Garcia said he wasn't for sure, but he can pull the renovation permits and get to him; Mr. Clark said in Mr. Garcia referencing that in 2017 over a thousand people pulled permits along with the anticipated revenue based on that and do know that a flood doesn't happen often and this was one of the worst floods ever, but is curious and interested in knowing how many people pulled permits, because these would be the same type of people who instead of paying a \$25 fee would have to pay the \$75 or \$250 fee; Mr. Garcia said this is the reason why residential customers were kept lower across the board for all increases, because they are homeowners and have to pay the bills themselves and they pay the permit costs plus contractors markup and the idea is to keep it low for homeowners and will get the numbers for him year by year; Mr. Garcia said that Mr. Gregg Smith said the fees were waived for those cases; Mr. Clark asked if the fees were waived; Mrs. Ezernack said they did for that; Mr. Clark said that was good and these are the kind of things he's curious to know about.

Mr. Echols asked how much would a ten million dollars project renovation under the nonresidential scale have to pay based upon every \$100,000 that are spent at a \$120 fee, the total amount would be a \$12,000 fee to remodel the ten million dollars project; Mr. Garcia said those fees haven't changed and it is that amount currently.

(c) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance amending the current Chapter 14, Electricity, of the Code of the City of Monroe, Article II, Division 3, Section 14-60 – Electric Fees. (PUD) (There were no public comments.)

Comments: Mr. Clark asked for a general synopsis of the agenda item; Mr. Garcia explained it was similar to the building permits where you pay a base fee of \$25 and that will be increased to \$75 and included is a mechanism that will be enforced for those violators that are not licensed electricians; the unit costs for services are staying the same and they are in line with neighboring jurisdictions; he explained when a building permit is pulled that it is for the building portion of it, and for the electrical portion of a new construction, the electrical contractor has to pull his own permit; the permit fee costs include a base fee regardless of how large the project is and it goes from \$25-75 and the fee is calculated based on the number of circuits, amperage of service into the building and the number of receptacles, light fixtures, etc. and all these costs will stay the same, but the base permit fee will increase; Mr. Clark said we are at \$25 right now and want to mirror the building permit fee structure, and he asked for the anticipated revenue for this proposal; Mr. Garcia said for the electrical permits, around \$50-60,000, they are one of the more common permits pulled; Mr. Clark asked where would the city fall in line with the other jurisdictions and Mr. Garcia said it would put the basic permit fee right in line or lower and are in line with other jurisdictions with the unit cost and for every electrical motor service they are almost identical and in some cases are lower on the unit costs; Mr. Clark asked if the city had an electrical inspector; Mr. Garcia said it is Tony Prister and a company is being used for the foundations and framing and the city also has a plumbing inspector in-house.

Mrs. Ezernack asked if the electrical and plumbing inspectors go out when you are doing a new co and look at those particular aspects of your property; Mr. Garcia said they go out and do ten inspections a day and it includes the documentation and the administration, the ladies in the office follow up on it and there is lot more to it and it would help off-set the administrative costs.

Mr. Clark asked if the city has been breaking even or making a profit on the electrical fees; Mr. Garcia said they have been breaking even and there are a lot of fuel costs, insurance, labor burden that are put together and it adds up.

(d) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance amending the current Chapter 27, Plumbing Code, of Monroe City Code, Article II, Division 4, Section 27-55 – Permit Fees, and further providing with respect thereto. (PUD) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Clark asked for an explanation of the agenda item; Mr. Garcia said it was the exact same thing as the electrical, the base permit fee and all the fixture costs, commodes, urinals, bathtubs are all staying the same, it's going from \$25 to \$75 on base permit costs and the revenue is about the same. Mr. Clark asked how many permits were pulled last year; Mr. Garcia said gas permits falls under plumbing and there were 700 total and the majority permits were for residential, two to one residential to commercial and the numbers include the fixtures; it's a couple of hundred and you multiply it by the fixtures to get 700 permits; Mr. Clark asked if a person has to pull a building permit for residential, what do they need a \$75 for each permit fee, electrical and plumbing fees, and commercial a \$250 building permit and the plumbing and electrical will be \$75 for each one of those permits; the fixture fees fall in line with other jurisdictions and the plumbing fees are a flat fee, regardless the number of commodes, it's a flat fee, whether the project is larger or small; Mr. Clark asked when was the last time the fees were changed; Mr. Garcia said parts of it were changed in 2015, but the majority of it was in the 90's; Mr. Clark asked Mr. Garcia to get the information to Council; Mr. Garcia said the base permit fees have not been increased since the 90's and will need to research to find the right date.

Mr. Wilson asked for the expiration date of the permits, for example a residential permit; Mr. Garcia said they are generally good for six months or a year depending on the type and it is all stated when they get their permit as to what the expiration date; they can renew it if they haven't completed the project during that time and they won't have to pay extra, the permit can be extended if more work is needed; if it expires they will have to start over, but they can call the office to let them know that they won't be able to complete it by the date and ask for an extension.

Mr. Clark asked about making the inspections a one stop shop; Mr. Garcia said they are working on this with the online system, there are other departments, pretreatment, sewer and engineering have to all do inspections and the notification system needs to be tweaked to work better to do online and set up yourself so that you won't have to call and schedule; Mr. Clark said with regard to the gas permits being \$75, if you had to pay an additional cost to Atmos energy when they tap the line; Mr. Garcia said you would need to pay Atmos costs and this amount was only for the licensed plumber taking it from the meter to the house.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND FINAL ADOPTION  
AND SUBJECT TO PUBLIC HEARING:      Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 11,847, adopting and amending the Zoning Map for the City of Monroe, Louisiana to rezone a ±2.14-acre tract of land, more or less, from the B-1, Neighborhood Mixed Use District to R-4, High Density Residential District located in Ouachita Parish and more particularly described as follows: Lots 2, 4, 6, 8,10, 11,12,13,14,15 and a lot in Lots 16 and 18, Square 1 of Filhiols 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition or Guinea Addition; from B-1, Neighborhood Mixed-Use District to R-4, High Density Residential District. **The lots are located in the 700 block of Adams Street and the 1300 block of DeSiard Street** - APPLICANT: Adams Street Development Partners, LLC - (P&Z)

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 Mr. Echols and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 11,848, Amendment to Chapter 37, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Monroe, Article III, Use Districts, Section 37-37 Commercial Use Districts, Table 3.3 Commercial Districts Permitted and Conditional Uses to add the use of "Educational Facility (Vocational) to the Commercial Districts table as a Minor Conditional Use. (P&Z)

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

(c) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 11,849, amending and adjusting the City of Monroe Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2017-2018. (Admin.) (3Q)

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

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 11,850, declaring the condition of the Vortex Grit Separators at the WPCC an Emergency necessitating immediate repair and further providing with respect thereto. (Public Wks)

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

(e) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 11,851, declaring the condition of the UV Disinfection System located at 770 Richwood Rd. #2, Monroe, La, an Emergency necessitating immediate repair and further providing with respect thereto. (Public Wks.)

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

Comments: Mr. Wilson stated his question did not pertain to the item, but due to him receiving calls from residents in his district, wanted to get an update on the Plum Street underpass; Mr. Holland stated they have torn out the road surface, the center wall and are now putting everything back in place, things are fitting well and the grates are in place and if the weather holds out, should be done by the end of the month.

Citizens Participation:

1. Tyrone Dickens, citizen, spoke regarding his Joe Delaney and he is doing things differently this year and will have medical professionals at the event to share information on sexually transmitted diseases among young people; he also brought a lady, Candis Johnson to speak regarding herself and other tenants having issues with their management and landlord at Kingsway apartments.
2. Michael Castor, citizen, thanked everyone for coming together to make Monroe better.
3. Coach Dee Dee Massey, citizen, thanked everyone for their past support and present donation to the Massey Miracle Youth Track Team.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m., upon a motion of Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Wilson.

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.**