

MINUTES

CITY OF NEW ROADS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

March 16, 2021

The New Roads City Council met in regular session at 5:30 o'clock P.M. Tuesday, March 16, 2021 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:

Public comments on agenda items

There were no public comments on the agenda items.

Consent Calendar – Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of February 2, 2021 and March 2, 2021

The minutes of the Regular Council meeting of February 2, 2021 and March 2, 2021 were submitted for approval.

The reading of the minutes was waived.

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the February 2, 2021 meeting be adopted in their entirety.

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

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

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the March 2, 2021 meeting be adopted in their entirety.

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

Presentation from Stacie Thevis of Greene Properties (T. Smith)

Ms. Thevis presented a check to Mayor Pro Tem Theron Smith. The funds will be used for improvements at Emmitt Douglas Park.

Sandra Joseph – Request to waive mobile home requirements

Ms. Joseph appeared before the council to request that the city waive the mobile home requirements relative to locating a 1993 mobile home in the city limits. The city's land use regulations states that "any manufactured housing placed upon a residential lot shall be of a manufacturing origin dated not earlier than 1994 and not having had prior occupancy".

After some discussion, Ms. Nelson offered a motion to waive the mobile home requirements due to COVID.

Mr. Kellerman offered a substitute motion to delay the matter to the next council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith.

RESOLVED, That a special meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

On a vote of 4-1-0-0, the substitute motion carried.

Mr. Darryl Patin – Request for Maintenance and Power Supply for Generals Plaza

Mr. Patin requested the city's assistance in providing maintenance for the proposed Generals Plaza. The council referred Mr. Patin to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Adoption of Resolution – MWPP 2020

Motion by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Nelson.

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.

Adoption of Resolution – Bishop Tracy E. Hawkins

The resolution was not presented for adoption due to the absence of Ms. Oliver and Ms. Hawkins.

Appointment to Fire District #5 Board

Mayor Dukes recommended that Greg Johnson be appointed to Fire District #5 Board.

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

RESOLVED, That the appointment be approved.

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.

Considerations for Police Department storage (T. Smith)

Mr. Smith voiced his concerns for the decision to continue to rent office space that previously housed the Police Department Administration. He stated that it “does not make financial sense to pay \$500.00 a month for storage” and recommended that the rental agreement be terminated.

Mayor Dukes responded by saying that it was a “prudent decision to use the space in the heart of the community” and that the city does not need vacant property in the city”.

Captain Stringer voiced his concerns for maintaining the building as a storage site. He explained the type of documents that will be stored and the overwhelming need for the security of said documents.

Further discussion resulted in the matter being tabled.

Committee Reports

Mr. White reported that the drainage project at the airport is complete.

Mayor's Report

- A. **Announcement of Up-and-Coming Destination – Mayor Dukes announced that the city has been named one of “the top 10 emerging destinations in the US for 2021, according to a recent travel trend report released by Vrbo.**
- B. **Update on Morrison Parkway Sidewalk Project – The sidewalk project is complete.**
- C. **Update on Car Show - The car show was a successful event with over 300 participants.**

Mayor Dukes commended Paul Seawell and Charles Watkins on the city's cleanliness and introduced the new Main Street Manager.

Mayor Dukes reported that the bid opening for the Main Street lights was held and directed Paul Seawell to give a report.

The council requested that the item be added to the agenda.

Agenda Amendment

Motion by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Nelson to amend the agenda.

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.

Main Street Lighting Project

Paul Seawell reported that the bids were opened and it was recommended by David Mougeot of Mougeot Architecture that Chustz Electric be awarded the contract.

Motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Nelson.

RESOLVED, That Chustz Electric be awarded the contract.

With no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

**Cornell Dukes
Mayor**

**Lynette H. Nelson
Secretary-Treasurer**