

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF RUSTON HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007, 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, May 7, 2007, 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., and Alderman Jedd Lewis led in the invocation.

I. ADOPT:

A. AGENDA.

Alderman Elmore Mayfield made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jim Pearce, to adopt the Agenda as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. MINUTES OF APRIL 2, 2007, REGULAR MEETING.

Alderman Jim Pearce made a motion, seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman to approve the Minutes of the April 2, 2007, regular Council meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

II. ADMINISTRATION:

A. INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2007, ADOPTING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND AMENDING SEC. 2-286 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK.

The Ordinance was introduced by Alderman Marie Riggs.

III. LIGHT AND POWER:

A. PUBLIC HEARING.

After a brief discussion led by Darrell Caraway, Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 5:35 p.m. Having no one from the audience to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 5:35 p.m., and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

B. CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2007, AMENDING CHAPTER 27 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RUSTON RELATING TO UTILITIES.

Alderman Elmore Mayfield made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis, 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. 1525 OF 2007)

- C. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2007, ESTABLISHING FEES FOR UTILITY SERVICES AND FINES/PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 27-125 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.

Darrell Caraway was present to answer the Council's questions. After a discussion about re-read fees and meter tampering, motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis to adopt the resolution. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 515 OF 2007)

- D. RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2007, AUTHORIZING CITY TO RENEW EXISTING NETWORK INTEGRATION TRANSMISSION SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH ENTERGY SERVICES, INC.

After discussion, motion was made by Alderman Jim Pearce, seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis, to adopt the resolution. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 516 OF 2007)

IV. AIRPORT:

- A. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2007, AUTHORIZING CITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE RUSTON REGIONAL AIRPORT.

Ben Humphries of the Airport Authority Board was present to answer the Council's questions. He said this resolution authorizes an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to obtain funds not to exceed \$6,285.00 from the Transportation Trust Fund to purchase equipment relating to the Runway Safety Foreign Object Debris Control Program. Motion was made by Alderman Jim Pearce and seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis to adopt the resolution. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 517 OF 2007)

V. WATER UTILITIES:

- A. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2007, AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF CITY UTILITIES BEYOND CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY.

Richard Aillet reported that Victor and Carla Johnston, 329 Roy Road, had requested City water service for their residence because their private well had become unsatisfactory. He said service to that location will not have a negative affect on service to the citizens of Ruston and that the Johnstons have indicated that they will be willing to annex into the City at such time as it becomes appropriate. After further discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Jedd Lewis, seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman, to adopt the resolution. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 518 OF 2007)

VI. 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>
420 Dunbar	Carl Hammock
1818 S. Vienna St.	Lowe, William T. & Assoc. Inc.
1816 S. Vienna St.	Cecil C. Horn or William T. Lowe

Mitch Dufour recommended that the listed properties be demolished, removed or improved to meet current Building Code and requested permission to start the property condemnation process on these structures. Alderman Jim Pearce said it would be common courtesy to notify the property owners prior to this step in the

process and wanted to wait until the June meeting for further action. After further discussion, motion was made by Alderman Levell Thurman and seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield, to approve the request to start the condemnation process. The motion passed with three (3) votes in favor of and two (2) opposed, being Alderman Jim Pearce and Alderwoman Marie Riggs.

VII. PLANNING AND ZONING:

A. PUBLIC HEARING.

Jim Hays discussed changes to the ordinance since it was introduced in April. Motion to amend the ordinance was made by Alderman Jedd Lewis, seconded by Alderman Jim Pearce, and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 5:58 p.m. Having no one from the audience to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 5:58 p.m., and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

B. CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2007, AMENDING CHAPTER 29 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA RELATING TO ZONING OF THE CITY OF RUSTON.

Alderman Jedd Lewis made a motion, seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield, to adopt the ordinance, as amended. 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. 1526 OF 2007)

C. PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 6:02 p.m. 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.

D. CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2007, 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. 940: Application to rezone.
Applicant: Judy Darby for Darby Holdings, LLC
Location: 1803 and 1805 East Georgia Ave

Alderman Elmore Mayfield made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jim Pearce, to adopt the ordinance, as amended. 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. 1527 OF 2007)

E. PUBLIC HEARING.

Jim Hays said the Zoning Commission recommended approval of the application for conditional use to allow multi-family in a B-3 general business zone with the provisions recommended by the Zoning Commission and additional conditions, if any, imposed by the Board of Aldermen. Conditions set forth by the Zoning Commission include: 1) The development must be in substantial accordance with plans and elevations presented; and, 2) The proposed sign fronting West California must be limited to a maximum height of 8 feet. Alderman Marie Riggs said after a meeting with the developers, that they had agreed to move the fence 45 feet from the center of the highway and add eleven (11) trees to the highway frontage.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 6:10 p.m. Ted McKinney commented on the matter saying that concerned citizens had met with the developers and resolved their issues. The Mayor closed the hearing at 6:12 p.m., and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

F. CONSIDER ACTION ON AN APPLICATION FOR A CONDITIONAL USE.

Case No. 942: Application for Conditional Use
Applicant: University Crossing, LLC and Robert Aiello
Location: Southeast corner of West California Avenue and Hull Avenue

Motion was made by Alderman Jim Pearce and seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman to approve the application, with provisions and conditions. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

G. INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2007, ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 107 ACRES OF LAND INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.

The Ordinance was introduced by Alderman Jim Pearce.

H. INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2007, ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 15.85 ACRES OF LAND INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.

The Ordinance was introduced by Alderman Levell Thurman.

VIII. FINANCE:

A. PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 6:13 p.m. Having no one from the audience to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:13 p.m., and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

B. CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2007, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1515 OF 2006 OF THE CITY OF RUSTON PROVIDING THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2007.

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. 1528 OF 2007)

C. PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 6:14 p.m. Having no one from the audience to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:14 p.m., and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

D. CONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2007, ADOPTING AMENDMENTS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2006, THROUGH MARCH 31, 2007, TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2006, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2007, FOR THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.

Alderman Jim Pearce made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis, 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. 1529 OF 2007)

E. ADOPT THE FOLLOWING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR BUDGET YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2006 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2007:

1.	From:	General Fund – Revenues RPD Miscellaneous 13 4215	<32,571>
	To:	General Fund – Police OEP Grant Expenditures 130116 5818	32,571
2.	From:	General Fund – Revenues RPD Miscellaneous 13 4215	<2,500>
	To:	General Fund -- Police Equipment to be Accounted for 130116 5286	2,500
3.	From:	General Fund -- Police Capital Assets 130116 5810	<6,500>
	To:	General Fund – Police Equipment to be Accounted for 130116 5286	6,500
4.	From:	General Fund – Fund Balance	<100,000>
	To:	General Fund – Executive Capital Assets 120110 5810	100,000

Emmett Gibbs discussed each budget amendment. Motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis, to adopt the listed budget amendments. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

IX. ADJOURN MEETING:

There being no further business, the meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

June 4, 2007
APPROVED

ATTEST:

EMMETT GIBBS, CLERK

DAN HOLLINGSWORTH, MAYOR