

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF RUSTON HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 4, 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, June 4, 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 Levell Thurman led in the invocation.

I. ADOPT:

A. AGENDA.

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

B. MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2007, REGULAR MEETING.

Alderman Jim Pearce made a motion, seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman to approve the Minutes of the May 7, 2007, regular Council meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

II. ADMINISTRATION:

A. PUBLIC HEARING.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 5:32 p.m. Having no one from the audience to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 5:32 p.m., and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

B. CONSIDER 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.

Alderman Elmore Mayfield made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jim Pearce, 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. 1530 OF 2007)

C. SELECT OFFICIAL JOURNAL FOR CITY OF RUSTON.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Alderman Jim Pearce, seconded by Alderwoman Marie Riggs, to name the *Ruston Leader* as the Official Journal for the City of Ruston. The motion passed with three (3) in favor of and two (2) abstaining, being Aldermen Elmore Mayfield and Levell Thurman.

D. REAPPOINT TRAVIS DEFREESE TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION TO A TERM WHICH WILL EXPIRE JULY 1, 2011.

Motion was made by Alderman Jedd Lewis and seconded by Aldermen Jim Pearce to appoint Travis Defreese to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to expire July 1, 2011. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

E. REAPPOINT WILBERT ELLIS TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION TO A TERM WHICH WILL EXPIRE JULY 1, 2011.

Motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Aldermen Levell Thurman to appoint Wilbert Ellis to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to expire July 1, 2011. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

F. AUTHORIZE CITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE MEN OF VISION AND ENLIGHTENMENT, INC.

Motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Alderman Levell Thurman to authorize the cooperative endeavor agreement with Men of Vision and Enlightenment, Inc. Alderwoman Marie Riggs explained why she would not vote for authorizing the agreement with "MOVE", referring to the responsibility of the Council to manage how public funds are spent. She said that after reviewing financial records of the organization, she feels the 2006 documentation for expenditures is incomplete and that verification of all expenditures is needed. After further discussion, the motion passed with four (4) votes in favor of and one (1) opposed, being Alderwoman Marie Riggs.

G. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2007, ENDORSING THE PARTICIPATION OF LINCOLN HEALTHCARE, LLC/LINCOLN MEDICAL GROUP, LLC, IN THE LOUISIANA ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM.

Alderman Elmore Mayfield made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis, to adopt the resolution endorsing the participation of Lincoln Healthcare, LLC/Lincoln Medical Group, LLC, in the Louisiana Enterprise Zone Program. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 519 of 2007)

H. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2007, AUTHORIZING LINCOLN PARISH TAX ASSESSOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES RELATING TO AD VALOREM REASSESSED VALUATION APPEAL.

Alderman Jim Pearce made a motion, seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield, to adopt the resolution authorizing the Lincoln Parish Tax Assessor to enter into contract for legal services relating to ad valorem reassessed valuation appeal. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 520 OF 2007)

III. PARKS AND RECREATION:

A. AUTHORIZE CITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH RUSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY.

Wes Barton said the Ruston Housing Authority has a baseball league and this agreement will involve Woodland and Duncan Parks. After a brief discussion, motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Alderwoman Marie Riggs to authorize the agreement with Ruston Housing Authority. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

IV. CODE ENFORCEMENT:

A. DISCUSS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1005, 1010 AND 1012 HOWARD STREET.

Mitch Dufour reported that on February 5, 2007, a public hearing was held regarding the structures located at 1005, 1010 and 1012 Howard Street and on that date, the Council gave property owner(s), Ernest L. Spencer, Jr., et al, 90 days in which to clean up the property. Dufour reported that the property owners have not completed the work but did request an additional 90 days to clean up the property. Dufour recommended that the Council declare the structures substandard and authorize the staff to proceed with the demolition of the structures with all costs being billed to the owners. After discussion, motion was made by Alderman Levell Thurman, seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis, to declare the property substandard and give the property owners an additional 90 days in which to complete the demolition. At the end of that period of time, if the demolition is not complete, the City will proceed with the demolition. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF TRIPLEX DRIVE AREA CONCERNING ABATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES LOCATED THERE.

Mayor Hollingsworth opened the public hearing for property owners of Triplex Drive area at 5:55 p.m., and having no one from the audience to comment, he closed the public hearing at 5:55 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 TRIPLEX DRIVE AREA.

Mitch Dufour reported that on April 2, 2007, the Council voted unanimously to accept a recommendation to demolish, remove or improve the structures located at Triplex Drive and to start the property condemnation process. Dufour reported that the property owner is listed as Philip Richard Sr. A motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Alderman Jim Pearce that the structure(s) located at Triplex Drive be condemned and a 90 day deadline be given for the owner to demolish the structures and clean up the property. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

V. INSPECTIONS:

A. INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2007, AMENDING CHAPTER 1 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA RELATING TO GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RUSTON.

The ordinance was introduced by Alderman Jedd Lewis.

VI. PLANNING AND ZONING:

A. PUBLIC HEARING.

Jim Hays discussed changes to the ordinance since it was introduced in the May Council meeting. Motion to amend the ordinance was made by Alderwoman Marie Riggs, seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis, and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. Having no one from the audience to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:00 p.m., and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

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

Location: 107 acre tract located East of South Barnett Springs Street and North of Cypress Springs Lake.

Alderwoman Marie Riggs 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. 1531 OF 2007)

C. PUBLIC HEARING.

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

Mayor Hollingsworth called for a public hearing at 6:04 p.m. Having no one from the audience to comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:04 p.m., and called for final consideration by the Aldermen.

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

Location: A 15.85 acre tract located on the Northwest corner of U.S. Highway 167 and Jefferson Avenue, including Woodstone Subdivision and Monticello Business Park.

Alderman Jim Pearce made a motion, seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis, 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. 1532 OF 2007)

E. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2007, APPROVING FINAL PLAT OF THE CEDARS OF RUSTON OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.

Case No. 947: Application for a Final Plat approval.

Applicant: The Robert James Group, LLC

Location: North of the I-20 Service Road between Celebrity Drive and Eagle Drive.

Motion was made by Alderman Jedd Lewis and seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield to adopt the resolution approving the final plat, with provisions and conditions. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 521 OF 2007)

F. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2007, APPROVING FINAL PLAT OF RUSTON MIXED USE COMMERCIAL PARK, UNIT 4, LOTS 2 & 3 OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.

Case No. 945: Application for a Final Plat approval.

Applicant: Shane Morrison
Location: North of the I-20 Service Road between Celebrity Drive and Eagle Drive

Motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis to adopt the resolution approving the final plat, with provisions and conditions. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 522 OF 2007)

G. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2007, APPROVING FINAL PLAT OF MORGAN PLACE SUBDIVISION OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.

Case No. 954: Application for a Final Plat approval.

Applicant: Judy M. Darby
Location: The North side of East Georgia Avenue and just East of Hummingbird Lane

Jim Hays presented an amended plat for Case No. 954. Motion was made by Alderman Elmore Mayfield and seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis to adopt the resolution approving the final plat, with provisions and conditions. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 523 OF 2007)

H. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2007, APPROVING FINAL PLAT OF UNIT V OF CREEKWOOD SUBDIVISION OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.

Case No. 955: Application for a Final Plat approval.

Applicant: Bryan and Freeman Development
Location: North of W. Kentucky Ave. between Chautauqua Creek and Kavanaugh Road.

Motion was made by Alderman Jim Pearce and seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield to adopt the resolution approving the final plat, with provisions and conditions. The motion passed by unanimous vote. (RESOLUTION NO. 524 OF 2007)

I. INTRODUCE 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. 947: Application to rezone

Applicant: Church of the Apostles (CLC Inc.)
Location: North I-20 Service Road East extension. This is a 26.957 acre lot that runs east from Highland Street to the eastern Ruston city limit boundary

The ordinance was introduced by Alderman Jedd Lewis.

J. INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2007, ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 25.66 ACRES OF LAND INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.

Location: A 25.66 acre tract located on the North side of the North I-20 Service Road East extension and west of Atkins Road.

The ordinance was introduced by Alderman Jedd Lewis.

K. INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2007, ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 40 ACRES OF LAND INTO THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.

Location: 40 acres on the North side of East Tennessee Avenue/LA Highway 3061.

The ordinance was introduced by Alderman Elmore Mayfield.

VII. FINANCE:

- A. REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE CITY OF RUSTON’S PORTION OF THE PROPOSED 2007/2008 BUDGET FOR THE LINCOLN PARISH SALES AND USE TAX COMMISSION.**

Mayor Hollingsworth called on Emmett Gibbs to review the request for approval of the City’s portion of Lincoln Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission proposed Budget. Gibbs said the 2007/2008 budget included an approximately \$1200 increase for the City. Motion was made by Alderman Jim Pearce, seconded by Alderman Elmore Mayfield, to approve the request. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- B. INTRODUCE ORDINANCE NO. ____ OF 2007, LEVYING AND IMPOSING TAXES ON ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION IN THE CITY OF RUSTON, LOUISIANA.**

The ordinance was introduced by Alderman Elmore Mayfield.

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

1.	From:	General Fund – Fund Balance	<12,000>
	To:	General Fund—Police Dept. Capital Assets 130116 5810	12,000
2.	From:	General Fund – Civic Center LA Main Street Program 11 4312 General Fund – State of LA 11 4360	<12,200> <50,000>
	To:	General Fund – Civic Center Main Street Promotions 120113 5770	62,200
3.	From:	Airport Fund – Fund Balance	<700>
	To:	Airport Fund – Materials and Supplies Gas, Oil, and Diesel 5410 5530	700

Emmett Gibbs explained each budget amendment. Motion was made by Alderman Jim Pearce and seconded by Alderman Jedd Lewis to adopt the listed budget amendments. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

VIII. ADJOURN MEETING:

Alderman Elmore Mayfield made a statement to publicly commend Randal Hermes for fourteen (14) years of outstanding service as Chief of Police for the City of Ruston. He further extended appreciation and well wishes to Hermes and his family with the Mayor and Council members concurring. Alderman Mayfield’s comments were extended in the form of a motion which was seconded by Alderman Jim Pearce and unanimously approved by the Council.

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

07-10-07
APPROVED

ATTEST:

EMMETT GIBBS, CLERK

DAN HOLLINGSWORTH, MAYOR