

MINUTES

CITY OF NEW ROADS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

November 15, 2022

The New Roads City Council met in regular session at 5:30 o'clock P.M. Tuesday, November 15, 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, Joy Nelson, Theron Smith and Kirk White

ABSENT: Kurt Kellerman

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

Public comments on agenda items

There were no public comments.

Consent Calendar – Approval of Minutes of Regular Council Meeting of October 18, 2022

The minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 18, 2022 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.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Daryl Patin – Kiwanis Club

Mr. Patin was not in attendance.

Mr. Thomas Nelson – Update on Housing Authority

Mr. Nelson gave an update on Housing Authority operations since his tenure as the director.

Mr. Richard Jones – Discussion of lack of trash pickup service

Mr. Jones appeared before the council to address his concerns for charges incurred for trash pickup. According to Mr. Jones, the service is not being provided. After some discussion, a decision was made to research the matter.

Mr. Glynn Jarreau – Application for Beer and/or Liquor License

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

RESOLVED, That the application be approved.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

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

Public Hearing – Planning & Zoning Commission

Chancellor Porche – Discussion of proposed Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning of the property at 607 New Roads Street from I-1 (Light Industrial) to C-2 (General/Downtown Commercial)

RESOLVED, That the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to table this matter be approved.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

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

Ronald P. Callegari, II - Discussion of proposed Zoning Map Amendment to change the zoning of the property at 102 Gisele Street from R (Single Family Residential) to C-1 (Neighborhood Commercial)

RESOLVED, That the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to deny the request be approved.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

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

John Linton - Discussion of proposed Site Plan Review of the property at 509 Hospital Road while remaining in Memorial Boulevard Overlay District

RESOLVED, That the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission to approve the application be approved.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

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

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

Discussion of Harvest Festival (Mr. Kellerman)

In the absence of Mr. Kellerman, Mr. White questioned the expenses relative to the Harvest Festival.

According to Mr. White, the festival incurred a \$211,000 loss.

Mayor Dukes explained as follows:

“Where did the numbers come from. I enacted a committee to plan the event and the information was provided to me. Based on pending funds from grants and sponsorships, the festival only incurred an \$8000.00 deficit. Overall, it was a great festival, overwhelming attendance and a major boost to the economy and sales tax revenues.”

Discussion of City Finances (Mr. Kellerman)

Mr. White addressed the issue of the monies owed to Better Pumps and Solutions for pump rentals. He reported that the city is in a penalty phase and the company has hired an attorney to pursue payment.

Tommy Lejeune of Faulk & Winkler – Introduction of 2023 Budget

Mr. Lejeune presented the 2022 Budget Amendment and 2023 Budget to the council for review and comment.

Mayor Dukes stated that “he is proud of the lights on Main Street and proud of Main Street. He reported that the sales tax in 2018 was 1.5 million, and 1.7 million in 2019 and 2020. In 2022, the sales tax to date is 2.1 million. Along with his administration, the city garnered a million dollars in less than 3.5 years.”

Discussion of BPS Pump Fees (Mayor Dukes)

Mayor Dukes voiced his concerns for the fees assessed by Better Pumps and Solutions. He stated that “he inherited a problem with the pumps. The problems should have been fixed utilizing bond proceeds received prior to his administration. The rental fees have reached 1.3 million dollars.

The city has submitted a grant application for funding for the water and sewer systems. Mayor Dukes stated that he is confident the city will be resolving this matter soon.

The discussion resulted in a recommendation to have a representative of BPS attend the next council meeting.

Council Reports

Mr. Davis expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the city council.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Dukes commended everyone that was a candidate and/or winner in the recent election. “

Mayor Dukes stated “let the numbers show from the year 2019 to 2022, the city enjoyed over 1.1 million dollars that went into its savings, of which 1.1 million dollars and more was spent on BPS rental pumps.

If you subtract the expense of numbers for BPS from the numbers provided from LAMP, the real numbers show that under my leadership the city would be in the black over a million dollars to help families.”

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

Cornell Dukes
Mayor

Lynette H. Nelson
Secretary-Treasurer