

## MINUTES

### CITY OF NEW ROADS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

November 1, 2016

The New Roads City Council met in regular session at 6:00 P.M. Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at the City Hall in New Roads, Louisiana. Mayor Robert A. Myer called the meeting to order. A roll call resulted as follows:

**PRESENT:** Anthony Daisy, Vernell Davis, Kurt Kellerman, Bernadine St. Cyr and Kirk White

**ABSENT:** None

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

#### Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of October 18, 2016

Adoption of the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 18, 2016 was deferred.

#### Engineer's Report

The city engineer reported on the following:

##### False River Drive Pedestrian Walkway

- Contractor has requested the issuance of a certificate of substantial completion.
- A "walk-thru" needs to be scheduled.

##### New Roads Street Sidewalk

- Inspection performed prior to the meeting.
- Contractor has requested the issuance of a certificate of substantial completion.

##### King's Highway Paving

- Proof roll will be conducted on tomorrow at 8:00 a.m.
- Engineer will be attending.

##### Riverdale Subdivision

- Visits are made to the site whenever he is in town.

##### Pointe Breeze PS & Oxidation Pond Effluent PS Rehabilitation

- Bid opening held on Friday, October 27, 2016.
- Six bids were received.
- Lowest bidder was Spinks Construction.

**Agenda Amendment(s)**

Mayor Myer proposed the following amendment to the agenda.

Item 8A      Arthur Ewing – Presentation of Home Rule Charter Proposal

Motion by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Daisy.

RESOLVED, that the agenda be amended.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

YEAS:	Daisy, Davis, Kellerman, St. Cyr and White
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

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

**Application for Beer and/or Liquor License – Southern Chicks, LLC – Angel Ewing, Owner**

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

RESOLVED, That the application be approved.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

YEAS:	Daisy, Davis, Kellerman, St. Cyr and White
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

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

*Prior to discussion of the remaining agenda items, Mayor Myer gave the following speech.*

“We have no media here so this is not to the media. This is to us as a city. So we’ve had probably what I call three or four benchmark meetings here in the city so this is one of them, so please don’t look at this as a routine kind of thing. And obviously I feel as if we have accomplished a lot in the last six years infrastructure improvements, parks, recreation, job growth, new business growth, and I know we kind of explained what new business growth does to us you know when you put in a new hotel, a Wal Mart, a new assisted living facility. These, all of these transformers and stuff cost \$25,000 to \$30,000 dollars plus the other infrastructure we have to put in. We probably spent a million dollars over the last two years on the infrastructure to support our growth and we’ve been operating pretty much on a shoe string budgets.

Very, very proud tonight to present our 6<sup>th</sup> balanced budget and end of the year balanced and present another one. But as Johnny Morrison has said for years, you know we cut our spending \$800,000. We’ve had cuts in staffing, police budget. When I started six years ago it was 1.6 million dollars now its 1.2 million dollars. The public works we operate more with less people so we can’t and really shouldn’t operate like this going out into the future.

If you will recall Johnny Morrison has told us many members of this council for ten years before and the six years that I’ve been here that we need to look at revenue.

And I have been reluctant to do that but until we knew that we had cut everything that we could possibly cut I think that we could systemically pull that over the last six years. But we have needs and basic needs, insurance we can anticipate a 15 to 20 per cent increase in our insurance costs, retirement cost going up, those are just basic things that you fix. The cost of goods sold our electric cost, the equipment that we need and I'm not going to do any specifics at this point.

Other costs like police department. You know we've got to get in line with our neighbors. On the base cost of what our police officers come in we were able to retain a very good officer that we got six eight months ago from Baton Rouge and that Brusly offered him \$5.00 an hour more to work so their base cost going in is that much more. I understand that they have plants. I understand they have a higher tax base. I understand they have all this stuff but it is what it is for us so we have to pay our entry rate to our police department has to go up.

We desperately need infrastructure improvements in water and sewer at Sixth Street, at Fazend, at Fairfield. The calls are starting to come in on a regular basis. So we can't turn our back on that. And of course we have wants and what I call more importantly we have can not's.

You know I don't know the depth to this or how true it is and all that kind of stuff but you know our friends at the police jury have had to have significant cuts layoffs where they are and or considering or considered revenue anticipation bonds. Do you know what the non fancy word for that is. Pay Day Loan. Okay and so that just can't happen in the city of New Roads.

So I'm asking you to have an open mind about the things we're getting ready to talk about as what our needs are for the future. Okay with that said Item 8 Jeff Barbin".

#### Discussion of Economic Development Districts

Jeff Barbin of Phelps Dunbar explained that at the Mayor's request he researched the possibility of instituting or creating the hotel/motel tax. He went on to say that his research revealed there are several kinds of ways allowed by the legislature. One such way is a statute that raises taxes by creating a special economic taxing districts whereby you can increase hotel/motel tax, sales tax and property tax.

As a result, he presented a proposal to create a Downtown Economic Development District and a Memorial Boulevard Economic District.

The hotel/motel tax will be increased by 2% in both districts and funds generated will be used in the respective districts.

Mr. White voiced his concerns and was assured that sales and property taxes in the city will not be increased as a result of creating the districts.

Mr. Kellerman asked that the area designated as the Downtown Economic Development district boundaries include the east side of Morrison Parkway to the edge of the west side of the police jury property.

With no further discussion, the following motion was offered.

Motion by Mr. Daisy and seconded by Ms. St. Cyr.

**RESOLVED**, that a resolution authorizing the publication of a Notice of Intention to create the "City of New Roads Downtown Economic Development District" and defining the boundaries thereof, in accordance with and as authorized by Part II of Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, be adopted.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, That a public hearing be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Daisy, Davis, Kellerman, St. Cyr and White  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

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

*Prior to voting on the motion, Mr. White stated that "If in the future, ever brought to this council and I'm still sitting here, I will never support any sales tax or any property tax that is controlled by this governing body".*

Motion by Mr. Daisy and seconded by Ms. St. Cyr.

RESOLVED, that a resolution authorizing the publication of a Notice of Intention to create the "City of New Roads Memorial Boulevard Economic Development District" and defining the boundaries thereof, in accordance with and as authorized by Part II of Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, be adopted.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a public hearing be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Daisy, Davis, Kellerman, St. Cyr and White  
NAYS: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

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

**Arthur Ewing – Presentation of Home Rule Charter Proposal**

Arthur Ewing and Les Cantrell of the P.C. Chamber of Commerce gave an update on the Home Rule Charter proposal. The presentation included an overview of the current form of parish government, a structural overview of the proposed home rule charter, key processes with a closer examination of responsibilities, checks and balances, and what to expect if approved.

The proposition will be presented to the electors of the parish at the regular election on November 8, 2016.

**Presentation of 2016 Budget Amendment and 2017 Budget**

A copy of the 2016 Budget Amendment was distributed for council review. The 2017 budget will be introduced at the November 15, 2016 meeting.

**Discussion of Electric, Water/Sewer and Gas Rates**

During the previous presentation, Tommy Lejeune of Faulk & Winkler presented his recommendations to increase utility rates.

The sample utility rates include:

Electricity - 5%    Gas - 7%    Garbage - 5%    Water/Sewer - 9%

Mr. Kellerman stated “Mayor I’d like to see on the electric rates and I need to see what we’re paying LEPA and what do we what are we profit on that because we’re paying a fixed rate I’m not even going to get into the fuel adjustment thing because we have no fuel adjustment I mean it’s on the bill we have no fuel adjustment we need to get rid of it but we’re paying 5.5 for 5 years is that right we’re paying 5.5 cents per kilowatt.”

He also stated that “Mayor so what I would like to what I want to see is take our top 25 business commercial people let’s I’d like to see that add the proposed 5% increase. I’d like to see what their bill is now, what it’s going to go up to, and then Tommy I’d like to see what works from the city the homeowners rate the electric I mean the water and sewer that’s easy I can do that. But I’d just like to see that in real dollars what it’s going to be average residential.”

Lastly, he stated “Mayor something else I’d like to see is how many kilowatt hours we’re usually billed from NRG and how many kilowatt hours we bill. I know we have line loss.”

#### Discussion of Garbage Collection

Mayor Myer reported that city residents currently pay 12.00 per household for garbage collection and 1.50 per household for brown goods collection. He gave an overview of the brown goods collection process and reported that a recent survey revealed that there were less than 100 pickups in a 30 day period.

As a result, the matter was referred to a committee for further discussion and resolution.

#### Discussion of Wm. H. Scott Civic Center

Mayor Myer informed the council that the parish is interested in moving forward with the transfer of ownership of the Wm. H. Scott Civic Center. A copy of an “Act of Exchange” was handed out for informational purposes. The city attorney requested to review the document before it is sent to the parish.

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

RESOLVED, That the Mayor be authorized to execute the partition of property.

A roll call vote resulted as follows:

YEAS:	Daisy, Davis, Kellerman, St. Cyr and White
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

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

#### Mayor’s Report

##### Trick or Treat Main Street

Good event with over 110 participants in the costume contest.

##### Harvest Festival

The net income earned from the festival was \$26,000.00.

**Police Academy Graduates**

Mayor Myer introduced three new police officers, Dominique Harris, Crystal Duckworth and Tait Slocum. Harris and Duckworth are recent graduates of the academy.

With no further business to come before the council, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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**Robert A. Myer, Mayor**

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**Lynette H. Nelson  
Executive Asst./Grants Manager**