

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session  
July 14, 2020  
6:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers-City Hall  
MINUTES

There was a legal and regular session of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Louisiana held this date, July 14, 2020 at the Council's regular meeting place, 400 Lea Joyner Memorial Expressway, City Council Chambers/City Hall Building, Monroe, Louisiana.

The Honorable Juanita G. Woods, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order.

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

Council members present for roll call: Mrs. Gretchen Ezernack, Ms. Juanita Woods, Mr. Douglas Harvey, Mr. Kenneth Wilson, Attorney Eddie Clark via teleconference.

Council member(s) absent: None.

Chairwoman Woods declared a quorum.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to remove from the agenda to Elect Chairman And Vice-Chairman for the coming year 2020/2021. (There were no public comments).

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mr. Tom Janway and Councilwoman Woods.

COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Mr. Harvey welcomed each present and thanked everyone for voting in the election. He thanked Mayor Mayo, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Clark for their service to the City; He congratulated Mayor Elect Friday Ellis on his victory as Mayor of Monroe and also Mrs. Ezernack and Ms. Woods on being re-elected. He congratulated Councilwoman Elect Kema Dawson Robinson of District #5.

2. Mrs. Ezernack thanked Mayor Mayo, Mr. Clark and Mr. Wilson for their service; she congratulated Mayor Elect Friday Ellis and Mrs. Kema Dawson Robinson on their being elected. She thanked the constituents for allowing her four additional years to serve.

3. Ms. Woods thanked Mayor Mayo for his service; she recognized Monroe Mayor Elect Friday Ellis and Monroe Councilwoman Kema Dawson Robinson on their victories in the race. She thanked the constituents for allowing her four additional years to serve and will continue the work started and also implement new things in District 3.

Mrs. Ellen Hill presented a slide show regarding Planning and Zoning programs and new software.

4. Mr. Wilson thanked Mayor Mayo for his service and congratulated Mayor Elect Friday Ellis and Councilwoman Kema Dawson Robinson, Mrs. Ezernack, and Ms. Woods.

5. Mr. Clark thanked Mayor Mayo for his service of 19 years. He congratulated Mayor elect Friday Ellis, and newly elected Councilwoman Kema Dawson Robinson. He congratulated Mrs. Ezernack and Ms. Woods on being re-elected.

6. Mayor Mayo congratulated Mayor Elect Friday Ellis on his victory as Monroe Mayor. He congratulated all the Council members that won on their victories, Ms. Woods, Mrs. Ezernack, Mrs. Dawson Robinson; he thanked all of the Council members that he served with along with all of the department heads, division heads and employees.

Upon a motion of Mr. Harvey and a second by Mr. Wilson, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of June 23, 2020 were unanimously approved. (There were no public comments).

PRESENTATION: 6PM

Proposed Black Lives Matter Mural for DeSiard Street and various spaces around Monroe – Brooke Foy, Rodrecas Davis and Vitus Shell.

PUBLIC HEARINGS NONE.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS:     Public Comment:  NONE.

ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS:     (Public Comment)

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Accept the bid of Parker Wholesale for Office Supplies & etc., #2021-00000008 as recommended by the Director of Administration for meeting the specifications of this bid. The Vendor responses meet the specifications of this bid. Funds will be derived from the Inventory Account and billed accordingly. The Tax & Revenue Division has confirmed that this bidder is tax compliant. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Accept the bids of Central Oil and Lott Oil Company for Petroleum Products #2021-00000010 as recommended by the Director of Administration for meeting the specifications of this bid. The Vendors response meets the specifications of this bid. Funds will be derived from the Inventory Account and billed accordingly. The Tax & Revenue Division has confirmed that these bidders are tax compliant. (There were no public comments).

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTE ENTRIES:

1. Council:           Public Comment:           None.

2. Department of Administration:   Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Consider an Application by Kid Buck LLC., (Anna Denny) dba The Siesta, 515 N. 3rd Street, Monroe, LA 71201 for a New 2020 Class A Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been Cleared, CO-Cleared, Distance Report Cleared. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Consider an Application by Catahoula's of Monroe, LLC., (Shane Smiley) dba Catahoula's, 5321 DeSiard Street, Monroe, LA 71201 for a New 2020 Class A Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been Cleared, CO-Cleared, Distance Report Cleared. (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7759, authorizing Mayor James E. Mayo to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Monroe and the South Central Planning and Development Commission for software licenses and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Department of Planning & Urban Development:   Public Comment:  None.

Legal Department:   Public Comment:  None.

Mayor's Office:    Public Comment:  None.

Department of Public Works:   Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7760, authorizing the renewal of a Self-Fueling Permit at the Monroe Regional Airport to Centurytel Service Group LLC, wherein permit will be for a period of twelve months and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7761, authorizing the renewal of a Self-Fueling Permit at the Monroe Regional Airport to Monroe Hangars, Inc. wherein permit will be for a period of twelve months and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7762, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Amendment Request #1, between the City of Monroe and Garver LLC, for a contract increase in the amount of \$43,668.69 of Runway 14-32 Extension – Phase 1

Construction – Perimeter Road and Fence Relocation Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Councilman Harvey commented that although there was a change order based on the weather delay, there has been a sixty percent admin costs added. Mr. Phillip said the original contract time was 200 days and due to the weather delays, there were continuation of costs even though it was delayed. Administration is the supervision.

Department of Community Affairs: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7763, authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into an Agreement with Eventbooking.Com, LLC and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack asked for an explanation of the resolution; Melissa Thaxton explained the booking software and said it would help with the calendar to implement events for the divisions to use. Mr. Harvey asked for the comparison of the current system and she said they didn't have a current system.

Police Department: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Consider request from the Monroe Police Department for authorization to purchase five (5) Virtual Fence Platform Units (hardware, devices, subscription and services) at a cost of \$10,982.00 each. The total cost for the hardware and three years of services is \$43,928.00 and will be paid out of the Police Capital Account. Two of the units are \$5,491 because they will be shared with the West Monroe Police Department. (There were no public comments).

Comments: MPD Interim Chief Reggie Brown explained the software system was a license plate reader and it is a camera based system. Lt. Brown explained in more detail the trailer unit and where it would be placed in an area of the community where there have been robberies.

Fire Department: Public Comment: None.

Engineering Services: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7764, accepting as substantially complete work done by and between the City of Monroe and Traxler Construction Company, for the MTS Facility Bus Wash Replacement Project, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7765, accepting the base bid of Womack Brothers, LLC, in the amount of \$250,046.45 for the Grammont Tank Lighting Project, and further authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a contract for said work. (There were no public comments).

BREAK IF NEEDED:

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance authorizing the City of Monroe to take corporeal possession of the property described below and sell to Roshonda Johnson all rights, title and interest that the City may have acquired to Lot B, Sq 37, Layton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition, Ouachita Parish, 1104 Louise Anne Ave., District 4, Monroe, La, by adjudication at Tax Sale dated July 1, 2010, and further with respect thereto. (Legal) (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, 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 Chandra Isby-Melancon all rights, title and interest that the City may have acquired to Lot 13, Block 38, Unit 4, Sherrouse Park Addition, Ouachita Parish, 509 Darbonne St., District 3, Monroe, La, by adjudication at Tax Sale dated July 5, 2012, and further with respect thereto. (Legal) (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance authorizing the City of Monroe to take corporeal possession of the property described below and sell to Stephen Collins all rights, title and interest that the City may have acquired to Lot 8, Block 1, J. Arthur Smith's Subdivision of Lots 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of Block 5 of Terminal Heights Addition, Ouachita Parish, 104 Wilson St., District 4, Monroe, La, by adjudication at Tax Sale dated June 22, 2011, and further with respect thereto. (Legal) (There were no public comments).

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance authorizing the City of Monroe to take corporeal possession of the property described below and sell to Stephen Collins all rights, title and interest that the City may have acquired to Lot 6, Block 2, J. Arthur Smith's Subdivision of Lots 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of Block 5 of Terminal Heights Addition, Ouachita Parish, 206 Kenewah St., District 5, Monroe, La, by adjudication at Tax Sale dated June 22, 2011, and further with respect thereto. (Legal) (There were no public comments).

(e) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance adopting and amending the Zoning Map for the City of Monroe, Louisiana and authorizing the Clerk to publish notice for a public hearing to zone a ±3.3-acre tract of land presently located in Ouachita Parish from B-3 General Business/Commercial District to B-4, Heavy Commercial District to operate a manufactured home sales lot, located at **1101 Louisville Avenue – APPLICANT- Hixson Automotive Sales - (P&Z)**

Comments: Ms. Allison Jarrell explained the application and it will be a manufactured home display center. Mr. Buddy Hill an employee of Hixon Group explained the sales tax on immovable objects; there are large revenue streams with an initial ten employees and gave more detail.

Mr. Harvey commented to amend the motion to the Introduction of the Ordinance to include no more than ten movable structures of houses at any time and to include that all of the movable structures must have matching skirting around the bottom of the cross base, and any unit moved on the lot must be no more than four years old at the time of it being moved on the lot, and the transport will not utilize Louisville Avenue other than crossing.

Mrs. Ezernack asked about amending it to include the reversion of it being reverted back to B-3, if the use was no longer in effect; she also asked for a photograph of the existing layout at his other locations.

Ms. Woods asked for photographs to get a visual.

Mr. Harvey said he was good with the amendments for introduction. Mrs. Ezernack asked if there was a requirement for them to be put on a hard surface field. Mrs. Sturdivant said it is okay to add the conditions and stipulations.

Mr. Riddle made comments regarding the lot and for clarification; Mr. Hixon was present representing his family; he commented that three acres of the property will be used for the homes and would provide additional information if needed. Mr. Harvey asked if water would be covered in the building permit; Ms. Poret said they would have to go through a site review and the questions would be answered at that time. The Introduction of the Ordinance was presented with stated amendments.

(f) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 32, Subdivision Regulation, of the Code of the City of Monroe, Article II, Definitions, Section 32-21 Definitions and Article III Administrative Procedures, Section 32-39 Replat of Approved Plats (a) Procedures. (P&Z) (There were no public comments).

(g) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to remove from the agenda to Introduce an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 37, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Monroe, Article V, Site Development Standards, Section 37-78 Supplemental Height, Yard, and Open Space Regulation (c) Architectural Projections into Required Yards (3) to clarify the circumstances that open air carports and patio covers may occupy required yards. The addition of patios to this list. (P&Z) (There were no public comments).

(h) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into a Lease Agreement with Edge Holdings, LLC for the lease of property at the Monroe Regional Airport and further providing with respect thereto. (Airport)  
Comments: Mr. Marty Bass, asked that the lease price be re-reviewed due to the comparables on the appraisal. Mrs. Sturdivant said Legal was working on it and they asked Mr. Wade to do the appraisal; Mrs. Ezernack said there may be other reasons and to look at the report before the next week; Ordinance was introduced subject to the review.

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

Public Comment:

None.

(a) Add-On: Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to add to the agenda an emergency ordinance declaring a major cave-in developing on the Hadley gravity line at Milhaven and Nutland Road an emergency necessitating immediate repair and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 11, 998, declaring a major cave-in developing on the Hadley gravity line at Milhaven and Nutland Road an emergency necessitating immediate repair and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to add to the agenda an emergency ordinance declaring the failure of influent pump #1 at WPCC sewer plan an emergency necessitating immediate repair and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 11, 999, declaring the failure of influent pump #1 at WPCC sewer plan an emergency necessitating immediate repair and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION:

1. Dr. Lisa Vanhooose, citizen, moved to Monroe a year ago and is a golfer and spoke regarding the degeneration of the MUNY over the last three years and asked that the needs of MUNY be addressed such as replacing the flags at each hole, getting rid of ant hills, weeds are eight to ten inches high, not regular mowing; she understands there are staffing issues there and a group of volunteers have decided to help MUNY, but asked that Council would assist them. She said once the issues at MUNY have been addressed, asked if the First Tee youth program would be considered. Ms. Woods said there was a First Tee program here and said she would introduce her to Ms. Thaxton.

2. Mr. Damian Coleman, citizen, spoke regarding his organization and its concern about crime, murders, and drug deals that are going on in the city and Parkview; he said there is not a lot of attention in the Parkview area. He commented about his organization's proposal to the City and the goal of the study. Ms. Woods commented that she would talk with him further about his proposal.

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There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m., upon a motion of Mrs. Ezernack and seconded by Mr. Harvey. (There were no public comments).

Ms. Juanita G. Woods  
Council Chairwoman

Ms. Carolus S. Riley  
Council Clerk

Ms. Jacqueline Benjamin  
Council Secretary

**\*For extended details on the Council meeting please call the Council Clerk, Monday-Friday at 329-2252; also, a recording of the minutes can be sent via email to you.**