

(MINUTES)

CITY OF NEW ROADS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

March 7, 2023

The New Roads City Council met in regular session at 5:30 o'clock P.M. Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at the City Hall in New Roads, Louisiana. Mayor Theron Smith called the meeting to order. A roll call resulted as follows:

PRESENT: James Hunter, Cleotha Johnnigan, Jr. , Joy Nelson, Kurt Kellerman and Kirk White

ABSENT: None

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

Presentation to Mr. Jules Hurst

Mayor Smith presented a proclamation to Mr. Hurst recognizing his dedication and service to the City. Mr. Hurst was the first African American law enforcement officer in New Roads and Pointe Coupee Parish. On August 1, 1990, he retired after 27 years of service. He served as Chief of Police for ten of those years.

Public comments on agenda items

There were no public comments.

Agenda Amendment(s)

Item 8A Discussion of Citizen Noise Complaints in the Martin Drive Area

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

RESOLVED, that the agenda be amended.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Hunter, Johnnigan, Kellerman, Nelson and White

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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

Consent Calendar – Approval of Minutes of Regular Council meeting of February 7, 2023 and Special Council meeting of February 13, 2023

The minutes of the Regular Council meeting of February 7, 2023 and Special Council meeting of February 13, 2023 were submitted for approval.

The reading of the minutes was waived.

Motion by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Johnnigan.

RESOLVED, That the minutes be adopted with the following changes.

The minutes of the Regular council meeting of February 7, 2023 reflect that Mr. Kellerman arrived after the roll call.

The minutes of the Special council meeting of February 13, 2023 be edited to include the following:

Prior to the vote, Mr. Kellerman voiced his concerns. He stated that “we should take the lowest quote. All firms that gave proposals were more than capable of doing the bond issue and could do it. I’d go with the lowest prices. I mean I don’t. I think you can do it. I mean he’s not (mumbled words) but maybe it’s more than that. I’d say I can put together a thing based on getting four or five new people putting new names in it. Maybe it’s more than that, I don’t know. I think that’s about all they do. Number one, you just put new numbers, you put new things, you put the city of New Roads. Like I said, the last one they brought which was Foley & Judell. They skipped one line and put the city of Plaquemine cause he grabbed those and cut and paste. That’s my thing. Do what ya’ll think is best.”

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Hunter, Johnigan, Kellerman, Nelson and White
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

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

Discussion of Mardi Gras 2023 (K. Kellerman)

Mr. Kellerman voiced his concerns for the numerous complaints received on the vulgar music played during the parades.

Mayor Smith stated that all floats are numbered and this information was provided to the law enforcement so that citations could be issued. A total of three (3) citations were issued.

Further discussion included suggestions to meet with the carnival clubs to discuss the problems and to establish a limit on the number of units in the parade.

Cletus Langlois reported on the excessive amount of trash collected.

Discussion of Utility Billings (K. Kellerman)

Mr. Kellerman stated that there is a recurring problem during the past three administrations to get bills processed on time and to ensure that the bills are accurate.

Paul Seawell reported that there were handheld equipment problems in September and October of last year. A new software that is currently used by the Parish was installed to eliminate the problem.

In January, a report was generated to reveal a total of 7158 meters read. Of the 7158, there were 143 rereads and 2 misreads.

In February, a report was generated to reveal a total of 7158 meters read. Of the 7158, there were 84 rereads and 4 misreads.

Mr. Kellerman stated that his concern is why the “bills can’t get out on time”.

Paul Seawell presented several pieces of mail and read the reason why the mail was returned to the city. The discussion resulted in a recommendation to meet with the postmaster to discuss the problems with mail delivery.

Discussion of Citizen Noise Complaints in the Martin Drive Area

Ms. Nelson reported several complaints of loud music and harassment from motorists traveling in the area. Ms. Nelson recited the noise ordinance. Cletus Langlois stated that he research signage.

There was also a complaint on the disrespect from the 911 dispatchers when responding to the calls.

Mayor Smith stated that the police department will increase patrol of the area and get a meter to monitor the noise levels. He also stated that the city is sensitive to her concerns and will make a concerted effort to assist.

Committee Reports

Mr. White gave the Public Works committee report of the February 13th meeting.

Council Reports

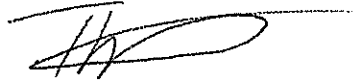
Ms. Nelson announced that a Jambalaya Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 11th at the Scott Civic Center. The event is sponsored by local and state officials. All proceeds will benefit Mrs. Mildred Duhe, a retired educator, who lost her family home in a fire.

Mayor's Report

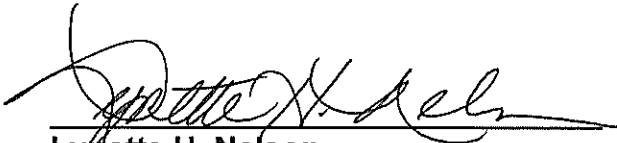
Mayor Smith announced that voting in the slogan/tagline contest would be held on Wednesday, March 15th from 10:00 to 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. The vehicle driven by the previous mayor will be returned to Enterprise at a profit instead of a loss. The LEPA Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16th He will attend and appear before the board to explain the city's delinquency.

Mr. White requested a report of uncollected utility bills.

With no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.



Theron Smith
Mayor



Lynette H. Nelson
Secretary-Treasurer