

MINUTES

CITY OF NEW ROADS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

April 20, 2021

The New Roads City Council met in regular session at 5:30 o'clock P.M. Tuesday, April 20, 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, Theron Smith and Kirk White

ABSENT: Joy Nelson

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

Public comments on agenda items

There were no public comments.

Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of April 6, 2021

The minutes of the Regular Council meeting of April 6, 2021 were submitted for approval.

The reading of the minutes was waived.

Motion by Mr. Kellerman and seconded by Mr. Smith.

RESOLVED, That the minutes be adopted in their entirety.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Tommy Lejeune of Faulk & Winkler – Financial Update for First Quarter 2021

Mr. Lejeune gave an update on the city's financial status for the first quarter of the fiscal year period January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021.

According to Mr. Lejeune, overall, the "city is producing positive cash" and "the cash is flowing well".

Kevin Bihm – Update on LEPA Agreement

Mr. Bihm appeared before the council to respond to the council's questions regarding the LEPA agreement.

Mr. Bihm reiterated the benefits of being a LEPA member and the fact that members have a say in what happens with their service provider and share common interests with their own electric distribution/generation system.

Mayor Dukes stated that "in an effort to save the citizens of New Roads money on their utilities, we are going to do our due diligence and make sure we make the right decision for the community and that's why we're having these conversations with LEPA and CLECO at this time".

Kevin Bridgewater – Police Department Complaint

Mr. Bridgewater voiced his concerns for the manner in which the police department responded to and handled an incident that occurred on February 27, 2020. Mr. Bridgewater stated that he is seeking justice in this matter.

Arthur Ewing – Planning and Zoning Commission

A public hearing was held on Monday, April 19, 2021 to discuss the proposed amendment to the City of New Roads Land Use Regulations relative to the maximum age of Manufactured Homes. Subparagraph B. 8 of Section 1.8 of Chapter 1 1 of Article VI would be amended to extend the original manufacturing date from twenty(20) to thirty (30) years prior to the date of application

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended that the ordinance not be amended.

The council also discussed lifting the suspension of public hearings for mobile home permits. The suspension was in place during the COVID pandemic.

Motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Kellerman.

RESOLVED That the suspension be lifted.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Update on Fire Hydrant Project

Mr. Seawell reported that only one quote had been received. After some discussion, it was recommended that the city obtain additional quotes, proceed with the project and approach the Fire District #5 Board for financial assistance.

Discussion of extension of Main Street District boundaries

Paula Lambert explained that the P.C. Historical Society approached the city requesting that that the Main Street District boundaries be extended to include the Poydras Building.

Motion by Mr. Kellerman and seconded by Mr. White.

RESOLVED, That the request to extend the Main Street district boundaries be approved.

The motion was unanimously carried.

Council Reports

Mr. White requested an update on the playground equipment for the civic center recreational area. Mayor Dukes informed him that quotes are being solicited and will be forwarded to the council.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Dukes reported that the Main Street Lighting project will be completed in thirty five days.

A "Stimulus Pop-Up Shop" is scheduled for May 7 and 8th. The event will be held on Main Street and is free to all vendors.

Market at the Mill – The annual event was a huge success with record attendance.

With no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Cornell Dukes
Mayor

Lynette H. Nelson
Secretary-Treasurer