

**MINUTES**

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

**September 17, 2019**

The New Roads City Council met in regular session at 5:30 o'clock P.M. Tuesday, September 17, 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:

**Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of September 3, 2019**

The minutes of the Regular Council meeting of September 3, 2019 were submitted for approval.

The reading of the minutes was waived.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the minutes be adopted in their entirety.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** None

On a vote of 5-0-0-0, the motion carried.

**Brandon Bergeron – Announcement of candidacy for State Representative  
District 18**

Mr. Bergeron appeared before the council to announce his candidacy for State Representative in District 18.

**Resolution – Authorizing the city to prepare and submit an application to the LA  
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries**

A resolution authorizing the City of New Roads to prepare and submit an application to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries through the Sport Fish Restoration (Wallop-Breaux) program for assistance in the implementation of the boat launch improvement project.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the resolution be adopted.

**A roll call vote resulted as follows:**

**YEAS: Smith, Nelson, White, Kellerman and Davis**  
**NAYS: None**  
**ABSTAIN: None**  
**ABSENT: None**

**On a vote of 5-0-0-0, the motion carried.**

### **Committee Reports**

**Mr. White reported that the airport is officially open and that an update on the matter involving the contractor will be presented at the next meeting.**

### **Council Reports**

**Ms. Nelson asked for clarity on the issue of mosquito spraying. She stated that her “major concern is for who is in control of spraying”. In particular, the time and schedule as to when spraying is done in the Martin Drive area.**

**Mr. Seawell responded by saying that the spraying is handled by the parish and that he will obtain a copy of the schedule.**

**Mr. Smith reported that baseball season has ended. He further stated that 65 to 70 kids participated in the ten week program held at Emmitt Douglas Park.**

**Mayor Dukes mentioned that cameras will be installed at Emmitt Douglas Park and are scheduled to be delivered by October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Mr. Davis reported that the culverts at the intersection of Rose and Bernard and the intersection of Louis and Rita are settling.**

**Mr. White questioned the reason for renaming the harvest festival.**

**Mayor Dukes explained that the city welcomed Alma Plantation to be a sponsor of the festival but not the title sponsor. He stated that calling the festival “Alma Plantation” Harvest Festival may have subjected some of our citizens to the pain and ills that many people in South Louisiana experienced. Mayor Dukes stated that he wanted to remove those type stigmas from New Roads events.**

**Mr. Kellerman asked how many complaints were received.**

**Mayor Dukes then commended Alma Plantation for donating the funds allocated for the festival to HOPE Ministries of Pointe Coupee.**

**Mr. White asked if the festival floorplan was completed and requested that food vendors not be allowed near his business or the office complex in the immediate vicinity of his business. Lastly, he stated that calling it (False River Harvest Festival) is something that we should all be proud of.**

**Ms. Nelson stated that she concurs with Mayor Dukes in changing the name of the festival.**

**Mr. Kellerman stated that the issue should have been brought before the council and that “Alma is a great corporate citizen”.**

**Paul Seawell reported that the handicap parking project at Emmitt Douglas Park is completed.**

**Mr. White asked that funds be appropriated in next year’s budget for a monument to the Major Family in recognition of the donation of the Memorial Boulevard property.**

**Mr. Kellerman mentioned the running water caused by the sprinkler system at Community Park, questioned the identity of the company installing the fiber optic cables and whether or not the city can paint the signal light at the intersection of Main and New Roads Street.**

**Gail Hurst recommended that the council attend a class on racial dialogue.**

**Ms. Nelson acknowledged Larry Holmes, a resident of Scott Street. Mr. Holmes voiced his concerns for wires that are covered by trees and the installation of street signs.**

**Terica Fields voiced her concerns for the road near her daycare center as it relates to the Railroad project. Ms. Fields was encouraged to schedule a meeting with the Mayor, city attorney and public works director to address the issue.**

### **Mayor's Report**

**Mayor Dukes announced that a "Take Back the Night" Domestic Violence event will be held on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00.**

**With a motion by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Nelson, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.**

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**Cornell Dukes  
Mayor**

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**Lynette H. Nelson  
Secretary-Treasurer**