

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session  
August 13, 2019  
6:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers-City Hall  
MINUTES

There was a legal and regular session of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Louisiana held this date, August 13, 2019 at the Council's regular meeting place, 400 Lea Joyner Memorial Expressway, City Council Chambers/City Hall Building, Monroe, Louisiana.

The Honorable Juanita G. Woods, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order and asked the Council Clerk, Ms. Riley to call the roll.

Council members present for roll call: Mrs. Gretchen Ezernack, Ms. Juanita Woods, Mr. Michael Echols, Mr. Kenneth Wilson, and Mr. Eddie Clark.

The Invocation was led by Ms. Jacqueline Benjamin, Council Staff, and the Pledge of Allegiance by Councilman Eddie Clark.

#### COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Mr. Echols welcomed each one present; he stated there are a number of issues on the agenda and do look forward to the feedback; he apologized to the citizens in District 1 for the low water pressure issues on last week; there has been infrastructure water line improvement work done and do believe the install has mostly been remediated and things are working efficiently again; he asked that as the pressure issues are being investigated and as they find clarity on the issue, that the Council would be notified of results so that the constituents can be notified; he said the further you go in learning about city government you learn things and stated that all the distribution point systems are being recharged between the hours of 11:30 p.m. – 6:30 a.m. and you may have a low pressure moment at 5:00 a.m. if you are taking a shower; he thanked his colleagues and others for sending their texts of congratulations to him, as he has the honor next year of being sworn in as the State Representative for House District 14 and thanked the Council and Administration for their kind thank you and gestures and look forward to serving on a different level to bring back resources for infrastructure, water, sewer, trash; he said he looks forward to working in Baton Rouge.

2. Mrs. Ezernack welcomed each one present; she thanked everyone for their hard work as we hosted the Louisiana Municipal Convention on last week, it was outstanding; there were over 1200 people from throughout the state, from villages, towns, cities and different communities; our staff and the people who worked on putting it together made it an outstanding meeting, there were many positive things said about our community, and people were shopping, eating at restaurants and other different things; there were meetings throughout the day with educational opportunities and other helpful things to help us do our jobs a lot better; do appreciate all of the staff and the volunteers that helped, as it was a team effort from the City of Monroe to host all of the neighboring cities, some came from Lake Charles and some further south than that, and they had a wonderful time, it was the first time hosting it since 2013 and some asked us to do it again next year, but we begged off on it, it was a fantastic event; she thanked those who have helped to get the trash picked up, and do know that we got behind and they have almost got caught back up; she said there is an agenda item on tonight, that will help with the issue in the future correct the problem and do look forward to hearing about it tonight.

4. Mr. Wilson, welcomed each one present and the young people; he thanked Chief Ellis regarding Swanson(LTI) and the phone call that he made to him, and the information that the Chief shared with him; he and Mr. Clark shares that area of the District; he said the inside information that he received is that Swanson is short of police officers and that is a problem, and we want to ensure the safety of the citizens of the City of Monroe, and he will be speaking with the director of Swanson and other members of the staff concerning the safety of the citizens; he reminded everyone that school has started and to drive safely for the children; he announced his back to school supply giveaway on Saturday from 10am-12noon at PEEPS office at 1411 Orange Street, donations for 125 kids and refreshments; he thanked Council members, Clark, Echols and Woods for their support of PEEP over the years; he congratulated Mr. Echols on his win to the State Representative and have enjoyed serving with him on the Council.

5. Mr. Clark, welcomed each one present; congratulated Mr. Echols on his unopposed run for State Representative and do know that he will do a tremendous job in trying to secure resources along with other local delegation, to try to enhance Monroe and truly move Monroe forward; he said we need amusement parks, jobs, economic development, and we are counting on him to go down and do his best and join in with others and just to do right, and for your word to be fruitful as he would be forthcoming, and represent us well. He stated he needed the

assistance of the citizens all over Monroe, it doesn't matter what area that you live, but the city is filthy, and said everybody is looking surprised, but just ride with him when he leaves here and they can go down different streets, starting with South Grand, Bethune, South 6<sup>th</sup>, and can go to North Monroe, Forsythe, in different areas, but there is trash everywhere; he thanked Public Works because when he calls or when Councilman Wilson calls, Ms. Gospel and others get workers out to pick it up, but it's not just the homeowners, we have illegal dumping and do have people coming in from other areas dumping and do want to thank the residents in Oregon Trail; he said a lady that works at a local bank who is a professional there, caught someone dumping and got their license plate and they were from a different area of town; it is easy to think that it is just the homeowners in that immediate area, who just don't care and that's not true, but it takes all of us to make Monroe a better place; he said it's sickening when you drive down South Grand, and it's not his district, but he's a part of Monroe; he said when his kids say it's filthy, and they are seven and five years old, and they know that it's dirty and they ask how can it look like this and he has to explain to them, and he has to tell his children that they don't have to live like this; he said his Mom who is present at Council meeting tonight, would tell them that she didn't care if they had two or three pairs of pants, you wash them, you iron them and look presentable, and around your house you pick up paper, cans and yet the City looks the way that it looks and am calling on everyone to join an effort to clean up; he said he received an anonymous letter from someone telling him to organize a cleanup on Oregon Trail and pickup paper; he said first of all they could have put their name on it and secondly, they want him to organize a cleanup; he said he could organize a cleanup, but what will happen after that day's event is over, how about all of us organize cleanups and each one get one and everyone start with their own front yard and doesn't know who the person was, but would have had a nice laugh with them and said he would go out and buy the bags, pickers, but how about them organizing the cleanup and we all get it going, because truly, there won't be any jobs that will come in here and relocate to certain areas, with the place looking the way that it is looking.

6. Mayor Mayo was not present; Mr. Janway was present and commented, Mayor Mayo would reserve his comments for the citizen participation portion of the meeting.

Ms. Woods said that she would jump on the bandwagon with Mr. Clark; she said what we know is with their being a charge now for garbage, trash, etc. to the landfill, then we know that there will be a minimum of \$25 and what we are seeing now is that it will only get worse, if we, the citizens don't do something about it; she said Public Works is behind a little bit, but if she has to call them and plead with them to pickup something in District 3, then that pulls them in whatever district they were in to come and do something for her and then we are still in the same band wagon; she said we have got to unite and am willing to put on some rubber boots, gloves and look in the trash to see if we can see somebody's name and address to bill them for it; she said Public Works was asked last week to pick up Pippin Street on last week and they picked up from one end to the other end and the next day it looked like it did the day before, it has to stop; she said in talking about the trucks breaking down, and if you have tons and tons of stuff out there, it will break the trucks down and we need to come together, this is our community and it will only be as good as we make it and asked for everyone's support. Ms. Woods welcomed Mr. Roderick Scott, the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, with Governor John Bel Edwards' office. She stated the LMA conference was a huge success, with everyone talking about how great it was and it was successful, because it was a group effort; she thanked the Civic Center staff, the Police department, Public works and everyone who had input in the convention, they all did a great job.

Upon a motion of Mr. Clark and a second by Mr. Wilson, the minutes of the Legal and Regular session of July 23, 2019 were approved unanimously. (There were no public comments).

PRESENTATION: Stuart Hodnett – Ouachita Green Coordinator – Quarterly Report. Mr. Hodnett's quarterly report consisted of information on Ouachita Green events which included the Household Hazardous Waste Event, Ouachita River Water Sweep, Great American Cleanup, Leaders Against Litter, Earth Day Celebration, America Recycles Day, and the OG3 Teamup 2 Cleanup Days; special projects included the ULM/Highway 165 Flower Enhancement Project, Blue Star Memorial Garden Project, 210 Trees planted on Arkansas Rd., Blanchard Rd. Cheniere Lake (Lodge & Area 3), Town of Sterlington, Town of Richwood and a Proposed Tree planting at Highway 165 and the Highway 15 area near the Monroe welcome sign. Mr. Hodnett thanked the 2,041 volunteers who donated over 10,000 hours of their time.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: 6:00PM. Chairwoman Woods opened the public hearing and seeing no one come forward, the hearing was declared closed.

(1) A Public Hearing to hear and consider all comments, protest and objections relative to the 2019 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for the Monroe Police Department.

PROPOSED CONDEMNATIONS:

Public Comment:

1. 3817 Barlow Street (D3) (Owner – Katie Paster Taylor, et al). Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to remove from the agenda. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Ms. Robinson stated that the property owner demolished the structure.

2. 4307 Barlow Street (D3) (Owner – Phillip Jones Est & Evelena J Nash) Upon a motion by Ms. Woods, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved for property owner to be given 30 days or September 13, 2019, in which to bring the structure into compliance with the code or demolish the structures and clean the lot. (There were no comments from the public). There was service; Ms. Robinson said she had spoken with Oneko Nash and they came into the office and wanted to demolish the structure, it still stands in the dilapidated condition and want it condemned; Ms. Evelena Nash said she has squatters in the house and when they get ready to do something with it, they have to call the police to come out; she said she boarded the house and did what she was supposed to have done and doesn't know what to do. Mr. Wilson asked if demolition grant information been offered to Ms. Nash and Ms. Robinson said Ms. Nash would need to speak to community development; Mr. Wilson stated he would donate his \$20,000 of Council funds for demolition; Ms. Baldwin said she would research for usage of the funds and the demolition of a house ranges from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and this house has siding and it could be asbestos and the costs could then be higher. Ms. Downs said she would look at their file to see if they qualify and move forward with the process and it would be based on HUD qualifications. Ms. Woods asked that she would be kept abreast of the case.

ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF BIDS: (Public Comment) None.

RESOLUTIONS AND MINUTE ENTRIES:

1. Council: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson, Voting YES: Echols, Ezernack, Wilson, Clark; Voting to ABSTAIN: Woods, and approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7519, approving the appointment of Councilwoman Juanita G. Woods to the Board of Directors of the I-20 Economic Development Commission, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7520, granting an exception to the Open Container Ordinance to the Monroe, West Monroe Convention and Visitors Bureau (CHILLFEST) pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Department of Administration: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Consider an Application by Morgan R. Wright dba Hooligan's, 209 Louisville Ave., Monroe, LA 71201 for a New 2019 Class A Alcoholic Beverage Permit. The Monroe Police Department has no disqualifying records and Sales Tax has been Cleared, CO-Cleared, Distance Report Cleared. (There were no public comments).

Department of Planning & Urban Development: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Consider request from Ivy Watson Sr. for a Major Conditional Use Permit authorizing the use of the existing structure (2514 Lee Avenue) for worship and bible study. The Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance allows a house of worship/church as a Major

Conditional Use in the B-3, General Business/Commercial District. Major Conditional Uses are those uses that require another level of approval, therefore this request comes before the City Council for their approval in addition to that of the Planning Commission. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Echols and unanimously approved to Consider request from Rays of Sonshine for a Major Conditional Use Permit authorizing the use of the existing structure (3515 South Grand Street) for a residential care facility. The Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance allows a residential care facility as a Major Conditional Use in the B-1, Neighborhood Mixed-Use District. Major Conditional Uses are those uses that require another level of approval, therefore this request comes before the City Council for their approval in addition to that of the Planning Commission. (There were no public comments).

ADD-ON: (c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to Adopt a Resolution authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to submit the City of Monroe's FY 2019 Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Project No. B-19-MC-22-0206 and Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) FFY 2019 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson, and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7521, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to submit the City of Monroe's FY 2019 Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Project No. B-19-MC-22-0206 and Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) FFY 2019 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

ADD-ON: (d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to Adopt a Resolution authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute a professional services agreement with Ken McManus of Service Group Unlimited, L.L.C. for professional services and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Echols asked for the specific environmental projects will they be for; Ms. Downs said it was for housing demolition; Mr. Clark asked for the ceiling amount on the fee structure; Ms. Downs said it would vary by square footage on the home; the funds are coming from CDBG grant fund. Mr. Echols asked if it was for tearing them down or restoration; Ms. Downs said it was for both; He said probably 95% of the homes that they would be tearing down are going to have lead based paint and asked why would extra money be spent when they know it would be lead there; she said it is required by HUD, if they are going to demolish and must test for everything.

(d) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7522, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute a professional services agreement with Ken McManus of Service Group Unlimited, L.L.C. for professional services and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Legal Department:    Public Comment:    None.

Mayor's Office:    Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7523, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Miss Monroe Scholarship Pageant Organization and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7524, authorizing Mayor James Mayo to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Ouachita Green and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson, Voting YES: Ezernack, Wilson, Clark, Woods; Voting to ABSTAIN: Echols, and approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7525, stating the City of Monroe's endorsement of Monroe Development, LLC and their Project #20190230-RTA to participate in the benefits of the Louisiana Restoration Tax Abatement Program. (There were no public comments).

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7526, authorizing the amendment of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City of Monroe, the Picard Group and the Monroe Chamber of Commerce previously approved by the Council in Resolution #7499 and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Echols asked what was being amended; Ms. Baldwin said the city's contribution amount was being amended, as it should have been \$50,000 as it was in the previous years.

Department of Public Works: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Echols and unanimously approved to Consider request from the Department of Public Works for Council approval to Piggy-back off the State of Louisiana Contract for Global Position System (GPS)/Automated Vehicle Locator (AVL). The contract number is 4400006650. The T-number is 92654. The Contractor is GPS Insight, LLC. Funds will be derived from the Sanitation Repairs & Maintenance line items. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Wilson asked if it would be placed on vehicles throughout Public works; Mr. Janway said it is scheduled to be placed on Sanitation, Streets, Drainage, Sewer and any other division in Public Works; Mr. Wilson asked if this included directors, supervisors and Mr. Janway said yes; Mr. Wilson asked the purpose of placing the devices on the vehicles; Mr. Janway said they have tracking devices on the larger trucks, such as trash and garbage trucks providing critical services for the past 7/8 years and this device is updated and it's cheaper than what they currently have; Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Janway if the vehicle tracking device would be on all Public works trucks including his own and he said they haven't mandated that, just those that have been mentioned to him. Mrs. Ezernack asked which option they were going with it and they are going with the rental option. Ms. Woods said they rental is more than the purchase and Mr. Janway said they haven't made a final decision on it and will look at it a lot closer and will piggyback with the state contract; Mr. Wilson said he hopes they will come back and put it on the departments, supervisors, etc.

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Echols and unanimously approved to Consider request from the Department of Public Works for Council Approval to advertise for three (3) new Trash Knuckle boom Leader Trucks, four (4) new Garbage Trucks, and three (3) new Zero Turn Lawn Mowers. The estimated cost of this equipment is \$1,335,000. Funds will be derived from the Sanitation Capital Account and the Capital Special Revenue Fund. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Ms. Rowell said the equipment would be purchased through an equipment lease that would be brought to council at the next meeting and the payment for the lease are listed. Ms. Woods said it was much needed.

Department of Community Affairs: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7527, authorizing the acceptance of a donation of mobile library receptacles from Amelia Campbell and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

ADD-ON (b) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to add to the agenda to Adopt a Resolution, granting an exception to the Department of Community Affairs pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Mrs. Ezernack and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7528, granting an exception to the Department of Community Affairs pursuant to Monroe City Code Sec. 12-231 D. (Open Container Ordinance), and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Police Department: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mr. Echols, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7529, authorizing James E. Mayo to sign and accept the 2019 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Consider request from the Monroe Police Department for Council approval to purchase 28 Armis Entry Vests and 28 Point Blank Plates from Teeco Safety of Shreveport for a total of \$51,997.68. These items are on State Contract #4400006364 and funds will be derived from account #4142-3000.6600 050. (There were no public comments).

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Consider request from the Monroe Police Department for Council approval to purchase (33) OptiPlex 7750 All-in-One computers for \$1,149 each, (33) 24" Dell Monitors \$124.00, and (5) OptiPlex 7070 Mini Tower computers for a total of \$46,704.00. It is on State Contract # 4400002525. Funds will be derived from Account # 4142-3000.6600 050. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Echols asked if this was for a grant and what is the end use of the items; Chief Ellis said it was an upgrade on the current system for investigators and patrol officers.

(d) Upon a motion by Mr. Wilson, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to Consider request from the Police Department for Council Approval to advertise for a 90-day bid toward the purchase of a tactical SWAT robot and Tactical Deployable Electronic Equipment for SWAT. (There were no public comments).

Fire Department: Public Comment: None.

Engineering Services: Public Comment:

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7530, accepting as substantially complete work done by and between the City of Monroe and CW&W Contractors, Inc., for the Various Bridge Repairs Phase III Project, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

(b) Upon a motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7531, accepting as substantially complete work done by and between the City of Monroe and Amethyst Construction, Inc., for the Civic Center Parking Lot Improvements Project, and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Echols said one or two council meetings ago, there was some additional funding that was included for some work that was above the initial scope and said there would be savings in the end to balance it out; he asked if they found the savings or more problems; Mr. Holland said they are closing the contract out and haven't made the next payment due, the engineer are putting the paper work together for the next council meeting; Mr. Echols asked once they deem it substantially complete and Mr. Holland said substantially completed means it is ready to be used for what it was designed for; Mr. Echols asked if any payment adjustments be reflected in the next and Mr. Holland said it would be in a close out change order, the numbers may be up or down; Mr. Echols asked if this is done after they declare it substantially complete, because he thought that once it is declared substantially complete they just have a pay out and Mr. Holland said they do, but they have to get all of their numbers together and have to balance everything out to see where they are as far as final payment; Mr. Echols asked if this process was correct; Ms. Baldwin said it was correct as long as they come back with the final change order correcting anything; Mr. Echols said, after the fact; Mr. Holland said, yes.

(c) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Echols and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7532, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute Change Order No. Thirteen (13) to the north area Sewer System Improvements Basin MR-27(a)30/31 Rehabilitation Contract, between the City of Monroe and Jabar Corporation, for an increase in the contract amount of \$98,820.20 and an increase in the contract time of Thirty (30) days and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Wilson asked why there were so many change orders, this is 13<sup>th</sup> change order; Mr. Holland said the project consists of three contracts in one and they consist of MR-27(a)30/31, combined for a total of \$3,000,000; he said a sewer project doesn't cover everything in the areas as far as replacing all of the mainlines, repairing the manholes, service lines etc. and they have to each time that they find something different in the field they make a change order, if it is not a part of the original contract; the last change order involved smoke testing and it wasn't a part of the original contract and a solution was found to repair; Mr. Wilson asked if the DBE participation changed along with the 13 change orders and Mr. Holland said he couldn't really say because the contractor handles a lot himself; Mr. Wilson said he wanted the names and phone numbers of the DBE's to make

sure that the city is meeting the goals. Mr. Echols asked if this project captured the project on Pointe Drive; Mr. Holland said they added Point Drive to this project; Mr. Echols stated that Pointe Drive is in the project number and Mr. Holland said this work doesn't cover Point Drive, they already took care of Point Drive; he said they have additional problems with Point Drive, but they don't have the funds to take care of it right now; Mr. Echols asked if the smoke testing piggybacked under this to do the testing they were doing; Mr. Holland said yes, but not in the Point Drive area, but Deborah Drive is included and Hanging Moss is included and they are working on it; Mr. Echols asked if they would see another add on to this and Mr. Holland said, probably not, as they are trying to wrap up the job; as they find a problem, they try to fix it and try to negotiate a fair price to get it done and if look through the change order, this order affects sewer basin mr27a only. Mr. Echols asked what was the project number for Point Drive; Mr. Holland said Point Drive was added to the project and it was not a part of the original project, they did some pipe bursting, manholes, and the work done on Point Drive was successful, but they aren't done; Mr. Echols said he understands a limited scope smoke test on Point Drive project, not the entire system; Mr. Holland said it was not on the Point Drive area, it was on Deborah Drive in other areas, Old Forsythe extension. Mr. Echols asked if he would be kept posted as to when the issue is resolved; Mr. Holland said the older areas built in the 1960's, Hanging Moss, they had a symmetrical underground station and they took it out and put in a bigger line, but the line is flat and with a flat line, there will be issues and the sewer department goes in and cleans it as necessary and when the lines run between houses at 10-15 ft apart, then you are limited on what can be done. Mr. Will Davis, Superintendent, said regarding Hanging Moss, they would go in and clean the line because it is flat every two weeks to make sure they don't have any problems. Mr. Echols asked if there was a point in time when they look at funding, and if they are going out every two weeks, that's a lot of labor to go out and clean it every two weeks and it reduces their ability; Mr. Davis said they would go out and look at it and if it doesn't need it then they would set it at once a month, every three months; Mr. Echols said it happens every time it rains more than half an inch when the over flow problem happens; Mr. Davis said they had a cross stoppage on the line at Forsythe that caused the back up and they cleaned it and found the stoppage; Mr. Echols asked if this was the one that happened three weeks ago and he said yes.

(d) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Echols and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7533, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to enter into and execute a contract with Dumas & Associates, Inc., to provide professional services for bridge inspections and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Wilson said he understands the Texas Avenue bridge to be a State bridge, and that the city has been working with them on it, but the bridge is vibrating, and it has potholes, it's in bad shape; Mr. Holland said state bridges fall under a different category and he will contact district administrator Marshal Hill; Mr. Holland said concrete bridges such as that are hard to repair; Ms. Woods echoed Mr. Wilson's concerns saying, that she has received calls and that she and Mr. Holland has driven to the site to look at it; Mr. Holland said it was a surface problem and if the bridge had a structural problem, the state would close it down and it's mainly cosmetic and hard to repair. Ms. Woods said they would talk about it.

(e) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Wilson and unanimously approved to Adopt Resolution No. 7534, authorizing James E. Mayo, Mayor, to execute a Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to superseding agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for the S.P.N. H.007289 Kansas Lane Extension US 80 & US 165 Project and further providing with respect thereto. (There were no public comments).

BREAK IF NEEDED:

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:    Public Comment:    None.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND FINAL ADOPTION AND SUBJECT TO PUBLIC HEARING:

Open Public Hearing/Public Comment/Close Hearing: Chairwoman Woods opened the public hearing:

Ms. Woods stated that the agenda item would not be voted upon tonight, because there was more information being gathered, but comments would be entertained on the subject.

1. Ms. Eleanor Smith, a spokesperson for the group from the Green Acres area and other areas who were a part of a group of citizens against the Ordinance for development; she presented a petition that was signed by over 125 property owners and some were present. Ms. Smith read the petition.

2. Mr. Harvey Sweet spoke regarding trash caused by young people and possibly the City going into the schools and classrooms and speaking to the students about their responsibilities on not littering.

Seeing no one else come forward, the hearing was declared closed.

(a) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Clark and unanimously approved to pass over until August 27, 2019 Council meeting to Finally adopt an Ordinance extending and enlarging the boundaries of the City of Monroe, Louisiana, providing for the recordation of the entire boundary as amended: establishing the effective date thereof, and providing further with respect thereto – Waking Up, Inc. – (P&Z) (This item was passed over until the August 13th meeting.) (There were no public comments).

Comments: Mr. Echols asked the reason for the agenda item being passed over, as it has been passed over before; Ms. Baldwin said they have had meetings with Engineering and the Sewer department, and they have been looking at different issues and concerns with it; Ms. Baldwin said they need to meet again because they were each looking into some other things and haven't come up with a specific determination on it at this time.

Chairwoman Woods opened the public hearing and seeing no one come forward, the hearing was declared closed.

(b) Upon a motion by Mrs. Ezernack, second by Mr. Echols and unanimously approved to Finally adopt Ordinance No. 11,945, declaring the failure of the #1 pump at the Rochelle Storm Water Station an Emergency necessitating immediate repair and further providing with respect thereto. (Public Wks.) (There were no public comments).

#### CITIZENS PARTICIPATION:

1. Amy Keifenheim, thanked Councilwoman Ezernack and other city officials for their hard work on the (LMA) Louisiana Municipal Convention; she worked on the planning committee as a representative from the Convention and Visitors Bureau and said it was an awesome experience and the feedback was great from the participants of the convention.

2. James Skipper, spoke regarding crime in the city; he said there was a substation on Jackson Street and the response time cuts down on a lot of crime; he believes if there was more visibility of officers located in high crime areas, there would be better response time. He asked that the Chief allow him to meet with him to create more eyes in the neighborhood and also to consider mini police substations, to address the response time; he thanked Mr. Clark for addressing the trash issues and improvements have been made in his area.

3. Ryan Lenard, President of La. Sk8life Society, a nonprofit, spoke regarding creating a public concrete skate park in the area of the Forsythe Park swimming pool; he said grants monies through the Land conservation could be available for a skate boarding park because it is a recreational sport and asked that the city would reapply for the grant; he disseminated skate park material to the Councilmembers.

4. K-9, Tyrone Dickson, congratulated Mr. Echols; he passed out information on his nonprofit to each Council member and said usually hook up with the city and they do a school supply drive; he commented regarding the crime that most of the people know each other and he was asked by a caller to do a candle light vigil for someone who lost their life; he asked that the Council and would sit down and speak to the Mayor about voting his nonprofit into their budget for next year to start helping him for his nonprofit, because he is in the community more than anybody; he is doing school supply drive in three different areas. He asked that everyone come together and stop pointing fingers; he said it is election time and they can come for him again, he is an ex convicted felon, but a very, very powerful community activist and better know what they are doing or a candidate that he deals with, because he will fight back this time and do promise that they won't like it. He asked that he would be put on the agenda and he thanked Mr. Wilson for a donation to his school supply drive. He asked for prayers when as he visits the family of the young lady who lost her life to gun violence.

5. Damian Coleman, Life Changers of NELA, help low income citizens in impoverished areas of the community; he stated his concern was a rise in crime, murders, attempted murders and have reached out to the Mayor and Councilmembers to speak about this to assist his organization with helping to combat the crime issues; they have programs they can implement to combat the crime and poverty; he asked that consideration of assistance be given in the form of finances, material or resources; his organization has people living in their emergency shelter program, the food pantry program and, they have ongoing school supply drives.

6. Mayor Mayo, stated he needed to make a statement about the crime issue; he said each and every week they have department head meetings and Chief Ellis gives the numbers of crimes broken down and overall crime is down; he said each one of the citizens that came forward tonight and said that it has increased, but overall crime is down and it's reported each week. He commended all of the organizations, some present tonight and many not present for a lot of the things they do throughout the community, in some of the most impoverished areas to influential areas to help youth and people in general as it relates to crime; crime is an issue throughout the whole United States, not just the City of Monroe and could name, which won't name, cities, towns and villages, where they have some of the same issues, it's not an excuse but it's a fact; he said he would like to see as the leader of the City is someone come forward and say to us, that they have a solution for dealing with people that know each other who commit the violent crimes, because 100% of the time Chief Ellis texts or calls him and there is a violent crime and would say over 95% they know each other and someone said that earlier; he said Mr. Dickins said you can have a million police officers that have substations, but when people know each other and there is some type of disagreement and they decide to shoot or kill each other, whatever the case, then don't know how you would prevent that, even though the city has a number of programs and it's not an excuse, but those are the type solutions needed and not trying to be funny or anything like that. He asked Chief Ellis if he wanted to mention anything; Chief Ellis stated that Mayor Mayo was absolutely correct, we have a lot of programs in place, but until we get to the point of finding the solution to how we can prevent a known person from committing a crime against another known person, the problems will always be there; Chief Ellis said, we have neighborhood watch and crime stoppers, a lot of avenues in place where a citizens can report and help the police solve some of the crimes and will always need the citizens help and as the Mayor said, until they can get to the point to where they can have a police in everybody's house, have a police on every street corner, there will always be crime; but they will stay vigilant and do everything humanly possible to make sure they do what is necessary for the crimes to be on the curve, but do need the public's help. Mayor Mayo acknowledged Ms. Keifenheim, West Monroe CVB who spoke about the LMA conference and he said it was one of the best conventions according to the LMA officials and 1200-1300 attendees that came to Monroe; he thanked Mr. Johnson, Dr. Cannon, Civic Center and all departments that participated, the civic center looked good and there were great comments; he was told that there has always been trouble with transportation and they didn't have one trouble with transportation and he thanked Mr. Keenan, Mr. Janway for that and the City Council for their support. He said the city was recognized during the banquet and for the 10<sup>th</sup> year, the City of Monroe won the basic service award for Ouachita Strong working with City of West Monroe, Ouachita Parish Police Jury in addressing some drainage issues and this plan is being utilized throughout the entire state; he presented plaques to Council members that were not present to receive theirs at the banquet. He said Monroe won the state award for beautification and regardless to how people think about how the city looks, apparently it looks better than the cities in the category of the judging, because the city won; code enforcement, Ms. Hill, Greg Smith, Keep Monroe Beautiful, Ouachita Green, Public works have all worked to make this happen. He attended the Joint Budget committee meeting in Baton Rouge concerning the two TIF districts, which have to go to that in order to get on the bond commission meeting agenda for Thursday; the two Economic districts, including Tower Armand for eleven million dollar bond and I-20 is twenty three million dollars; attending the meeting with him in Baton Rouge were Engineer Kim Golden, his Administrative Secretary Ms. Ross attend and they had to answer questions about the districts to extend the districts. He thanked all on the joint budget including Senator Francis Thompson, Senator elect Katrina Jackson, Representatives Jack McFarland, Bubba Chaney, Senator Alario and most said these are the best TIF districts they have seen throughout the state. He acknowledged Roderick Scott, Governors office and thanked Governor John Bel Edwards and Secretary Robinson for their support. He congratulated Mr. Echols on being elected unopposed as Representative; the other unopposed were Sheriff, Senator Elect Katrina Jackson, Representatives Pat Moore, Jack McFarland, Francis Thompson.

Monroe City Council Legal and Regular Session  
August 13, 2019  
6:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers-City Hall  
MINUTES

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m., upon a motion of Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Wilson. (There were no public comments)

Ms. Juanita G. Woods  
Council Chairwoman

Ms. Carolus S. Riley  
Council Clerk

Ms. Jacqueline Benjamin  
Council Secretary

**\*For extended details on the Council meeting please call the Council Clerk, Monday-Friday at 329-2252; also, a recording of the minutes can be sent via email to you.**