
THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Alderpersons was held in the Courtroom at City Hall at 6:06 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2025. Mayor Betty Alford-Olive presided.

Roll call was as follows:

Present: Angela Tappin (District A) Charles Bradford (District B), James Green (District C), Darry Green (District D), Howard Loche (District E)

Absent: None

The Invocation was given by Morehouse General Hospital (MGH) CEO Elmore Patterson. Mr. D. Green led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was expanded to discuss American Rescue funds on a motion by Mr. Bradford, seconded by Mr. D. Green, followed by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Chastity Kennedy, 9147 Redwood Drive, commented she received information regarding the qualifications used for employees receiving funds from the American Rescue Plan. She stated there were discrepancies in how funds were distributed to present and former employees. Mr. Bradford asked the record to reflect the Council has received the information regarding ARPA funding at the last moment and took the necessary action once speaking with Ms. Hartt. Mayor Alford-Olive asked the record also to reflect that Ms. Hartt is the expert that was secured. The Mayor stated she did not personally go through any list and pick out any names.

Ms. Robin Simmons, co-owner of Simmons Sporting Goods, 918 North Washington Street, made comments regarding trash in the community, and specifically, North Marable Street and road closure at Bastrop High School. The Mayor stated the road at Bastrop High School was closed due to repairs being tabled by the Council in April 2024. Ms. Tappin said priority was given to correct flooding issues for residents. The Council discussed whether there was an urgent need to close the road and why the Council did not have input in the decision. The Mayor stated the road was closed at the recommendation of the City's liability insurance in the interest of public safety. The Mayor also stated that the repairs were scheduled to take place while school was out and before the football season.

MGH CEO, Elmore Patterson commented the hospital is willing to partner with the City to assist with eliminating blight. The Mayor welcomed the assistance and stated the City is planning a clean-up event with grant funds received from Senator Francis Thompson to address issues with blight.

Ms. Marion Miller provided comments to express the need to eliminate the blight in the City.

Mayor Alford-Olive recognized Delta Elementary School Student Council members to learn about how local government works.

Mr. Henry Doaty, resident of District B, commented Keep Morehouse Beautiful should be concerned with cleaning the entire community. He asked if cameras can be installed in high dumping areas such as McFee Street.

Mr. Ernest Lee, 9309 Carbon Plant Road, commented he was Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Bastrop for six years. He stated approximately 60 properties were removed during that time. He said the Mayor has applied for grants, but it appears the Council wants to delegate their responsibility to the Mayor and only wants to blame and debate.

During discussion, Ms. Vicki Carpenter, Keep Morehouse Beautiful, explained the organization partnered with property owners to tear down delapidated property by paying 50% of the cost. She said some owners would not accept assistance.

The Mayor asked Special Projects Coordinator Jake Orrels to provide details on the blight grant. Mr. Orrels explained that the City has received roughly half of the funds provided by Senator Francis Thompson. The City has used \$8,000.00 on a fence. The plan was to use some of the funds to clean adjudicated property, but funds were not approved in the budget and now the weather is an issue. Mr. Orrels stated the City does not have funds to tear down houses but plans to use the remaining funds to clear up growth. The Council discussed the possibility of using ARPA funds to tear down delapidated structures.

The Rules of Order were suspended to consider Resolutions 25-2086 and 25-2087 and the Planning and Zoning Committee Report on a motion by Mr. J. Green, seconded by Mr. D. Green, followed by a unanimous vote.

Resolution 25-2086, informing the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality of Actions taken to maintain permit requirements for Louisiana Water Discharge Permit System (LWDPS) #LA0020443 (Main

Treatment Plant), was approved on a motion by Mr. D. Green, seconded by Mr. Loche, followed by a unanimous vote.

Resolution 25-2087, informing the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality of Actions taken to maintain permit requirements for Louisiana Water Discharge Permit System (LWDPS) #LA0020109 (West Pond Treatment Plant), was approved on a motion by Ms. Tappin, seconded by Mr. Loche, followed by a unanimous vote.

The Planning and Zoning Committee Report was given by Commission Chair Ms. Debbie Rogers. Mr. Bradford made a motion to halt operations of Sunbeam Solar until the Council has reviewed the company. During the discussion, Mr. J. Green left the meeting at 7:55 p.m. and returned at 7:59 p.m. The motion died due to lack of a second. The Council discussed Zoning procedures and criteria that require matters to be decided by the City Council.

Mr. D. Green announced the Black History Parade is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 15, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.

The minutes of the Special Meeting January 14, 2025 were approved, with the correction that the minutes state the \$25,000 discussed in the last meeting is separate of the American Rescue Funds, on a motion by Ms. Tappin, seconded by Mr. J. Green, followed by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Tappin requested a total of citations issued by Code Enforcement.

Ms. Tappin asked for an update on Eastside school. The Mayor responded that the City is waiting for the completion of an environmental study on the property.

Resolution 25-2088, to support Delta Regional Authority Community Infrastructure Funds (CIF) grant application, was approved on a motion by Ms. Tappin, seconded by Mr. Loche, followed by a unanimous vote.

The Council discussed Resolution 25-2089, to support the LGAP Grant. During discussion, Mr. Loche left the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Mr. Loche was reintroduced to the meeting at 9:11 p.m. on a motion by Mr. J. Green, seconded by Mr. D. Green, followed by a unanimous vote. Resolution 25-2089, to support the LGAP grant was tabled on a motion by Mr. D. Green, seconded by Mr. Bradford, followed by a unanimous vote.

The Council discussed a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for the demolition of structures at 1305 Meeks Street. During discussion, Ms. Tappin left the meeting at 9:13 p.m. and returned at 9:16 p.m. Ms. Tappin was reintroduced to the

meeting on a motion by Mr. Bradford, seconded by Mr. Loche, followed by a unanimous vote. A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement will be drafted for the demolition of structures at 1305 Meeks Street on a motion by Mr. Bradford, seconded by Ms. Tappin, followed by a unanimous vote.

The Council discussed a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Robinson/Williams for Youth through Act 397 P.E.E.P. Project. During discussion, Mr. J. Green left the meeting at 9:43 p.m. and returned at 9:49 p.m. A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Robinson/Williams for Youth through Act 397 P.E.E.P. Project was tabled on a motion by Mr. Bradford, seconded by Ms. Tappin, followed by a unanimous vote.

The Council discussed a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Robinson/Williams for its Youth Program. A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Robinson/Williams for its Youth Program was approved on a motion by Mr. Bradford, seconded by Ms. Tappin, followed by a vote of four. Mr. D. Green abstained.

The Council discussed Resolution 25-2092, to amend Resolution 24-2073 Track program (to reconsider the previous elimination of City sports programs). Attorney Jones clarified for the record that deleting funds from the programs was not deleting the sports programs. During discussion, the Mayor exited the meeting at 10:08 p.m. and returned at 10:13 p.m. During the discussion, Mr. D. Green left the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

During discussion, the Mayor left the meeting at 10:22 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Tappin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m. on a second by Mr. Loche, followed by a unanimous vote.