

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YOUNGSVILLE, LOUISIANA HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016 AT 6:00 PM AT YOUNGSVILLE CITY HALL

PRESENT: Mayor Ken Ritter and Councilmembers: Jamison Abshire (Division A), Lauren Michel (Division B), Matt Romero (Division C), Kenneth Stansbury (Division D), Dianne McClelland (Division E)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Simone Champagne (CAO), Sally Angers (City Clerk), Ashley Sexton (City Treasurer), George Knox (City Attorney), Charles Langlinois (Public Works Director), Pamela Gonzales Granger (City Engineer), Tim Robichaux (Sports Complex Director), Rickey Boudreaux (Police Chief)

GUESTS: Jeremy Fontenot (CH2M), Lucas Hudspeth, Adam Loftin, Donald Simon, Jordan Simon, Megan Segura

Mayor Ritter called upon Pastor Andy Tribe, Youngsville Community Church to do the invocation.

RECOGNITIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGENDA ITEM 1. Recognition of Sergeant Brian LaBorde & Sergeant Lloyd Henry for their involvement in the community. Councilman Romero presented certificates of recognition to Sergeant Brian LaBorde for purchasing and passing out gifts to underprivileged children during the Christmas holidays on his own time and with his own funds and to Sergeant Lloyd Henry for spear heading a toy and food drive for the needy.

PRELIMINARY PLATS

AGENDA ITEM 2. Preliminary Plat approval of Metairie Centre Phases V and VI, a Residential and Commercial Development located in Section 12, T11S-R4E, Owner/Developer: Teal 92 Investments, LLC. (A public hearing on this preliminary plat was held at 5:30 pm prior to the regular Council meeting). A motion was offered by Ms. McClelland, seconded by Ms. Michel, to grant preliminary plat approval of Metairie Centre Phases V and VI, a Residential and Commercial Development, located in Section 12, T11S-R4E, Owner/Developer: Teal 92 Investments, LLC as recommended by City Engineer Pamela Gonzales Granger in a letter dated January 7, 2016, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Abshire, Michel, Romero, Stansbury, McClelland

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion was approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM 3. Tony Tramel – Presentation of traffic analysis report for the intersections of Chemin Metairie at Détente and Chemin Metairie at Savoy. Mr. Tramel presented two (2) written reports to the Mayor and Council which stated that he was retained to study the intersection of Détente Road/Chemin Metairie Parkway intersection (report dated January 9, 2016) as well as Savoy Road/Chemin Metairie Parkway intersection (report dated January 7, 2016) to assess the conditions at the intersections and to evaluate the nine “Traffic Signal Control Warrants” contained in the 2009 edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Mr. Tramel reported the following from the studies:

1. Détente Road and Chemin Metairie Intersection:

- 4 of the 9 Traffic Signal Warrants (2, 3, 7 & 8) identified in the 2009 MUTCD were met.
- Conditions met or exceeded the guidelines used by traffic engineers to document the installation of a traffic signal
- Traffic Signal is warranted. If a traffic signal is authorized, the City must develop and fund a sustainable means to implement its operation and maintenance. Cost: \$150,000 - \$175,000 for construction; \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually for maintenance which requires personnel with highly specialized knowledge, skills, equipment and training. Failure to properly maintain a traffic signal installation exposes the City to potential liability. More detailed discussion needs to be initiated and finalized before authorizing a traffic signal. Total traffic delay is to be expected.
- Interim recommendations: remove and relocate the stop bar/pavement markings on Détente closer to the travel lanes at Chemin Metairie. Restripe both approaches.
- Consider an All Way stop
- Consider a Roundabout in lieu of traffic signal because of the positive benefits of traffic safety, convenience and efficient operations compared to traditional traffic signals. Cost: \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. Maintenance cost very limited.

2. Savoy Road and Chemin Metairie Intersection

- 5 of 9 Traffic Signal Warrants (1, 2, 3, 7 & 8) identified in the 2009 MUTCD were met.
- Conditions met or exceeded the guidelines used by traffic engineers to document the installation of a traffic signal.
- Traffic Signal is warranted. If a traffic signal is authorized, the City must develop and fund a sustainable means to implement its operation and maintenance. Cost: \$150,000 - \$175,000 for construction; \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually for maintenance which requires personnel with highly specialized knowledge, skills, equipment and training. Failure to properly maintain a traffic signal installation exposes the City to potential liability. More detailed discussion needs to be initiated and finalized before authorizing a traffic signal. Total traffic delay is to be expected.
- Interim recommendations: removing and relocating the stop bar/pavement markings on Savoy, closer to the travel lanes of Chemin Metairie. Restriping each of the approaches to provide turning lanes using the existing pavement should be considered in the immediate future.
- Providing a modern roundabout at this location is ultimately what needs to be constructed to minimize crashes, and reduce overall vehicle delay.

Mr. Tramel informed the Council that a notice to proceed has been issued for the MPO Stage 0 studies for roundabouts at both of the intersections as well as for Hwy 92 (Young Street) at Larriviere and Chemin Metairie at S. Larriviere.

After much discussion and questions from the Mayor and Council, the Mayor requested that Mr. Tramel look at alternatives to traffic signals, some suggestions being:

- Installation of “J” Turns like the ones on Hwy 90, making right turns only coming off Détente and Savoy.
- Construction of only one round-about between the 2 intersections.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Police Chief Rickey Boudreaux – Request Council approval to fill open position due to Police Officer Scott Haydel's reclassification to Code Enforcement and Sports Complex. Chief Boudreaux requested Council approval to hire the one remaining officer that was originally budgeted at a starting salary of \$33,125.00. He said that without this officer, one of the shifts is operating short a man.

Councilwoman Michel read a statement in support of hiring the officer.

Councilman Romero and Councilwoman McClelland both stated that the collections for the 1981 sales tax, which funds the police department, are declining. Chief Boudreaux responded that he would be willing to help pay for the officer out the LACE generated funds as well as pay for any capital outlay needed such as police units.

City Treasurer, Ashley Sexton, stated that the police department is currently utilizing 91% of the entire 1981 one cent sales tax. She said that with sales tax collections decreasing and unless the department is supplemented from LACE funds the 1% may not be enough to cover expenses if they keep increasing.

Ms. McClelland stated that the City has to pay very careful attention to the declining sales tax and the state of the economy and that it seems that the Police Department is operating very efficiently with the current personnel. She stated that the Police Department is already operating with double the personnel and double the funding from the prior year and that that she would like to revisit this once it is determined what the economy is going to do. Chief Boudreaux responded that he is giving comp time in lieu of paying overtime for those covering the short shift.

Upon questioning by Mr. Stansbury, Mayor Ritter stated that Officer Scott Haydel will be the new Code Enforcement Officer/Sports Complex Security Officer and will be paid between the Sports Complex Fund and the General Fund which would free up about \$45,000 (salary and benefits). He said that he will come under the umbrella of the Sports Complex as well as City Administration.

After further discussion, a motion was offered by Mr. Abshire, seconded by Mr. Romero, to approve the hiring of one (1) police officer at a starting salary of \$33,125, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Abshire, Michel, Romero, Stansbury, McClelland

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion was approved.

Before the vote on the motion, Ms. McClelland asked Chief Boudreaux if he could pay for the officer out of the LACE fund and if this will complete his department. Chief Boudreaux replied that this will complete his department and that he will sit down with Ms. Sexton and look at the LACE fund to see what can be absorbed from that account.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Request to amend the Sports Complex Budget. Tim Robichaux presented a list of items that are needed for the startup of the new Recreation Facility as well as equipment for the Sports Programs. He said the total cost is \$64,183.23. A motion was offered by Ms. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Stansbury, to amend the Sports Complex budget in the amount of \$64,183.23 for startup equipment cost for the Recreation Facility and equipment for the Sports Programs, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Abshire, Romero, Stansbury, McClelland

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Michel (absent at the time of voting)

Motion was approved.

Mr. Robichaux stated that registration for the baseball and softball programs will begin on February 1, 2016.

AGENDA ITEM 6. Staff Reports

Mr. Abshire stated that there has been discussion about the possibility of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Youngsville and Lafayette Consolidated Government to allow the City to utilize Foster Park. He said that he is seeking guidance to see what the wishes of the Mayor and Council are and what needs to be done to accomplish this.

Mr. Stansbury added that there are many unknowns such as the cost of operating and maintaining the park which is something that should be considered.

City Attorney George Knox, informed the Mayor and Council that the land where the park is was given to Youngsville by the Young Industries family with a 99 year lease. The City, at that time, opted for Lafayette Parks and Recreation to manage it since they did not have the personnel. He said he doesn't want anyone to lose sight of the fact that this property was donated for citizens of Youngsville use. Mr. Knox stated that former Lafayette City- Parish Mayor-President Joey Durel was in favor of returning the property to the City of Youngsville in 2014 but this was voted down by the LCG Council. He suggested that the City revisit getting back control of Foster Park because there is a new Council at LCG.

Mayor Ritter suggested that the LCG Council should be the ones to draft the IGA and approve it prior to it being submitted to the Youngsville Council for consideration since they had turned down the offer previously. He said that the cost to operate should also be considered and the cost of any upgrades to the facility such as the bathrooms. Mayor Ritter stated that Youngsville is still part of Lafayette Parish and does currently have use of the park. He concluded by asking Mr. Abshire to take the lead on this.

City Engineer Pamela Gonzales Granger reported the following:

- Water Storage Tank is behind schedule. Liquidated damages are currently being assessed and will be revisited at the completion of the project as per Mayor Ritter. Project is approximately 80% complete.
- Savoy Road Project – Contract has been signed and recorded. To widen the road more than what is in the plan would be a total redesign, very costly and cause a 6 month delay. The City will still pursue getting the right of way offered by the adjoining property owner for future expansion.
- Brookshire Grocery – anticipate 2016 ground breaking. City is holding off on going any further with the City paid improvements until the construction plans or FEMA permitting and easements are received.
- Nezpique Bridge – Homeowners are willing to provide access for a temporary alternate road to Nezpique Road. Discussions are still on going to get a permanent easement from the property owner who owns the small strip of property adjacent to Sugar Ridge that is needed.

RESOLUTIONS

AGENDA ITEM 7. Resolution No. 2016-02 - Adopting the City of Youngsville Master Plan. A motion was offered by Ms. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Stansbury, to adopt the City of Youngsville Master Plan dated November 12, 2015 as prepared by CH2M, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Abshire, Michel, Stansbury, McClelland

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Romero (Absent at the time of the vote)

Motion was approved.

Mr. Romero returned to the meeting at this time and requested that it be noted that he missed the vote but fully supports the City of Youngsville Master Plan.

Mayor Ritter informed the Council that the cost to do the plan was approximately \$65,000. He thanked the Council for approving the plan and also thanked all involved in the development of the plan.

MINUTES AND FINANCE REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 8. Acceptance of Council Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2015. A motion was offered by Mr. Abshire, seconded by Ms. Michel, to accept the minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2015, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Abshire, Michel, Romero, Stansbury, McClelland

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion was approved.

AGENDA ITEM 9. Approval of finance report for December, 2015. A motion was offered by Ms. McClelland, seconded by Mr. Romero, to approve the finance report for December, 2015, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Abshire, Michel, Romero, Stansbury, McClelland

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion was approved.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Ritter announced that the Youngsville Mardi Gras Parade is Saturday, February 6, 2016 beginning at 11:00 am and that the route is the same but in a reverse order. The parade will begin at Fountain View and end at the Sports Complex. He said the reason for the direction change is that this will allow traffic to open up at Hwy 89 and Hwy 92 much sooner. UL Baseball Coach Tony Robichaux will be the Grand Marshall of the parade. Roads will close at 10:00 am, 1 hour prior to the start of the parade.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion to adjourn was offered by Mr. Romero, seconded by Ms. McClelland, and unanimously adopted.

/s/ Ken Ritter

Ken Ritter, Mayor

/s/ Sally M. Angers

Sally M. Angers, City Clerk