

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF RUSTON HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2005, AT 5:30 P.M., IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS/COURTROOM, 2ND 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, February 7, 2005, at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers/Courtroom, 2nd 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 Alderwoman Marie Riggs and seconded by Alderman Jim Pearce to adopt the agenda as printed. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2005, REGULAR MEETING.

Alderman Jedd Lewis made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jim Pearce, to adopt the Minutes of the January 3, 2005, Regular Council meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

II. ADMINISTRATION:

A. ANNOUNCEMENT THAT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY TO SELL PROPERTY FOR INDUSTRIAL INDUCEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES IN THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Mayor Hollingsworth announced that a resolution authorizing the City to sell property for industrial inducement and economic development purposes in the City of Ruston will be considered at the next meeting of the Board of Aldermen. He explained that this is a preliminary step for use of LA Revised Statute 33:4717.2 authorizing the utilization of property which is no longer in daily use for relocating a local manufacturing business for expansion of their production facilities. The Mayor further said that the City will make available a six acre tract at the Old Ruston Airport in return for guarantees as agreed upon by the City and the company. No action was taken.

B. APPOINT CHARLES JIMERSON TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TERM WHICH WILL EXPIRE JULY 1, 2005.

Mayor Hollingsworth presented Charles Jimerson's name for nomination to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Finis Burns which term will expire July 1, 2005. A motion was made by Alderman Jim Pearce and seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis and passed by unanimous vote.

C. ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2005, AUTHORIZING CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA TO HOLD THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT, HARMLESS FROM LIABILITY RESULTING FROM THE USE OF LA-DOTD STANDARD PLANS AND DETAILS UTILIZED BY THE CITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE I-20 CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Lewis Love briefly commented on the matter. Alderman Jim Pearce made a motion,

seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis to adopt the resolution. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 366 OF 2005)

III. PARKS AND RECREATION:

- A. AUTHORIZE CITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH RUSTON DIXIE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Claire Carroll was present to discuss the matter saying that this is a renewal of agreement with Ruston Dixie Baseball Association, Inc. A motion was made by Alderman Jim Pearce and seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis to authorize the agreement. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

IV. AIRPORT:

- A. ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2005, AUTHORIZING CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE RUSTON REGIONAL AIRPORT.**

Ben Humphries was present representing the Airport Authority Board and said this action would expedite the repair of serious drainage/erosion problem at the Airport and further that the State will provide an amount not to exceed \$10,000 of the necessary funding for the project. Humphries explained that the City has agreed to do temporary repairs to stabilize the area in question and the Airport Board has authorized the City Engineer to determine a permanent solution to the problem. After a discussion Alderman Jim Pearce made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis, to adopt the resolution. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 367 OF 2005).

V. PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT:

- A. REQUEST PERMISSION TO START THE PROPERTY CONDEMNATION PROCESS AS REQUIRED BY ORDINANCE FOR THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 407 CALCOTE.**

Jim Hays said that he had received complaints for property located at 407 Calcote and inspected a substandard structure located at that address. He recommended that structure be demolished, removed or improved to meet current building codes and requested permission to begin condemnation process on structure located at that address. A motion was made by Alderman Jedd Lewis and seconded by Alderwoman Marie Riggs to grant permission. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- B. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF 608 MARTIN LUTHER KING DRIVE CONCERNING ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURE LOCATED THERE.**

Mayor Hollingsworth opened a public hearing at 5:40 p.m., for owners of property located at 608 Martin Luther King Drive. Having no one come forward to speak, the public hearing was closed at 5:40 p.m.

- C. DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 608 MARTIN LUTHER KING.**

Jim Hays said that property owner, Jay D. Strickler, could not be present, but that Mr. Strickler had indicated that he is in the process of selling the property and that the prospective buyers would make needed improvements. Hays recommended that the Council condemn the structure and grant the owner sixty (60) days in which to bring the property up to code. A motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by

Alderman Levell Thurman to accept the recommendation of Mr. Hays. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

VI. WATER UTILITIES:

- A.** ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2005, AUTHORIZING CITY TO ENTER INTO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH VECTOR DISEASE CONTROL, INCORPORATED, FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2005.

Richard Aillet stated that a renewal of the agreement with Vector Disease Control, Inc., would continue the same program from last year. After a brief discussion, motion was made by Alderwoman Marie Riggs and seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman to adopt the resolution. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 368 OF 2005)

- B.** ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2005, DESCRIBING THE ACTIONS WHICH WILL BE TAKEN BY THE CITY REGARDING THE MUNICIPAL WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN COMPLIANCE AND PREVENT EFFLUENT VIOLATIONS PER PERMIT REQUIRMENTS CONTAINED IN THE LOUISIANA WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT SYSTEM.

Richard Aillet said that all municipalities are required to submit paperwork annually to the Department of Environmental Quality to recap the findings submitted in the monthly/weekly Discharge Monitoring Reports. He said this resolution states that the City is aware of the sewer treatment techniques. After a motion by Alderman Jedd Lewis and second by Alderman Jim Pearce, the resolution was adopted by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 369 OF 2005)

- C.** ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2005, AUTHORIZING CITY TO ENTER INTO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HUNT, GUILLOT & ASSOCIATES, LLC, FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO REHABILITATION OF ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK NO. 2.

Motion was made by Alderman Jim Pearce and seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman to adopt the resolution. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 370 OF 2005)

VII. PLANNING AND ZONING:

- A.** INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2005, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1418 OF 2003 RELATING TO THE ANNEXING OF PROPERTY INTO THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.

After a brief comment from Sherry Bailey, the ordinance was introduced by Alderman Jim Pearce.

- B.** INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2005, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1448 OF 2004 OF THE CITY OF RUSTON RELATING TO A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM AND/OR PROSCRIPTION AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION, ERECTION AND/OR INSTALLATION OF OFF-PREMISE SIGNS AND BILLBOARD SIGNS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.

The ordinance was introduced by Alderman Jim Pearce.

VIII. ADJOURN MEETING:

There being no further business, on motion by Alderman Jim Pearce and second by Alderman Levell Thurman, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

March 7, 2005
APPROVED

ATTEST:

ASHLEY BURTON, ACTING CLERK

DAN HOLLINGSWORTH, MAYOR