

City Hall, Monroe, Louisiana
February 13, 2024
6:00 p.m.

There was a legal and regular session of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Louisiana held on this date at the Council's regular meeting place, the Council Chamber, City Hall Building, Monroe, Louisiana.

The Honorable Chairman Ezernack, called the meeting to order. She then asked the clerk to call roll.

There were present: Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Ezernack, Mr. Marshall, & Mrs. Dawson.

There was absent: Ms. Woods

Chairman Ezernack announced that a quorum was present, and that the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance would be led by Ms. Woods or her designee.

The Invocation was led by Director of Purchasing Mr. Curt Kelly.

COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Harvey had no announcements.

Mr. Marshall thanked everyone for coming out to the City Council meeting. He stated he had no announcements.

Mrs. Dawson said good evening to everyone, and she said she would like to invite everyone to participate in the District 5 cleanup Saturday, February 17, 2023, 9am until 11am. She noted the meet up is at the Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo parking and will go into Bryant's Addition. She further noted they will have trash bags, pickers, gloves, and everything needed to help clean out the community.

Mayor Friday Ellis said good evening everyone and to those tuning in online. He stated one of his favorite things to do is to talk to the next generation of students about government. He said his favorite question to ask students is who do they think his boss is? He said he tells them, your parents, and you are my boss. He further stated though he is the Mayor, he is a dad, a husband, and he is committed to the community. He said it is great to get their feedback on things that are challenging for them in today's world, and he said to also let them know the importance of serving their community. He said Happy Mardi Gras and Happy Fat Tuesday but before it is Fat Tuesday it is his daughter's birthday. He said happy birthday to Ari Ellis, and he loves her. He thanked the Krewes for all their time and effort into Mardi Gras. He said they highlighted many great things in the community and the people are front and center. On another note, the Mayor stated this year the City went to Washington D.C. again to put the City's priorities forward and the City Council, the University, and the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and they went to all of their members talking about important issues. He said some of the important issues such as drainage issues and the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant application for 37 million dollars that the City Council passed matching dollars for and they sat in front of the Commerce, Department of Transportation Development (DOTD), and lawmakers to say why these jobs are important to the City. He thanked the City Council for passing the underground storm drain cleaning and he said we all know there are miles of underground drainage, but we don't know what is going on. He stated a lot of times the City sees this flash flooding in our neighborhoods and a lot of it is due to underground drainage. He further stated not only are they cleaning the underground drainage, but they are also updating the City's maps with CCTV and identifying spots that need repair. He said the City is aligning capital dollars to fix those issues and that can't be done without the City Council approving those dollars. He said it is showing immediate relief in neighborhoods and those prone to flash flooding. Lastly, the Mayor announced the rescheduling of the 45th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Salute on Friday, February 23, 2024, and the City is asking the community to come out. He said the City have a great keynote speaker (Ms. Zebie Grayson) flying in from Atlanta, GA. He further noted it is a celebration to remember Dr. King's legacy and the City's opportunity to say thanks to those organizations and people that are carrying on Dr. King's legacy of love and serving the community.

Mrs. Ezernack stated the theme of this year is kindness, caring, and peace and she stated we all know where we are with that personally and we can all do a better job. She said she doesn't think anyone would have ever thought the City would be so excited about infrastructure, sewer, and drainage projects in our community. She said the City is very excited to see what has been done, the progress, and what is yet to come to improve the quality of life for our citizens. She thanked everyone involved in making the City a better place for everyone to live and grow.

Upon a motion of Mr. Harvey and seconded by Mrs. Dawson, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of January 22, 2024, were unanimously approved. (There were no public comments).

Proposed Condemnations:

The following condemnations were considered:

1. 1012 Louise Anne Avenue (D4) (Owners – Finley Group, LLC) Notice to show cause was served. Photographic evidence was presented. There was no one present. Upon motion of Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved, the building was condemned, and the property owner was given 60 days in which to bring the structure into compliance with the Code or demolish the Structure and clean the lot. (There were no public comments.)

Mr. Tommy James, Code Enforcement Officer, stated this is one of the few dilapidated structures and he had contact with the property owner. He further stated the property owner boarded the property up, but the building is still in horrible shape. He said the property owner has plans for the property. He stated he told the owner he would ask the Council to condemn the property by giving the owner 60 days to bring the structure up to code.

Mr. Marshall stated there have been a couple of conversations with the property owner. He further stated the owner have plans for property, but it has been in the making for years. He said he doesn't know if those plans are still in place, and he motion to condemn the property giving the owner 60 days to bring the structure into compliance and remove all obnoxious growth with further respect thereto.

2. 1010 Louise Anne Avenue (D4) (Owners – Finley Group, LLC) Notice to show cause was served. Photographic evidence was presented. There was no one present. Upon motion of Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved, the building was condemned, and the property owner was given 60 days in which to bring the structure into compliance with the Code or demolish the Structure and clean the lot. (There were no public comments.)

Mr. James stated 1012 Louise Anne Avenue is the same duplicate of 1010 Louise Anne. He said the exact same owner and the exact same conversation he had with the owner before. They are asking that the property be condemned, giving the owner 60 days.

Mr. Marshall motion to condemn the property giving the owner 60 days to bring the structure into compliance with the code.

3. 409 South 10th Street (D4) (Owners – Finley Group, LLC) Notice to show cause was served. Photographic evidence was presented. There was no one present. Upon motion of Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved, the building was condemned, and the property owner was given 60 days in which to bring the structure into compliance with the Code or demolish the Structure and clean the lot. (There were no public comments.)

Mr. James stated this is a large, dilapidated structure and he spoke with the property owner about this too. They are asking that the property be condemned, giving the owner 60 days.

Mr. Marshall motion to condemn the property giving the owner 60 days to bring the structure into compliance with the code.

ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS:

Upon motion of Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved Resolution No. 8660 accepting the base bid of Bentz Construction Group, LLC, in the amount of \$1,553,375.40, for the DeSiard Street Improvements (S. Grand St. to N. 6th S.) Phase I Project and authorizing a city representative to enter into and execute a contract for said work. (There were no public comments.)

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTE ENTRIES:

Council:

Upon motion of Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved Resolution No. 8661 authorizing Addendum No. 2 to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Monroe and Free Me Association d/b/a Monroe City Academy League (MCAL) and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Department of Administration:

Upon motion of Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Marshall and unanimously approved to Consider one (1) Renewal Applications for a New 2024 Class A Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been approved. (There were no public comments.)

Upon motion of Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Consider one (1) Renewal Applications for a New 2024 Class B Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been approved. (There were no public comments.)

Upon motion of Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Consider an Application by the Hideout Lounge Monroe, LLC dba The Hideout, 21 Louisville Ave., Monroe LA 71201 for a New 2024 Class A Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been approved (Distance Report Cleared, Cert. of Occupy Cleared) (There were no public comments.)

Upon motion of Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Consider an Application by the Randall Garvin dba Randall's Captain Avery Seafood & Specialty Meats, 2607 Ferrand St., Monroe LA 71201 for a New 2024 Class A Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been approved (Distance Report Cleared, Cert. of Occupy Cleared) (There were no public comments.)

Upon motion of Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Marshall and unanimously approved Resolution No. 8662 accepting the RFQ Response of PPM Consultants, Inc. to provide cleanup planning, engagement activities, cleanup/abatement activities, grant management, and reporting activities evaluation for the Candy Company Cleanup Project further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Upon motion of Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved Resolution No. 8663 accepting the RFQ Response of Campo Architecture and Interior Design LLC to provide Historic Preservation Architectural Services for the Cooley House Rehabilitation Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Department of Planning & Urban Development:

Upon motion of Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved Resolution No. 8664 authorizing an addendum to an Agreement between the City of Monroe and Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) AHAYAH Community Development Corporation, Inc. for \$54,510.00 in home partnership funds and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Department of Public Works:

Upon motion of Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved Resolution No. 8665 approving Amendment No. 2 to Work Authorization (MLU.017) between the City of Monroe and KSA Engineers, Inc., related to the rehabilitation of the airfield lighting at the Monroe Regional Airport and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Upon motion of Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Marshall and unanimously approved Resolution No. 8666 authorizing Mayor Friday Ellis to accept any grant offers that do not require matching funds for the Monroe Regional Airport from the Federal Aviation Administration through December 31, 2024, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Department of Community Affairs:

Upon motion of Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved Resolution No. 8667 accepting \$20,000.00 in funding from the United States Department of Justice for the 2022 Project Safe Neighborhoods Program and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Engineering Services:

Upon motion of Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved Resolution No. 8668 authorizing a designated city representative to execute Change Order No. Twelve (12) for the Water Treatment Plant Renovation and Expansion Project for an increase in the contract amount of \$351,661.49 and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Upon motion of Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved Resolution No. 8669 approving the commitment of funds for the Louisiana Watershed Program CDBG – MIT Grant for the West Parkview Drainage Improvement Project, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Upon motion of Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved Resolution No. 8670 approving a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the city of Monroe and the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development, for the Monroe Regional Airport Offsite Drainage Improvements Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Upon motion of Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved Resolution No. 8671 authorizing Mayor Friday Ellis to enter into and execute a Non-Federal Reimbursable Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration related to the Kansas Lane – Garrett Road Connector and I-20 Improvements Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES: Upon motion of Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mrs. Dawson and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance authorizing the City of Monroe to enter into a Joint-Use Agreement with La DOTD for parking adjacent to Ouachita Grand Plaza and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Upon motion of Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Harvey and unanimously approved to Introduce an Ordinance approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Monroe and the International Union of Police Associations, Local No. 81, AFL-CIO and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments.)

Citizen's Participation: NONE.

There being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Harvey and it was seconded by Mrs. Dawson.

Mrs. Gretchen Ezernack
Chairman

Ms. Carolus S. Riley
Council Clerk

Ms. Ileana Murray
Staff Secretary