

There was a legal and regular session of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Louisiana held this date, October 9, 2018, 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 and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

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

Council members absent: None.

The Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were led by Ms. Woods designee, Mr. Robert Johnson, Community Affairs.

Chairwoman Ezernack thanked each for attending and asked that all cell phones be cut off and to keep conversations to a minimum, as it can be distracting to the meeting. She thanked them for their assistance in this regard.

COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Mr. Echols welcomed each one present and thanked those who attended his District 1 community meeting including Ms. Golden who gave information on projects happening in District 1 and the city and also Mr. Janway who attended and informed the community members on plans and activities that the city is working on to remediate some of the trash and trash build up that has been seen over the last number of months and working with the residents to address some of their concerns; there were representatives from the police department, including Mr. Bartley who answered questions about neighborhood watch's and some things that they have been able to do more aggressively to address neighborhood crime and other issues that are being worked on as a city; he invited those from District 1 and outside of the district to any of the District 1 meetings; there will be another meeting sometime later this year or the spring to address some issues in the Garden district; he stated there were some Garden district residents present tonight to address issues surrounding speeding and speed control and we have been talking with engineering about this and there are plans and ideas that will come out in the future; he thanked Ms. Jana Giles for coming to the meeting tonight, for being persistent on issues and hopefully she can give some feedback tonight. Mr. Echols announced the North Delta Food and Wine Festival this week, sponsored by Northeast La. Arts Council and their site is NELAArts.org, there are projects surrounding food and fun, tickets are on sale for concerts and music; there is a new project by Brooke Foy and her compadre who are working on Pairings on the Bayou and branding Ouachita Parish and our City with unique art sculptures and this will be special for our community, as it will help brand our community as a region, as an arts community and the city as a place where there is a lot of creative capital with the creative folks that live here today.
2. Ms. Woods welcomed each one present and thanked them for attending; SEDD and her District 3 did a cleanup this past Saturday on Renwick Street; she thanked the members of SEDD for their participation, the refreshments, the collection of the trash and Ouachita Green for providing the tools and pinchers; she thanked her mother for being there and picking up trash with her, it was a beneficial time; she thanked the Mayor for coming out to assist; she said in order to get the city where we all want it to be, we will have to all make a concerted effort of everyone and get busy; she said they would be adopting Councilman Wilson's adopt a block cleanup project to all of District 3; she yielded her remaining time to Mr. Sammie Crawford, Bone Crushers, a Monroe business; he introduced himself and his mentoring program which has included back to school giveaways, cleanups and asked for partnership with the City of Monroe to sponsor some of the youth in his facility; Ms. Woods commented that Mr. Crawford has been doing female self-defense classes and attended one that showed how females can take care of themselves if found in threatening situations.
3. Mr. Wilson welcomed each one present and thanked Mr. Crawford for the invitation and the touring of his facility and he is onboard.
4. Mr. Clark welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.
5. Mayor Mayo commented the mayor from Pine Bluff Arkansas visited Monroe on last week; she looked at the transit system to make sure she and her officials could get some best practices from us and met with Mr. Keenan and his staff; also took a tour of the airport, public safety center, downtown and around Monroe; she

told him that Monroe is much further ahead than they were and that Monroe is on the same level as Little Rock Arkansas, the capitol of Arkansas; he said these are the types of comments he receive from people outside of the community that see the amenities here; he announced Monroe now has a population of 50,344 according to the Treasurer of the State, John Schroeder; he said the staff already knows that because during the time when the US Census bureau came in to do the census count in 2010 and they said to them that they had undercounted at 48,815 and we are now at 15% count more than when they came in and we continue with the good positive things that we have; he thanked the citizens that are working to get it done, it's not only government, it's education, the business community, non-profits, faith based and everyone working together and they are Monroe Proud to be here and will continue the effort.

Upon a motion of Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Echols, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of September 25, 2018 were approved unanimously. (There were no public comments.)

PRESENTATION: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS: Public Comment: NONE.

ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS: Public Comment

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to accept the bid of Lynn Finnegan Water Solutions, Zelienople, PA for Water Treatment Plant Media Filter and Under Rail Ref#2019-0000021 as recommended by the Director of Administration for meeting the specification for the bid. The Vendor Lynn Finnegan Water Solutions meets the specifications for this bid and has been cleared by the Tax & Revenue Division. The cost of this project is \$584,820.00 and funds will be derived from the Water Treatment Capital Account. (There were no public comments)

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTE ENTRIES:

Council: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 7295, granting an exception to the Open Container Ordinance to the SOS Pets of Ouachita (DOGUE, A Runway Show) 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. Echols, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to consider an application by C-Bay LLC (Anna Denny) dba Cooter Bay, 5108 DeSiard Street, Monroe, LA 71203 for a New 2018 Class A Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been Cleared, CO-Cleared, Distance Report Cleared. (There were no public comments)

Department of Planning & Urban Development: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 7296, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Foy Gadberry of Inspections Unlimited LLC for professional services and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments)

Comments: Mr. Echols asked Ms. Hill if the plans moving forward were to do six months, one-year contract renewals; Ms. Hill said no, the plan is to hire someone, it's a hard position to fill.

Legal Department: Public Comment: NONE.

Mayor's Office: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 7297, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Miss Monroe Scholarship Pageant Organization 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 Ms. Woods; Voting YES: Clark, Ezernack, Wilson, Woods; Voting NO: Echols; Resolution No. 7298 was adopted, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute a Lease Agreement with Greyhound Lines, Inc. at the Monroe Transit System Downtown Terminal and further providing with respect thereto. (This item was passed over at the last meeting).

Comments: Marc Keenan stated the City has been working with Greyhound since the beginning of the year to find a home in Monroe and the transit terminal is located on Catalpa; he introduced two representatives from Greyhound, Mr. Ed Weatherford and Ms. Cathy Gazelli, who summarized and presented information about Greyhound in a Powerpoint; Mr. Ed Weatherford thanked each one for their service to the city and offered a summary of the history of Greyhound which included 3800 locations and locations in 168 intermodal facilities; he commented that Greyhound proposes to operate in Monroe 7 days a week, 365 days a year and they would have six buses a day, there would be four or five passengers to get on or off the bus and no other passengers would get off the bus, it is a quick in and out, pull up load/unload and get out of the way; they do no onsite maintenance and if there is an issue of a bus breaking down, they have a tow service and won't cause any interruptions to the transit; they will provide security for the times that transit is not open for the 4:30 and 7:30 buses and for operations on Sundays; they've agreed to things in the lease that they haven't agreed to in any other leases; it can be terminated for things that they do wrong, if they interrupt the transit, can terminate the lease and it is a win, win for the city, community and Greyhound; not sure what will be done if not approved and don't want to lose the service to Monroe.

Mrs. Ezernack asked Mr. Weatherford to remain in case there were questions from Council; Mr. Wilson thanked them from coming and it being in his district asked about security and them hiring their own security or using Monroe Police Department; Mr. Weatherford said it would be Transit security and Mr. Keenan explained that the transit security they use is Secure Cost, they are a very good company and if it is a recommendation of the council that they would use MPD, then they would consider that; Mr. Weatherford stated they use security across the country and have agreements with companies and that helps them get a better rate and a lot of them are retired police officers or off duty police officers and don't find it necessary to have armed guards, but are open to what they need to do; Mr. Wilson asked about the tonnage of the buses compared to the transit buses and was concerned about the damage to the streets; Mr. Weatherford said he didn't know the weight but will get it and doesn't think it would be much more; Mr. Keenan said the tonnage of the city buses were about 150,000 pounds and are 35-40 feet and Greyhound is 45 feet and not that much difference in weight; Mr. Wilson asked if the riders would be transferring from one bus to another bus; Mr. Weatherford stated they are not transferring buses, no transfer service in Monroe.

Ms. Woods commented in reference to a received phone call, stated the Monroe transit service for early mornings and midafternoon serve as transportation for students getting to and from school, asked if a Greyhound bus would arrive between 3:30p.m. and 4:00 p.m., with the concern being for the children riding the transit bus; she said based on the Greyhound there is not a lot of lingering with the ridership at the terminal; Mr. Weatherford stated there was a bus that arrives at 3:30 p.m. and leaves at 3:35p.m. and during that time a security officer is present.

Mrs. Ezernack asked for the estimate of the ridership per year out of Monroe depot; Mr. Weatherford stated it was 19,710 and Ms. Woods asked how many of that number were from Monroe; he wasn't sure of that number, but there are five passengers per bus getting on the bus in Monroe and Ms. Woods asked if he could get that information of those that are from Monroe; Mrs. Ezernack asked if there were any stops between Jackson and Monroe and he said it was from Vicksburg to Monroe and Monroe to Shreveport.

Mr. Eugene Payne, Transit Union stated he disagreed with the Greyhound lease, the transit system has too many groups of people doing nothing and the transit system under the First Transit management is the worst run in the state of Louisiana; he said there is concern about parking for Greyhound and should be concerned about the

citizens and how they are going to get around on the transit system, it is badly managed and as a taxpayer, disagrees.

Mr. Steve Adams, stated he was a Union member and a lot of the concerns that passengers had were safety with passengers on Greyhound coming from out of town; he said regarding security, there may be gang members that utilize Greyhound that won't care for security, especially if security is not armed; fare changes were of concern for those who use Monroe transit and asked how would the merger strengthen Monroe and Greyhound, and would the Monroe workers have job security and would it result in privatizing transit; Greyhound over the years have moved from a few locations and this need to be considered.

Mayor Mayo addressed the issue of how it would help Monroe Transit; he said they would become an intermodal system, like Shreveport having both their transit and Greyhound together and it's close to rail; he said this proposal would be close to rail as well and it would afford Monroe to get more funding from the Federal government and it would help Monroe Transit system.

Mr. Clark said he wanted to address the point made by Mr. Adams and it is his understanding that this is not a merger between Greyhound and the Monroe Transit, it's use of them leasing a small ticket booth, a portion of the facility; he said it was his understanding that Greyhound leasing the small portion of the building has no bearing on any privatization of Monroe Transit and that is now on the record.

Dr. Pamela Higgins Saulsberry, stated transportation is already a challenge locally especially for the economically challenged and are now being challenged to travel longer distances; and it seems to her that often the economically challenged are highly often associated with crime and that's not the case and it's a major consideration here because Greyhound has moved and is considered to be moved several places and were refused at the airport and believes this is the main reason that it is a controversy; it was pointed out that teens that do run away are put on the bus to go back and if that service is no longer available, it could affect the child welfare; for those who don't fly and there is no way for them to get on a plane and they may not have an ability to rent a car or may not have their own personal car and asked that this be taken into consideration; she said she remembers when we had a very distinguished person come to the place where she is employed and she made a major historical contribution to the area and chose to ride a bus from Dallas to Monroe for her presentation and need to take this into consideration, and she wasn't economically challenged, she just didn't want to drive or fly; Dr. Saulsberry stated there was a large segment of the community that already feels they are disenfranchised and nobody listens to them, they are ignored and their needs are either not considered or considered secondarily, for those who seek to have more access to income and access to those who make decisions on policies as this and they need advocates to come and stand for them and see herself as being one and asked to take into consideration the needs and desires of individuals who are economically challenged and can and do not feel comfortable speaking in situations as this and to consider what their needs are and how it would affect their lives; she said she works with a lot of people in rural areas and they can come here and go elsewhere because they can catch a bus; she asked that this be taken into consideration.

K-9 stated that there would be security and Greyhound is trying to meet Monroe the best way they can and that they will hire who they need to hire ; he said as a community leader, we can't afford to fly and can't afford to rent a car and we are stuck at hanging around at the airport, then you get ran off; he said he can fly, but then he got relatives that catch the bus all the time; there are problems everywhere and if there were problems, MPD could be called; he said they should let Greyhound bus come to Monroe, it's not hurting anything.

Mr. Wilson recommended using the Monroe city police officers, nothing binding, but to consider it.

Mr. Echols thanked Mr. Weatherford for being present in person to answer questions and for working with the city and with Ms. Baldwin to find some compromise; Mr. Echols asked Mr. Weatherford why did they originally choose the airport in the prior negotiations; Mr. Weatherford said he wasn't sure how they got to the point of going to the airport, he didn't remember that and was brought to help with the negotiations and try to get the lease done; Mrs. Ezernack said she thinks his colleague may know the answer to that; Ms. Cathy Gazelli said they were turned down the first time from the transit, so the airport was the second choice; Mr. Echols asked her if transit turned them down for the airport; she said for the transit and the initial invitation was for the transit company to be their agent and they turned them down and so they went to the airport to put in their own agent, as there was plenty room there and they had an empty counter and American was excited about them coming there because

they felt it would increase their business. Mayor Mayo said the transit did not turn them down and do know it was perceived to be the transit, but it was because of the outcry of some of the business folks in the community and it included you, Mr. Echols that was saying to the Council members that you did not want it downtown and that is why when it appeared they didn't have the support of the Council and did try other locations that did include the airport and some other areas, local business owners' places of business and one place south of 165, Abdul Kalik; Mayor Mayo said when it was said there was an issue with the airport, then they started looking some more and this is how it occurred and do understand from Greyhound's standpoint thinking it was the transit, but it wasn't the transit that turned them down, because the transit is a part of the administration and did support trying to help them stay here in Monroe and not having them to leave; Ms. Gazelli said the Mayor has been great in trying to help them find a location. Mr. Echols said he understands the confusion, the communication and he googled some stats while they were talking; he asked about the bus weights and there was a MCI102DL3 bus type of 35,500 pounds to 48,000 pounds with passengers and luggage, 24 tons and this is the actual weight information found on a Greyhound thread; Mr. Echols asked if there were plans to move their facilities toward the edge of an interstate or a major highway due to them being in a downtown area, and concerns due to the wear and tear on the road in a downtown environment; Mr. Weatherford said their initiatives have been to move into intermodals and it depends on where the intermodals are located and Greyhound need to be close to where their customers are and it is nice to be close to major highways since they are over the road, but when they are in the intermodals, the transit comes to the intermodals and it is easy for customers to get to the Greyhound; Mr. Echols asked if being near a bus line was the most convenient place for people to get to a bus station and Mr. Weatherford said that it does help, and near train lines, Amtrak and other rail; Mr. Echols asked him if Monroe gets an Amtrak, what would his suggestions for an intermodal station location be, on train tracks; Mr. Weatherford said they often do, but there are a lot of intermodals that Amtrak is not a part of; Mr. Echols asked Mr. Weatherford of his showings of the beautiful facilities, if this is something that Greyhound would build or fund the facilities by way of infrastructure costs; he said there are various resource funding's that Greyhound can tap into and generally the intermodals are tapping into resources that Greyhound can't tap into and vice versa and there are times when Greyhound can help assist the transit and often a requirement from the FTA that you need to support an inner city bus company and without the support, they won't approve funding and this is where Greyhound helps the most; Mr. Echols asked Mr. Weatherford if Monroe had presented in a previous meeting an eight million dollar intermodal facility, and would it only strengthen the application to only have them there and without Greyhound would they be successful and he said it would probably strengthen it and it depends on that region of the FTA; Mr. Echols asked what do you do from a travelers stand point and what does he see nationwide in the case when you have passengers that depart at 4:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. when there is no bus service to transport people to another location. He said usually in those type cases, they have made arrangements for transportation; Mr. Echols asked what do they do, if they don't and Mr. Weatherford said he didn't know that answer; Mr. Echols stated that thirty three percent of their block time was out of normal transit hours of 4:30 am and 7:30 p.m., but the other sixty seven percent is within the normal transit schedule; Mr. Weatherford said two of the six are outside; Mr. Echols said he was provided some data this morning from the Monroe Police Department and at the current facility, at or around by way of arrests between 2016 and 2018, they noted 35 arrests and have asked for additional information around cause and reports, at or around the current Greyhound facility; he asked if this was a trend at the other 167 Greyhound facilities around the United States; Mr. Weatherford stated that he couldn't address if it was a trend, but do know that Greyhound is an icon and for a lot of major cities, and it happens in Dallas as well, when there is any kind of activity regardless if it is eyesight of a Greyhound it's reported at or around Greyhound; it may have nothing to do with the Greyhound passengers and that's usually the case. Mr. Echols stated some of Greyhound buses arrive in the morning and one of the transit workers mentioned the cumbersome nature, and as he was looking this morning while driving down the street that there were dozens if not a hundred plus people were gathered in the parking lot departing buses during the normal transit schedule; and the concern of the transit individuals departing the transit during their normal schedules and how this additional capacity could cause concerns and do understand the transit employees concerns about this and disrupting normal services; he said he would agree with the Mayor that he was opposed at the airport and am opposed to it in downtown Monroe and have concerns about the average one arrest per month at or around a Greyhound station and it may be guilt by association and did ask for additional reports on calls; he said he had information from previous owners of stations and it may not be inclusive of the current station, but it has to do with the number of calls to the police, the number of potential human trafficking, drug related transactions and when you bring that into a downtown environment that has hundreds and hundreds of senior citizens living right next door, then it causes grave concern; having the citizens call him and hospital administrators call and tell him they are opposed to the concept and do agree on an intermodal facility that is located next to I-20 or north or south 165, somewhere on a major thorough fare; he said he do understand why they located the facilities in those sites and do understand why you locate in downtown New Orleans, right beside the interstate in the downtown development district, but not in the core of the business

or residential district; he thanked them for their time and hopes they can understand his reasoning for opposing it and why he thinks it's not necessarily good for business, infrastructure and do have concerns about the impacts on the streets and the potential revitalization of downtown; Ms. Gazelli stated New Orleans Greyhound is in an intermodal facility with mega bus, Amtrak; Mr. Echols said it was a great facility and he was there last week, toured, walked and drove around it to see the type of infrastructure they have; he said he has a colleague in downtown Shreveport, Ms. Swain and am sure they have worked with her over the years to move the most recent Greyhound bus from the core of the downtown and to where they are trying to relocate it to the edge of the downtown; right next to the interstate so that you can have easy on and off ramps, about a 1.5 miles move according to her email; he said that's another concern when downtown development directors and historic districts, residential districts that are revitalizing are working towards a more long term solution for a dynamic intermodal facility with connection points to rail, and to interstates and major highways; he thanked them for their time and consideration. Mr. Weatherford asked did he know when there would be a new intermodal; Mr. Echols said Mr. Keenan would have to answer that question, but about four years ago, they submitted a tiger grant for an intermodal facility and right after that they presented a plan to the council about what they wanted to do and haven't seen anything come before the council since then; he said the last proposal was to take the existing half block site, and do an eight million dollar facility and try to drive additional traffic there and he asked Mr. Keenan if that was correct; Mr. Keenan said that was pretty good and said they do have funding already, and it will be approximately a five to eight million dollar facility and it was eight, but since then, the city transit has reduced their services and the cost won't be as extravagant as it originally was; they currently have a little over a million dollars in federal funds and another million and are working with FTA, for the two million of the five to eight million and should have the funding and will be working on it according to FTA as soon as they can; Mr. Echols stated the city's match was \$200,000 at the last round and the next round would be an additional ten to twenty percent to match; Mr. Keenan said that was correct, it's an 80/20 facility and talking maybe 2.5 to 3 years out; Mr. Echols asked from a priority standpoint, they would be looking for another \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 when it gets to the next phase; Mr. Keenan said he hasn't done the math on it, but probably so.

Ms. Gazelli said of the 34 arrests and Mr. Echols stated it was 35 arrests; Ms. Gazelli said of the 35 arrests and prior to the store closing, they had six buses per day coming in and they would allow the passengers off the bus, so you have 6 buses times 40 people and it was figured out to be 146,000 extra people per year and they came into the store and don't know if the arrests were for theft or what, but that is a lot of people to have only 35; Mr. Echols thanked her for bringing it up and asked if the federal penal system used Greyhound bus as part of their transportation network to move prisoners and people that have recently been discharged; she said no, in Texas there is one location where they release prisoners and they send special buses; Mr. Weatherford said no other customers are on the bus other than those that are discharged and taken directly to that location.

Mr. Clark called for a vote. Mayor Mayo said he would like to make some comments before the vote; Mrs. Ezernack stated that she wanted to make some comments and was the only one that hasn't spoken, and it has gone on, but it is an important discussion to have and do appreciate Mr. Clark calling for the vote, but that she wanted to ask Chief Bartley to come up and talk a little about the 35 arrests and what the significance is for that location. Mr. Clark stated, before Chief speaks all of us were on the email in all fairness to everyone and I'm sitting here but we're not talking about it and this is why I want to call for a vote and in all fairness and when Officer Reggie Brown answered the question that was presented to him, he stated in the email that there were 35 arrests from September or October 2016 through September or October 2018, a two year period; he clarified at the request of his colleague and stated that not all 35 arrests could be attributed to Greyhound because there is a nightclub in the same parking lot, and a store and you must be fair with the data.

Mrs. Ezernack stated that she didn't get that email and Mr. Clark said everyone was on the email; he said it was further asked that Officer Brown would extrapolate the numbers to see when the arrests occurred when the night club was closed and all this and said to come into his district and if he has 35 arrests in two years, my goodness, what are we talking about here in the sense of arrests and in talking about arrests, not all of the arrests are by people that are committing a crime here in Monroe; Mr. Clark said research shows that you may have an officer who arrests someone when they get off Greyhound on a warrant because of Texas or anything, it could be a misdemeanor warrant and don't want the data to be skewed and will let the Chief answer the question; Mrs. Ezernack stated to Mr. Clark that he answered the question that she wanted him to say and she didn't read her email before coming to Council meeting, leaving the office at 5:00 p.m. and it came after that; she thanked Mr. Clark for the clarification and they were some of the questions she was going to ask; Officer Bartley said he couldn't add much more to it.

Mayor Mayo commented, there is a lot that he could say, but won't say a whole lot and do have exhibits A, B, C and won't go into Mr. Clark's area, but said, we have been dealing with this for a long time, first part of the year, with Ms. Baldwin working hard on this and Mr. Keenan and Mr. Janway have worked hard on it; he said as the leader of the city, he is trying to do everything he can to help a constituency that depends on this and do appreciate Dr. Saulsberry for coming up and making the comments and can't help but to think back on our two conversations on race, because a lot of this came up and when you look at the demographics of people who utilize this and you have 56, 57 % of the ethnicity that use it are Black or African Americans and 27% Whites or European Americans and why wouldn't certain folks want certain folks in certain areas; he said when he drive downtown and see the Art crawl, there is a totally different demographic and this is not to throw water on them or anybody else, but this is not an issue and when it comes down to certain folks being in certain areas; the same people that were opposed to downtown were opposed to the airport and we were trying to find another location; Mayor Mayo said he was still pretty warm and settling down about the question that was asked by one of the reporters when he said and repeated about what are you going to have at these locations and he started talking about crime, drugs and that type of thing and that's profiling and that concerned him; he said no matter what we do, you're not going to make everybody happy and Mr. Weatherford was really nice about this, not knowing what they are going to do, but said he knows what they are going to do, they are going to pull out of Monroe, if it is not agreed upon, and this is no threat and number two, he's through with it, whether it's up or down, because he's very tired and frustrated and the citizens of Monroe, if it's not favorable, don't call him because they have done everything they could to try to make it happen; he said he talked to some of the same folks, talked to Shreveport and the assistant to the Mayor and she didn't say anything negative about what had occurred in Shreveport, she just said they moved down to make an intermodal facility and we have been working to get Amtrak here from Texas, along the interstate, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi and this is why they were trying to do that and they have more funds and resources than we have; he said he won't get into the other part that he could say, but will say that it is not uncommon for business people to have some concerns about their environment and don't have any problems with it, but you have to be careful when you run for office and you are a business person; you run for office and you are a business person and you are in a position to accentuate whether something is good or bad, then you start getting into the area of conflict of interest.

Mrs. Ezernack stated, before I cast my vote, I would like to say that I had not made up my mind until coming tonight for the presentation and did have a couple of calls, a call and an email; haven't been contacted by the amount of people that had called for the airport and thinks this particular agreement after reading it and the work that has been done and if this is not a good partnership between Monroe Transit, the City of Monroe and Greyhound, then we have the opportunity at that point to say, it's not going to work out and they would find another location; but do believe that to serve a certain people that do need this, it is an asset to them to be able to move around our state and points further than that and will say aye.

Ms. Woods expounded upon what Chairwoman Ezernack stated, saying, I can appreciate the work that has gone into this and do thank all that were involved in it and voted aye.

Mrs. Ezernack thanked everyone for their opinion and adding to the conversation. Mayor Mayo thanked the Council for their support of it and said, he would make it work.

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 7299, authorizing James Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute Task Order No. Seven (7) between the City of Monroe and Kutchins and Groh L.L.C., at the Monroe Regional Airport, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments)

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Echols and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 7300, offered by the Monroe Regional Airport authorizing Mayor Mayo to accept and execute an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) in the amount of \$180,849.30 for the Runway 14/32 Extension-Phase II at the Monroe Regional Airport, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments)

(d) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 7301, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to submit an application for state financial assistance to the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development, Division of Aviation (LA DOTD) for the Monroe Regional Airport 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. Clark, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 7302, reauthorizing the Purchasing Manager to advertise for bids on Levee Drive Valve Replacement Project. The estimated cost of this project is \$99,825.00. The DBE goal is 0.00% and source of funds Water Capital Funds. (There were no public comments)

Comments: Ms. Woods asked for a reason as to there not being a DBE goal for this project; Mr. Holland said it was a small project and they are replacing some valves, there is not much labor work involved, mostly materials and are replacing a 16 inch and a 20-inch valve, the existing valves are outdated.

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 7303, accepting as substantially complete work done by and between the City of Monroe and Womack & Sons Construction Group, Inc., for the flood control improvements to Rochelle Street, Roselawn Street & 11th Street area of Monroe project, 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. 7304, accepting as substantially complete work done by and between the City of Monroe and Womack & Sons Construction Group, Inc., for the WPCC Sludge Digester Roof Replacement Project, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments)

(d) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 7305, authorizing posting of weight recommendation for South 5th Street bridge over Young's Bayou drainage canal, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments)

(e) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution No. 7306, authorizing posting of weight recommendation for South 6th Street bridge over Young's Bayou drainage canal, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments)

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to introduce an Ordinance dedicating four (4) street right-of-ways (including the storm drainage system): a 67' x 485', more or less, street right-of-way - extension of Century Link Drive; a 54' x 302', more or less, street right-of-way - Cavell Street; a 67' x 721', more or less, street right-of-way - Allgood Street and a 67' x 623', more or less, street right-of-way (tapers to 54' at Cavell Street) - Century Village Boulevard, excluding the southern most 90', more or less, section where only the unpaved portion of the right-of-way is being accepted within Phase 1a of the Century Village Planned Unit Development and further providing with respect thereto. (P&Z) (There were no public comments)

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack stated a change where Cavell Street is marked on it, it should be Century Link Drive; Ms. Joanne Poret said where it tapers to 54 feet, it's at Cavell Street and it should say Century Link Drive, it is three times in the Ordinance where it says it should be Century Link Drive. Mrs. Ezernack said it would be cleared up for the final adoption.

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to introduce an Ordinance amending Chapter 37, Zoning, Article II. Definitions and Rules on Interpretation, Section 37-21, Definitions; Article III, Use Districts, Section 37-37 Commercial Use Districts, Table 3.3 Commercial Districts Permitted and Conditional Uses, Article VI. Section 37-92, Use Standards, Section 37-38 Industrial Use Districts, Table 3.5 and Article IX Administration and Enforcement. Section 37-131 Violations, of the Code of the City of Monroe of the ordinance of the City of Monroe, Louisiana; repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith. (P&Z) (There were no public comments)

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to introduce an Ordinance amending Chapter 37, Zoning, Article IX. Administration and Enforcement, Section 37-130 Procedures, of the Code of the City of Monroe of the ordinance of the City of Monroe, Louisiana; repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith. (P&Z) (There were no public comments)

(d) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, 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 Victoria McFarland all rights, title and interest that the City may have acquired to Lot 5, Block 3, Renwick Addition, Ouachita Parish, District 3, Monroe, La, by Adjudication at Tax Sale dated July 9, 2009, and further with respect thereto. (Legal) (There were no public comments)

(e) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to introduce an Ordinance authorizing the issuance of an amount not exceeding Thirty-Six Million Dollars (\$36,000,000) Water Revenue Bonds, in one or more series, of the City of Monroe, State of Louisiana; prescribing the form, terms and conditions of said Bonds; designating the date, denomination and place of payment of said Bonds; providing for the payment thereof in principal and interest; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. (Admin.) (There were no public comments)

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

Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to finally adopt Ordinance No. 11,878, authorizing the City of Monroe to acquire a certain parcel of real property bearing municipal address 118 South 19th St., from the estate of James M. Brasher, situated in Ouachita Parish for the purpose of extending the Magnolia Cemetery, 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.

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Ms. Woods and unanimously approved to finally adopt Ordinance No. 11,879, authorizing the City of Monroe to take corporeal possession of the property described below and sell to Abdul Shareef all rights, title and interest that the City may have acquired to Lot in Lot G, Sq. 46, Layton's Second Addition, Ouachita Parish, District 3, Monroe, La, by adjudication at Tax Sale dated July 1, 2013, and further with respect thereto. (Legal)

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 Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to finally adopt Ordinance No. 11,880, authorizing the City of Monroe to take corporeal possession of the property described below and sell to Abdul Shareef all rights, title and interest that the City may have acquired to Lot 1, Sq. 39, Layton's Second Addition, Ouachita Parish, District 3, Monroe, La, by adjudication at Tax Sale dated July 1, 2013, and further with respect thereto. (Legal)

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

(d) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mrs. Ezernack; Voting YES: Echols, Ezernack, Wilson, Woods; Voting NO: Clark; to finally adopt Ordinance No. 11,881, approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2018, through December 31, 2020, by and between the City of Monroe and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local No. 2388 and further providing with respect thereto. (Legal)

Mrs. Ezernack stated clarifications to the article of the Ordinance that were given to her before the meeting; the correction to the article is, Article 16, Certification of Incentive Pay, Sections 5 and 6, the word sewer should be waste water.

Chairwoman Ezernack opened the public hearing and coming forward:

1. Mr. Matthew Sims, commented that he had the privilege of what many of the members didn't have and that was going over the proposed agreement and a second time after the pages had been readjusted and am sure many of the members didn't know that it happened; he said the agreement troubles him that in the Lord's year of 2018, there is language that suggest free, cheap, even slave labor; and people that sat at the table and discussed it and

doesn't know what it was that thought the agreement came from, there are no numbers, people are left unprotected and there is language that suggests it is okay to hire or to use the hardest working people in this city at the lowest possible wages; and there is not protection, or timeframe for the study that has been done and the Council paid for one and the Union did a study once, recommendations weren't accepted then and who is to say they won't be accepted now and with the agreement, it clearly states that they have to come back to the table after the study is done and why not bring it back to the table after the study is done.

2. Mr. Robert Johnson, commented the Vice President is passing out paperwork to show that they have a disgruntled employee, Matthew Sims who was on the board, resigned; he explained the paperwork that was passed out; he thanked the Council for the ten dollar increase and the other employees didn't get anything; he said notifications were sent out regarding their meeting at Emily P to discuss the new contract; they had representatives from International at the meeting; he explained their voting process and how hard everyone worked on the contract since August 17 to put it all together and with the negotiations; they are pleased with the contract.

Mr. Michael Caster, commented that they did turn the last contract down because it didn't benefit the workers, but this contract does, and it has things in their, that they thought they would never get and the union is satisfied with the contract and asked that Council would pass the contract.

Mr. Matthew Sims, commented that he is a blessed employee and is proud of his job and do his job; he said that employees won't come to Council meeting because of retaliation and some of the guys have been accused of doing things toward him by the administration and it's documented, in writing and will soon be in court; he said he hasn't gotten an answer as to why the contract is so great and he is very blessed employee.

Mr. Wilson inquired about labor hires from Labor ready service for the past two years and how many work in the public works department and what other departments use the service; he thanked Ms. Baldwin for meeting with him today regarding the contract; Mr. Janway said they use more than Labor ready and use four or five other temporary services in Public Works; and in Sanitation they have 35-40 day labor employees per day and recently they submitted eight potential employees to go through the process of making them permanent and four made it through the process and have started the process of hiring two additional employees and have placed a request for hire to the Mayor when it is appropriate. Mr. Wilson asked how much is being spent on Labor ready; Mr. Janway said they spend several hundred thousand dollars per year in temporary labor and they budgeted to separate their employees by permanent and contract employees and do budget a certain number every year. Mr. Wilson said his concern is for those contract workers who have worked for six to seven months and are waiting for full time permanent employees, so they can get benefits and it looks like we have the dollars to do that; Mr. Wilson asked for the hourly rate being paid to labor ready and Mr. Janway said it depends upon what their hourly rate is; Mr. Wilson asked if there was a plan in place for the future and to try to hire the best ones and put them in a permanent position to evaluate them.

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

Before voting, Mr. Wilson stated, that he is hopeful that the department of administration and the Mayor will look out for the guys that are on the back of the trucks that are cutting the grass day by day, those are the ones that are looked over; he said he called Mr. Truck Johnson and didn't get a returned call back, but have to make sure that everyone is included especially the day workers and included in the fulltime routes, but that are not being hired fulltime and hopefully the Mayor can look at that.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

1. Mr. Sammie Crawford, citizen, explained his youth program and asked for partnership with the city to help fund some tuition in the neighborhood for mentorship.
2. Ms. Ka'Laya Start, citizen, a mentor with the Bone crusher youth program spoke about her involvement with the program and how she learned self-defense and boosted her self-confidence.
3. Mr. Damian Coleman, explained his program and services, The Life Changers of NELA, mission to help those less fortunate and to help combat crime and asked for the support of the city.
4. K-9, commented him being a convicted felon and those who have come up against him; he has helped the community and have risked his life for MPD; missiles have been sent at him and he will continue to be a community activist; he won't stand down, and it doesn't matter if he is called a rat, it doesn't matter and it's time to stand up and voice your opinion and should let people's past be their past.
5. Ms. Jana Giles, citizen, asked that the city would consider taking immediate and effective steps to reduce the volume traffic through the Garden District and speeding through the Garden District, giving statistics and provided a handout to Council; Mr. Echols said he mentioned to Engineering, Ms. Golden about a turn lane and some pedestrian crossing and 18th street and McKeen and there are plans to move it forward over next couple of years.
6. Mr. Matthew Sims, thanked Council for allowing him to speak and that he will keep an eye on the (contract).
7. Ms. Janice Brown, spoke regarding trash and dilapidated houses in the community and the citizens seem to have lost hope; she feel like if called police, they should come out and do their job; seniors in the neighborhood want to live their lives in peace and some of the houses are not livable and the landlords should be held accountable; she asked that the Council would do something about the community and no one in the community would speak up; the store on DeSiard Street only sells alcohol and maybe doing other things; it is time for the community to be cleaned up; Mrs. Ezernack asked that she would continue calling the police and if there is dilapidated housing to call Code Enforcement and Ms. Hill would be glad to give her a card; they are looking forward to have a community meeting with Ms. Woods.
7. Mr. Robert Johnson thanked the Council members for voting for the contract; the day labors don't work for the city, they work for the company; he asked why employees are not being hired to work. Mr. Clark voted their contract down and now he is gone.
8. Mr. Chuck Rand, citizen, spoke regarding the traffic and speeding in the Garden District and how the speeding can exceed up to 70 mph and is asking for assistance to eradicate this speeding problem.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m., upon a motion of Ms. Woods 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.**