

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session  
April 28, 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, April 28, 2020 at the Council's regular meeting place, 400 Lea Joyner Memorial Expressway, City Council Chambers/City Hall Building, Monroe, Louisiana.

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

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

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

Council member(s) absent: NONE.

Chairwoman Woods declared a quorum.

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mayor Mayo.

Ms. Woods commented that Council was following guidelines as set forth by the Governor with there being ten or less people in attendance at the meetings; opportunities have been given to those who may have questions or comments regarding items on the agenda by email or by coming to the meeting and speaking from the podium.

Communications and Special Announcements:

1. Mr. Harvey welcomed all in attendance and thanked everyone for their assistance during this time and appreciate how everyone is coming together; he commented that everyone would continue to do their part according to the Governor's guidelines.
2. Mrs. Ezernack thanked everyone, the employees for their work during Covid19 and the tornado; folks are coming together to help each other. She had the opportunity to visit at Carver as the MPD donated food and there was a great response to this effort; she thanked MPD for their efforts of the giving of their time and money.
4. Mr. Wilson thanked several organizations for their assistance including the Convoy of Hope who has worked tirelessly providing assistance to the citizens; he asked prayers for Mr. Wilson, Convoy of Hope for the loss of relatives; he thanked Berean Baptist Church, Mr. Mike Downhour, Radio station, Chief Reggie Brown, Mr. Johnny Bailey, Help program, First United Methodist, Pastor Moore and St. Paul, Christian men retreat for all their help.
5. Mr. Clark prayed that all was well and that we will all get through this; better days are coming.
6. Mayor Mayo thanked everyone for their help, so many. The council, the delegation and everyone who has helped and giving back to the community. He commented that a sheriff deputy from St. John Parish came down and fed all of the police officers. He thanked everyone for all of their hard work and as we work toward the mitigation measures to do all that we need to do.

Ms. Woods thanked everyone for their comments and thanked Mayor Mayo for his leadership and efforts and do appreciate them; she thanked the police, fire and all staff for their assistance. She thanked the Northeast La. Delegation for all of their efforts, Senator Katrina Jackson for her leadership for pulling a lot of things together in the community; she thanked Power House COGIC, Riverside Baptist Church and the American Red Cross and their services; Monroe Housing Authority, Bright Oak Baptist Church, Southern Mixing Pot and the Ladies of the Cross, Monroe chapter. She asked that everyone stay safe and practice the social distancing.

Upon a motion of Mr. Harvey and a second by Mr. Wilson, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of April 14, 2020 were unanimously approved. (There were no public comments).

PRESENTATION: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS: Public Comment: NONE.

ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS:

(Public Comment)

None.

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTE ENTRIES:

1. Council:      Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7694, authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Hampco Inc. and further providing with respect thereto. (Clark) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Discussion to reduce amount to \$2,000; amendments and motions made.

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7695, authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Tab-N-Action, Inc. and further providing with respect thereto. (Clark) (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Harvey; Voting YES: Harvey, Ezernack, Woods, Clark; Voting to ABSTAIN: Wilson, item approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7696, authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with New St. James Baptist Church and further providing with respect thereto. (Clark) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Clark commented donations were made to organizations who assisted during the Easter tornado; the funds come from his District 5 Council discretionary funds.

Mr. Wilson stated he would abstain due to him being a deacon at the church.

(d) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7697, authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Convoy of Hope and further providing with respect thereto. (Clark) (There were no public comments).

(e) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7698, authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Pentecostals of the Twin Cities and further providing with respect thereto. (Clark) (There were no public comments).

(f) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7699, authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Powerhouse Church of God in Christ and further providing with respect thereto. (Clark) (There were no public comments).

(g) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7700, authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Riverside Missionary Baptist Church and further providing with respect thereto. (Clark) (There were no public comments).

(h) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7701, authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with New Beginnings Worship Center of Monroe and further providing with respect thereto. (Clark) (There were no public comments).

(i) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7702, authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Greater Free Gift Missionary Baptist Church of Monroe and further providing with respect thereto. (Clark) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Council members, Wilson, Ezernack, Woods and Harvey stated they would donate their hour back to the budget.

(j) Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7703, authorizing Proworks Productions, LLC to provide Video and Television Professional Services for the Monroe City Council, and further providing with respect thereto. (Clark) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mrs. Ezernack motioned to amend to reflect the date of the expiration of the contract to the later to occur when the new council take their seat or until the end of August; Ms. Woods asked if a contract was being signed or if it was a month to month; Mrs. Ezernack commented that at this point it would start May 1<sup>st</sup>, and through August it would be a three month. Mrs. Sturdivant said it was four months from May-August and the term could be amended until August 31 and when the new council come on, they can renew a new contract. Mr. Harvey asked if it had been defined at this stage, and it has been moved a couple of times; he commented that he would like for it to be for the start of the new council or this period, the greater of the two days; wouldn't like to come back and do this again, if the election gets moved. Mrs. Sturdivant commented she understood; Mrs. Ezernack said the later of the two, August 31 or when the new council term begins. Vote was taken on the adoption of the amendment and the resolution as amended.

(k) Add-On: Upon a motion by Mr. Clark second by Mrs. Ezernack, and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Monroe-Grambling Chapter of the Links, Incorporated and further providing with respect thereto. (Clark) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Ms. Woods commented that Mr. Clark amended a resolution to break up the amounts so that each organization could receive \$2,000.

Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey second by Mr. Wilson, Voting YES: Harvey, Ezernack, Woods, Wilson; Voting to ABSTAIN: Clark, item approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7704, authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Monroe-Grambling Chapter of the Links, Incorporated and further providing with respect thereto. (Clark) (There were no public comments).

Department of Administration:

Public Comment:

None.

Department of Planning & Urban Development: Public Comments:

(a) Add-On: Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack second by Mr. Wilson, and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to Adopt a Resolution authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, permission to substantial amend the FY 20 Annual Action Plan and FY 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan to expend CDBG Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to address health and safety concerns related to COVID 19 activities and displaced citizens from the tornado in the amount of \$436,363.00 from CDBG Cares Act funding, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey asked if the entire resolution needed to be read due to this scenario; Ms. Woods said no.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack second by Mr. Wilson, and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7705, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, permission to substantial amend the FY 20 Annual Action Plan and FY 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan to expend CDBG Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to address health and safety concerns related to COVID 19 activities and displaced citizens from the tornado in the amount of \$436,363.00 from CDBG Cares Act funding, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Ms. Hill explained that a PowerPoint was sent and due to Covid19, Hud awarded the city this extra amount and the opportunity to take the funds to address Covid19; proposing to spend money on small businesses with enterprise loans and can apply for a grant; mortgage assistance and rental assistance is being provided for up to three months; assisting non profits to secure ppe's to continue serving citizens; working with landlords to do rental rehabs. Mr. Harvey asked for the original Covid19 amount and she said it was \$436,363.00 and the \$250,000 comes from their Home funds already awarded and they are reprogramming those funds that would have been spent on general housing to do rental assistance; Mr. Harvey asked if this was to disburse the funding that's made available HUD requires them to have a public hearing/comment period for five days and will start on Thursday; Mr. Harvey asked if public comment period be imputed to social distancing requirements be followed;

Ms. Hill said it would be online for comments, surveys, etc.; Mr. Harvey asked if the \$100,000 be loans or grants; Ms. Hill said it would be grants to not be in competition with grants; Mr. Wilson asked how soon would the dollars be available, and HUD would make the announcement this week and hoping by next Friday that the funds would be available. Mr. Wilson asked if there were income limits; she said yes, but situations do change, and HUD has allowed them to be flexible to collect income information. Mr. Wilson asked if this was a one time grant and she said as far as they know this is it. Ms. Woods asked if the small business loan money for low to moderate and she said they could be low to mod or have employees low to moderate. The applications will be published on their website and they can call to get information; won't be taking applications on site but online; Mrs. Ezernack asked if HUD processed the applications; Ms. Hill said they would process the application according to HUD guidelines and the City approves them.

(b) Add-On: Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey second by Mr. Wilson, and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to Adopt a Resolution authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute to amend the effective date and termination date of the contract by and between the City of Monroe and the Well Spring Alliance for Families in the amount of \$75,000 FY 18' (ESGP), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey asked for the general scope; Ms. Hill said they were awarded emergency solutions grants to help with homelessness and both grantees have funding remaining and would like to give them a chance to assist tornado victims; this allow them to extend their contract for 30 days and in speaking with La Housing Finance, they said it was up to the local municipality to do an extension of funds. Mr. Harvey asked for the amounts of remaining funds to be disbursed; Ms. Hill said Wellspring had \$8-9,000 and Christopher House may have about \$2,000; the disbursements will be for shelter, rapid rehousing or outreach and used for sheltering, funds for hotels or rent funds. Ms. Woods said this is great for the people that have been impacted.

Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey second by Mr. Wilson, and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7706, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute to amend the effective date and termination date of the contract by and between the City of Monroe and the Well Spring Alliance for Families in the amount of \$75,000 FY 18' (ESGP), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(c) Add-On: Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey second by Mr. Wilson, and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to Adopt a Resolution authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute to amend the effective date and termination date of the contract by and between the City of Monroe and Christopher Youth Center formerly known as Our House, Inc. in the amount of \$75,000 FY 18' (ESGP), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7707, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute to amend the effective date and termination date of the contract by and between the City of Monroe and Christopher Youth Center formerly known as Our House, Inc. in the amount of \$75,000 FY 18' (ESGP), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Legal Department:

Public Comment:

None.

Mayor's Office:

Public Comment:

None.

Department of Public Works:

Public Comment:

None.

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. Harvey, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7708, accepting the base bid of McLemore Service Contractors, LLC, in the amount of \$250,000.61 for the Calypso Street Waterline Rupture Repairs Project, and further authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a contract for said work. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey asked in regard to the budget, how would this impact the capital accounts funding repairs like this project; Ms. Rowell commented that it would be coming from the water fund.

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7709, authorizing the Purchasing Manager to advertise for bids on the Grammont Street Lighting Project. The estimated cost of this project is \$386,650.00. The DBE Goal is 1.44% and source of funds water Capital Funds. (There were no public comments).

Commented: Mr. Holland stated the dbe goals and the project is a specialty item, installing lights on an elevated 150 ft tank.

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7710, authorizing the Purchasing Manager to advertise for bids on the Repairs to Warhawk Way & Inabnet Blvd Causeway Project. The estimated cost of this project is \$171,625.00. The DBE Goal is 15% and source of funds Capital Infrastructure Funds. (There were no public comments).

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7711, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to purchase rights of way and easements needed and sign deeds for the Oregon Trail Flood Wall Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Harvey asked if this was a conversation relative to purchase; Mr. Holland said there are several property owners that right of ways have to be purchased from for the project. Mr. Wilson asked there had been any conversation regarding the generators at the Calypso pump stations and storm water generators; Mr. Holland said it was a future project that they have to get funds, and this is separate. Ms. Rowell said a plan was set aside a plan for so much each year for generator plan, a ten year plan period.

(e) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7712, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute an extra work letter with Denmon Engineering, to provide Professional Engineering Services for the State Project No. H.004780.5 Kansas Lane Connector Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments; Mr. Holland asked that Mr. Denmon would comment on this project; Mr. Randy Denmon explained the project that DOTD would produce the extra plans for this and it's all DOTD money passed through to the city; a DOTD work order; Mr. Harvey asked what was being order; Mr. Denmon said they are clearing and grubbing the right a way, relocating utilities and then will advertise for construction maybe later this year or early next year. Mr. Harvey asked what the extra work letter regarding; Mr. Denmon said it was his understanding that there were a few plan changes, from a four lane to five lane and some additional utility work and it's all capital outlay money that was passed to the city.

(f) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7713, authorizing the City of Monroe to prepare and submit a Pre-Application to the Statewide Flood Control Program for assistance in the implementation of a project (West Parkview Drainage Improvements) for the purpose of reducing existing flood damages; providing for the necessary documentation of said flood damages; and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

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BREAK IF NEEDED:

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES: Public Comment: None.

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

(a) Add-On: Upon a motion by Mr. Harvey second by Mrs. Ezernack, and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to Adopt an Emergency Ordinance declaring the repair of primary clarifier #2 at the WPCC an emergency necessitating immediate repair and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(a) Emergency Ordinance: Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Harvey to Adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 11,991, declaring the repair of primary clarifier #2 at the WPCC an emergency necessitating immediate repair and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Ms. Woods asked for an explanation of the item; Public Works commented that it was a clarifier at the plant, and it provides a third of the primary treatment for the plant and right now it is down and needs to be repaired. Mr. Harvey asked if they were currently doing any sanitary overflows at this stage as the result of it being down; Public Works representative commented, no.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: NONE.

Mayor Mayo made clarification of an add-on regarding his salary; he asked the city attorney to explain why it wasn't added on; he thanked city council members who expressed their desires to participate in the expenditure reductions; he spoke with Judge Lee and she indicated they would do the same and the Marshal's office would do it too. City Attorney Sturdivant explained that initially they requested to add on an ordinance for the council to reduce the Mayor's salary in accordance with the city wide furlough of one hour of pay per week. Because the charter, you can amend the Mayor's compensation via ordinance, but you can't reduce it and although he was willing to reduce his salary, it would have been okay to proceed, but out of an abundance of caution, he will donate his portion back to the city for the same furlough that all city employees will be taking, the one hour of pay per week and this did not need to be done via ordinance. Mr. Harvey asked what the mechanism was needed to do that; Ms. Rowell commented if it can be done payroll deduction, she will have to figure it out; it can be deducted; Mr. Harvey said to let him know how the Council need to do it.

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

Ms. Juanita G. Woods  
Council Chairwoman

Ms. Carolus S. Riley  
Council Clerk

Ms. Jacqueline Benjamin  
Council Secretary

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