

**MINUTES**

**CITY OF NEW ROADS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**January 15, 2019**

The New Roads City Council met in regular session at 5:30 o'clock P.M. Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at the City Hall in New Roads, Louisiana. Mayor Cornell Dukes called the meeting to order. A roll call resulted as follows:

**PRESENT:** Vernell Davis, Kurt Kellerman, Joy Nelson, Theron Smith and Kirk White

**ABSENT:** None

Notice of this meeting was duly exercised and mailed per bylaws:

**Agenda Amendment(s)**

Mayor Dukes proposed the following amendment(s) to the agenda.

**Item 10A Skill Challenge**

**Motion by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Smith.**

**RESOLVED, That the agenda be amended.**

The motion carried.

**Personnel Appointments/Re-Appointments**

Mayor Dukes recommended that John Wayne Jewell be appointed as the city attorney.

**RESOLVED, That John Wayne Jewell be appointed as the City Attorney.**

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Davis, Kellerman, Nelson, Smith and White

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** None

Mayor Dukes recommended that Lynette Nelson be appointed as the Secretary-Treasurer.

**RESOLVED, That Lynette Nelson be appointed the Secretary-Treasurer.**

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

**YEAS:** Davis, Kellerman, Nelson, Smith and White

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** None

Mayor Dukes recommended that Kevin McDonald be appointed as the Chief of Police.

RESOLVED, That Kevin McDonald be appointed as the Chief of Police.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Davis, Kellerman, Nelson, Smith and White

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

#### Consent Calendar – Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2018

The minutes of the Regular Council meeting of December 18, 2018 were submitted for approval.

The reading of the minutes was waived.

Motion by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Davis.

RESOLVED, That the minutes be changed to read “Mr. White reported that work at the airport is ongoing”.

The motion carried.

#### Engineer’s Report

Cletus Langlois reported on the following:

Major Parkway Lift Station Rehabilitation Project – Pumps are scheduled to arrive in three weeks.

Poydras Street Flooding – Several calls have been received regarding flooding. As a result, the culverts will be cleaned in an effort to prevent flooding.

Riverdale Subdivision - The warranty is ongoing and an onsite meeting will take place in the eleventh month of said warranty.

Fairfield Avenue Lift Station – An odor sensor is needed along with a building to protect the facility. Cost estimates are being obtained for presentation at the next meeting.

Mr. White voiced his concerns for a drainage issue at the corner of Louisiana and Elm Streets.

#### Resolution – Authorizing the City of New Roads to lease the old cotton oil mill to Alma Plantation, LLC for a three month term

Motion by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Smith.

RESOLVED, That the resolution be adopted.

The motion carried.

#### Resolution – Providing authorized signers on all accounts with Regions Bank

Motion by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Davis.

RESOLVED, That the resolution be adopted.

The motion carried.

**Consideration and approval of NAACP's request for permit for a Unity march and sponsorship of 2019 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Birthday Celebration**

Motion by Mr. Kellerman and seconded by Mr. Davis and Ms. Nelson.

RESOLVED, That a \$250.00 sponsorship be approved.

The motion carried.

Mayor Dukes commended the NAACP for their efforts in preserving the memory of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.

**Skill Challenge**

On behalf of Greg Johnson of Fire District #5, Mr. Davis requested that the city co-sponsor the "Skill Challenge". The event is scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> at Rosenwald Elementary and is free to kids ages 13 and under.

After some discussion, the following motion was offered.

Motion by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Kellerman.

RESOLVED, That the request be approved pending the advice and quote from the city's insurance carrier.

The motion carried.

**Consideration and approval of hiring a full time Event Coordinator/City Writer**

Motion by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. White.

RESOLVED, That the hiring of a full time Event Coordinator/City Writer be approved.

The motion carried.

**Chief of Police Report**

Kevin McDonald reported that there were no violent incidents during the holiday season; several burglaries during the week of the New Year holiday; the warden has agreed to allow the prisoners to conduct a citywide cleanup and plans for Mardi Gras are in process.

Mr. Kellerman questioned the litter violations and was informed that officers are using undercover vehicles to monitor these violations.

Mr. White requested that the police officers patrol the Wal Mart parking lot for handicapped parking violations.

Ms. Nelson commented on the trash and debris on Memorial Boulevard, Court Street and behind Rosenwald Elementary school on New Roads Street.

Mr. Kellerman questioned the railroad speed limit.

Mr. White asked for an update on the Railroad Crossings Project.

## **Mayor's Report**

Field trip – a council member field trip is in the planning stages.

Vehicle lease program – Recommended that three vehicles be ordered for the police department and one for city hall. Mr. Davis voiced his concerns for employees driving city vehicles to and from work. After some discussion, this matter was deferred to the next city council meeting.

Mayor Dukes mentioned the vulgar music played during Mardi Gras and the need to put stricter rules and punishment in place.

The clean up of the city has begun with the installation of new “welcome” signs.

## **Committee Reports**

Mr. White reported that the liquidated damages on the airport project started on December 13, 2018 at a cost of \$3000.00 per day. The stone materials are in route and the airport should re-open in mid February.

Ms. Nelson reported that the driveway at 1104 Singletary Street is sinking and requested assistance with the matter.

With no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned.

---

**Cornell Dukes**  
**Mayor**

---

**Lynette H. Nelson**  
**Secretary-Treasurer**