

**MINUTES**

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

**August 16, 2022**

The New Roads City Council met in regular session at 5:30 o'clock P.M. Tuesday, August 16, 2022 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.

**Agenda Amendment(s)**

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

**Item 8C Additional approval of Evans-Graves Agreement**

**Item 9B Hiring and Spending Freeze (K. White)**

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

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

**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.**

**Mr. Michael Olinde of Massad Olinde – Update on services provided to the city**

Mr. Olinde gave an overview of the programs offered to city employees by his company.

**Ms. DeDe Riggins of Government Consultants – Update on services provided to the city**

Due to a previous engagement, Ms. Riggins was not in attendance.

**Consent Calendar – Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of August August 2, 2022**

The minutes of the Regular Council meeting of August 2, 2022 were submitted for approval.

The reading of the minutes was waived.

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

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.

#### Public Hearing

#### Discussion of Conditional Use Permit for the Placement of a Manufacture Home on the property located at 711 Richey Street

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

RESOLVED, That the request 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.

#### Discussion of proposed Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning of the property listed at 401 W. Main Street from R (Single-Family Residential) to C-2 (General/Downtown Commercial), while remaining within the Historic District Overlay

After some discussion, a motion was offered by Mr. Smith to approve the Planning and Zoning recommendation to change the zoning from R2 to C2.

A substitute motion to table the matter for further research was offered by Ms. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Davis.

RESOLVED, That the matter be tabled.

A roll call vote on the substitute motion resulted as follows:

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

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

#### Additional Approval of Evans & Graves Agreement

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

RESOLVED, That additional approval of the contract be granted.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

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

**Discussion of Owen & White, Inc. Contract for Engineering Services for Potable Water Improvements and Sanitary Sewer System Improvements**

Mr. Randy Hollis gave an overview of the Water Sector program applications and called for a resolution to support submission of the applications.

**Agenda Amendment(s)**

**Item 9A Adoption of Resolution to support the Office of Community Development Water Sector Program applications**

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

The motion was unanimously carried.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

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

**Adoption of Resolution to support the Office of Community Development Water Sector Program applications**

**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, Davis and White**  
**NAYS: None**  
**ABSTAIN: None**  
**ABSENT: None**

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

**Hiring and Spending Freeze**

Mr. White proposed that the city implement a freeze on hiring and spending. He also asked that the Harvest Festival be postponed.

Mayor Dukes stated that “I did not authorize any of those expenses that have taken place with the pumps. My signature is not on any of that. That is not my work and I do not think the community needs to suffer or be punished due to something that did not pass across my desk. I’m in the middle of reviewing this and I’m checking this to see how did this get to this point. We’re going to get to the bottom of this all those bills that you talk about have been paid. We have an influx in gas prices that I told you went up by 250%. So to try to punish this community Mr. White because of something that happened within this office that other people had nothing to do with. I don’t think we should make this community suffer for personal reasons and political ploys.”

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

**RESOLVED, That a freeze be placed on unnecessary spending and hiring and cancel the Harvest Festival until the city is in a better financial condition.**

**After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn.**

**Mr. White stated that “I am totally 100% against these undue expenditures when this city is in need of major infrastructure repairs and vendors are calling council members to get paid. I think we can find better use of our money and I’m not saying that the Harvest Festival can not have an event in the future, but I think for right now we need to get our house in order and show the people that we are being fiscally responsible for their money we are in charge of.**

**We are the stewards of the tax payer dollars and we owe it to the people and it’s not a punishment but I think it’s showing the people that we are doing our due diligence to see that their tax dollars the city has no money, the people have money and we are stewards of that money and we are showing the people due diligence on how we spend their money. Having said that, I will withdraw but I want it noted for the record that I am totally against it.”**

#### **Report on Emmitt Douglas Park Baseball Program**

**Mr. Smith reported that the baseball program was 100% free to the 121 children that participated. The uniforms and equipment were also free. A total of \$4600 was expended with no cost to the city.**

**He thanked everyone that assisted in making the program special. In closing, he thanked the Mayor and the city for the scoreboard, bathrooms and the field.**

**Mayor Dukes stated that “he appreciated the acknowledgement and expressed his thankfulness for the effort with the program.”**

#### **Council Reports**

**Mr. Davis reported the death of Frank Springstead.**

**Ms. Nelson reported a complaint of tall grass at 715 and 717 Louis Street.**

#### **Mayor’s Report**

**A moment of silence was held in memory of Frank Springstead. Mr. Springstead was a retired City of New Roads police officer.**

**With no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

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**Cornell Dukes  
Mayor**

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**Lynette H. Nelson  
Secretary-Treasurer**