

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF RUSTON HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009, AT 5:30 P.M., IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS/COURTROOM, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, CITY HALL, 401 NORTH TRENTON, RUSTON, LOUISIANA**

A regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Ruston was held Monday, January 5, 2009, at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers/Courtroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 401 North Trenton, Ruston, Louisiana.

A quorum was present, notice having been duly served. Mayor Dan Hollingsworth, Aldermen Jedd Lewis, Elmore Mayfield, Jim Pearce, Levell Thurman and Alderwoman Marie Riggs were present.

Mayor Hollingsworth called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Alderman Jim Pearce led in the invocation.

**I. ADOPT:**

**A. AGENDA.**

Motion was made by Alderman Jim Pearce and seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**B. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2008, REGULAR MEETING.**

Alderman Jim Pearce made a motion, seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield, to approve the Minutes of the December 1, 2008, Regular Council meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**II. ADMINISTRATION:**

**A. AUTHORIZE CITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH RUSTON-LINCOLN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RELATIVE TO 2009 LOUISIANA PEACH FESTIVAL.**

Motion was made by Alderman Jedd Lewis and seconded by Alderman Jim Pearce to authorize the agreement with Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce for the 2009 Louisiana Peach Festival. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**B. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ OF 2009, AUTHORIZING CITY TO ENTER INTO SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 4 WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT RELATING TO I-20 SERVICE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS – HIGHWAY 33 TO HIGHWAY 167 AND WEST OF HIGHWAY 167 TO EXISTING SERVICE ROADS, LINCOLN PARISH, LOUISIANA PROJECT.**

Lewis Love stated that Supplemental Agreement No. 4 with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development amends the April 2, 2002, Agreement adding the Tarbutton Interchange and Approach Roadways to the I-20 Corridor Improvement Project. After discussion, motion was made by Alderman Jim Pearce and seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield to adopt the resolution authorizing the supplemental agreement. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 610 of 2009)

**C. REAPPOINT FRED BLAKE TO RUSTON PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE (5) YEARS.**

Alderman Elmore Mayfield made a motion, seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman to reappoint Fred Blake to the Ruston Parks and Recreation Board for a term of five (5) years. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**III. PARKS AND RECREATION:**

**A. AUTHORIZE CITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT**

WITH RUSTON DIXIE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Wes Barton was present to discuss the agreement. Alderman Elmore Mayfield made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jim Pearce to authorize the agreement with the Dixie Baseball Association, Inc., for the 2009 season. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**B. AUTHORIZE CITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH RUSTON GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION.**

Alderman Elmore Mayfield made a motion, seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman to authorize the agreement with the Ruston Girls Softball Association for the 2009 season. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**IV. LIGHT AND POWER:**

**A. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ OF 2009, AUTHORIZING CITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 69 KV TRANSMISSION SYSTEM RECONDUCTOR.**

Darrell Caraway was present to discuss the contract. Alderman Jedd Lewis made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jim Pearce, to authorize the contract with the lowest responsive responsible bidder for all work described in construction plans and specifications of the 69 kv transmission system reconductor. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 611 OF 2009)

**V. WATER UTILITIES:**

**A. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ OF 2009, AUTHORIZING CITY TO ENTER INTO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH VECTOR DISEASE CONTROL, INCORPORATED, FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009.**

Richard Aillet recommended renewal of the Professional Services Agreement with Vector Disease Control, Inc. Alderman Jim Pearce made a motion, seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield, to adopt the resolution authorizing the agreement for 2009 mosquito control services. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 612 OF 2009)

**VI. PUBLIC WORKS:**

**A. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ OF 2009, AUTHORIZING CITY TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE RILEY COMPANY OF LOUISIANA, INC., FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO HYDRAULIC STUDY AND REPORT OF SHEPPARD CREEK DRAINAGE BASIN.**

Lewis Love said that the adoption of this resolution authorizes a professional services agreement with the Riley Company of Louisiana, Inc., for studies and reports related to the Sheppard Creek Drainage Basin Project. Alderman Jedd Lewis made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jim Pearce, to authorize the agreement. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 613 OF 2009)

**VII. CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

**A. REQUEST PERMISSION TO START THE PROPERTY CONDEMNATION PROCESS AS REQUIRED BY ORDINANCE FOR THE STRUCTURES LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:**

<u>Address</u>	<u>Owner</u>
902 Jones	Mary Mustin
702 Jenkins	Rev. Clyde Oliver
701 Jenkins	Rev. Clyde Oliver
708 Jenkins	Geneva Lewis, et al

113 Hilly Ave  
1305 Hill  
706 Groveland  
620 Groveland  
1311 Kenwood Dr.  
1508 Sikes  
1506 Sikes  
1002 Martin Luther King  
608 Martin Luther King  
1110 Larson

Ford Quality Graphics, LLC  
Ricky Lane Candler  
Willie Burton and heirs/Linda McCarter  
Mozell Wilson Crawford  
Christopher M Bartlett, et ux  
Agnes Willis or Joan Gilmore  
Lee Garner  
Frank or Joe Stringfellow  
Ramona Ventress, et al  
James or Ike Davis

Mitch Dufour recommended that structures located on the listed properties be demolished, removed or improved to meet current Building Code and permission to start the property condemnation process on these structures. Motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman to approve Dufour's recommendation. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**B. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF 909 BALDWIN CONCERNING ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED THERE.**

Mitch Dufour explained that properties in Items B through I (909 Baldwin, 111 South Hazel, 1308 Larson, 1312 Larson) have been adjudicated because of unpaid taxes and now owned by the Lincoln Parish Police Jury. He further stated that the Police Jury is in favor of the City proceeding with demolition efforts. Dufour recommended that the structures located at 909 Baldwin, 111 South Hazel, 1308 Larson and 1312 Larson be ordered condemned and a deadline of fifteen days set.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 5:45 p.m. Having no one from the audience to come forward to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 5:45 p.m. and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

**C. DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 909 BALDWIN.**

Motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman to approve the request condemning the structures at 909 Baldwin, 111 South Hazel, 1308 Larson, 1312 Larson and setting a deadline of fifteen days. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**D. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF 111 SOUTH HAZEL CONCERNING ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED THERE.**

[See Items B & C for action taken in this matter.]

**E. DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 111 SOUTH HAZEL.**

[See Items B & C for action taken in this matter.]

**F. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF 1308 LARSON CONCERNING ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED THERE.**

[See Items B & C for action taken in this matter.]

**G. DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1308 LARSON.**

[See Items B & C for action taken in this matter.]

- H.** PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF 1312 LARSON CONCERNING ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED THERE.

[See Items B & C for action taken in this matter.]

- I.** DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1312 LARSON.

[See Items B & C for action taken in this matter.]

- J.** PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF 614 EASTLAND CONCERNING ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED THERE.

Mitch Dufour reported that the Council had previously voted unanimously to accept a recommendation to demolish, remove or improve the structures and start the property condemnation process at 614 Eastland Avenue, and further, that a representative of the property owner is present to discuss the matter during the public hearing.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 5:50 p.m. Qureda Wigfield, associate broker with D'Arbonne Real Estate, explained that the property is in the process of being sold and the sale should be completed in about a month. Wigfield also stated that the buyer plans to renovate the house and use it as rental property. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 5:55 p.m. and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

- K.** DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 614 EASTLAND.

Motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman to order the structures condemned at 614 Eastland and set a deadline of ninety (90) days in which to complete the sale and make repairs. In the event that the owner fails to comply, the City will proceed with the demolition and costs will be billed to the owner. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- L.** PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF 1403 CORNELL CONCERNING ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED THERE.

Mitch Dufour reported that the Council had previously voted unanimously to accept a recommendation to demolish, remove or improve the structures at 1403 Cornell and to start the property condemnation process, and further, that the property owner is present to comment during the public hearing.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 5:58 p.m. Mr. Gregory Davis, property owner, stated that he cannot restore the property and requested time in which to remove his belongings. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

- M.** DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1403 CORNELL.

Motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman to order the structures at 1403 Cornell condemned and give the property owner thirty (30) days in which to remove his belongs or otherwise, clean up the property. In the event that the owner fails to comply, the city will proceed with the demolition and all costs will be billed to the owner. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- N.** PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF 1414 OAKDALE CONCERNING ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED THERE.

Mitch Dufour reported that the Council had previously voted unanimously to accept a recommendation to demolish, remove or improve the structures at 1414 Oakdale and to start the property condemnation process.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 6:01 p.m. Having no one from the audience to come forward for comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:01 p.m. and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

**O. DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1414 OAKDALE.**

Motion was made by Alderman Levell Thurman and seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield to order structures at 1414 Oakdale condemned and set a deadline of ninety (90) days for property owner(s) to improve or demolish said structures. In the event owner(s) fail or refuse to comply with the Council's order, the City may proceed with the demolition of the structure with all costs billed to the owner. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**VIII. PLANNING AND ZONING:**

**A. PUBLIC HEARING.**

Jim Hays reported that the City had received written notification from representatives of College Hill Properties, LLC, applicant for Case No. 1014, as well as from Frank Cordaro, applicant for Case No. 1019, both of whom asked that their request to rezone be withdrawn.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 6:02 p.m., to discuss Case No. 1014 and Case No. 1019. Having no one from the audience to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

**B. CONSIDER FOR ACTION CASE NO. 1014 AND CASE NO. 1019 – APPEAL DETERMINATION – APPLICATION TO REZONE (FROM R-10, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO R-1, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) AND TO AMEND FUTURE LAND USE (FROM LR, LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO HR, HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL) (POSTPONED FROM DECEMBER 1, 2008 MEETING)**

There was no further action taken by the Council pursuant to this matter.

**C. CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ OF 2009, AMENDING CHAPTER 29 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA BY CHANGING CERTAIN OF THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES PROVIDED FOR THEREIN.**

Case No. 1014: Application FOR Zoning Amendment – From R-10, Single Family Residential to R-1, Single Family Residential

Applicant: College Hill Properties, LLC

Location: Northwest and Southwest corners of College Hill Drive and Westwood Drive

There was no further action taken by the Council pursuant to this matter.

**D. CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ OF 2006, AMENDING CHAPTER 29 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA BY CHANGING CERTAIN OF THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES PROVIDED FOR THEREIN.**

Case No. 1019: Application for Zoning Amendment – From R-10, Single Family Residential to R-1, Single Family Residential

Applicant: Frank Cordaro

Location: Lot 9, Lot 10 and a portion of Lot 8 of the College Hill Addition

There was no further action taken by the Council pursuant to this matter.

**E. PUBLIC HEARING.**

Jim Hays reported that the Planning Commission had conducted a public hearing regarding the annexation of approximately 331 acres on December 15, 2008, and unanimously recommended approval of the annexation. It was noted that there are no registered voters residing within the described area as confirmed in a Certificate from the Lincoln Parish Registrar of Voters.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 6:05 p.m. Having no one from the audience to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m., and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

**F. CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ OF 2009, ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 331 ACRES OF LAND INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA**

Alderman Jim Pearce made a motion, seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield, to adopt the ordinance. The title of the ordinance was read, a roll call vote was taken and the following result was had:

YEA: ALDERMAN JEDD LEWIS  
ALDERMAN ELMORE MAYFIELD  
ALDERMAN JIM PEARCE  
ALDERWOMAN MARIE RIGGS  
ALDERMAN LEVELL THURMAN

NAY: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

The motion passed by unanimous vote. (ORDINANCE NO 1573 OF 2009)

**G. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_ OF 2009, APPROVING FINAL PLAT OF 609 BOND STREET OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.**

Case No. 1022: Application for final plat approval  
Applicant: Bond Street, LLC  
Location: 609 Bond Street

Jim Hays stated that the Planning Commission had reviewed the application in a public hearing on December 15, 2008, and voted unanimously to recommend approval subject to the suspensive conditions of meeting City Department Head approval and City Code requirements. He said the adoption of this resolution authorizes the Mayor to sign the final plat when those conditions have been satisfied. A motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis to adopt the resolution approving the final plat subject to suspensive conditions as set forth by the City. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 614 OF 2009)

**IX. FINANCE:**

**A. PUBLIC HEARING.**

Emmett Gibbs made a statement relevant to the bond ordinance. Also present was bond attorney, Alan L. Offner, of Foley Judell, L.L.C., who answered Council's questions pertaining to the issuance of four million dollars (\$4MM) of Series 2009 Revenue Bonds.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 6:11 p.m. Having no one from the audience to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:11 p.m., and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

- B.** CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ OF 2009, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF FOUR MILLION DOLLARS (\$4,000,000) OF REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2009, OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, STATE OF LOUISIANA; PRESCRIBING THE FORM, TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SAID BONDS; DESIGNATING THE DATE, DENOMINATION AND PLACE OF PAYMENT OF SAID BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF IN PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST; SELLING SAID BONDS TO THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

Alderman Jim Pearce made a motion, seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield, to adopt the ordinance. The title of the ordinance was read, a roll call vote was taken and the following result was had:

YEA: ALDERMAN JEDD LEWIS  
ALDERMAN ELMORE MAYFIELD  
ALDERMAN JIM PEARCE  
ALDERWOMAN MARIE RIGGS  
ALDERMAN LEVELL THURMAN

NAY: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

The motion passed by unanimous vote. (ORDINANCE NO 1574 OF 2009)

**X. ADJOURN MEETING:**

There being no further business, the meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

**February 2, 2009**  
**APPROVED**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**EMMETT GIBBS, CLERK**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DAN HOLLINGSWORTH, MAYOR**