
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: 09 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2024. 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)

Absent: Howard Loche (District E)

The Invocation was given by Mayor Alford-Olive, asking for prayers for the families of Marquez Crowder and Derrick Morgan. Mr. D. Green led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: Mr. Ricky Allen Anderson made comments regarding repairs at City Hall and said insurance funds should be used to cover costs. Mr. Anderson asked how much money is left to be spent from funds provided the American Rescue Plan. Mr. Anderson also stated a consultant is not needed to tell the City how it should use American Rescue funds. Ms. Stephanie Coleman, 307 Straight Street, asked when Martin Luther King Street South will be repaired. The Council and Special Projects Coordinator Jake Orrels explained some portions of the road are covered through the Morehouse Parish Police Jury.

The Mayor announced the Christmas Toy Drive was going well. She thanked corporate sponsors Morehouse General Hospital, Spires Medical Clinic, Vaughn Toyota, Simmons Sporting Goods, DG Foods and other donors for supporting the event. Mr. D. Green announced a Christmas dinner will be held December 22, 2024 at Kickz Throne 1602 East Madison Avenue. Mr. D. Green also recognized local company Body and Soul for providing year-end bonuses to its employees.

Minutes of the Special Meeting November 6, 2024, and the Regular Meeting November 14, 2024 were not accepted due to lack of a motion and vote due to questions regarding a vote in the November 6, 2024 meeting.

Mr. D. Green asked the public to pray for the family of Marquez Crowder. The Mayor asked for a Moment of Silence for Marquez Crowder and Derrick Morgan.

The Finance Committee Report—was not accepted on a motion by Mr. J. Green, seconded by Mr. D. Green, followed by a unanimous vote. The Finance Committee Report for November 2024 was not accepted on a motion by Mr. J. Green, seconded by Mr. D. Green, followed by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Tappin asked how many citations had been written. Attorney Devin Jones responded, None.

Mr. J. Green inquired about citations given for violations. Code Enforcement Officer Hughie “Bubba” McDuffie responded certified letters are sent to notify owners of violations. Ms. Tappin asked how many citations are seen in Environmental Court. Attorney Jones said he has not received any information from the Hearing Officer. The Mayor asked Mr. Orrels to speak about a grant the City received to address blighted property. Mr. Orrels reported the City has identified 64 properties the \$25,000 grant funding will be used to cut underbrush at these properties.

The Mayor and Council discussed Resolution 24-2082, Governor’s Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), Update Policy to meet federal mandate guidelines. Ms. Tappin left the meeting at 7:39 p.m. and returned at 7:41 p.m. Mr. Bradford made a motion to table the resolution. Ms. Tappin seconded. The motion failed due to lack of a vote. During continued discussion, Mr. J. Green left the meeting at 7:56 p.m. and returned at 7:59 p.m. During continued discussion, Mr. D. Green left the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Mr. Bradford amended his motion to table the resolution while the Mayor requests another extension until the special meeting the following week. The Mayor left the meeting at 8:38 p.m. The motion failed due to lack of a second. The Mayor returned to the meeting at 8:41 p.m. The Council discussed the duration the Records Coordinator would be volunteering with the City on the GOHSEP mandates. Mr. D. Green returned at 8:43 p.m. Mr. D. Green asked if continuing the meeting past 9:00 p.m. would be a violation. Mr. Jones answered he has not found it in State Law or City ordinance.

Mr. Bradford asked the record to reflect that the City was in violation of continuing the meeting after 9:00 p.m.

Resolution 24-2082, Governor’s Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), Update Policy to Meet Federal Mandate Guidelines was approved with the amendment that the Records Coordinator’s title, whether volunteer or employed, be concluded on December 31, 2024, on a motion by Ms. Tappin, seconded by Mr. D. Green, followed by a vote of 3-1. Mr. Bradford voted no.

The Mayor asked Special Projects Coordinator Jake Orrels to discuss City Hall repairs and the American Rescue Plan and Insurance Response. He reported payment to cover the cost for repairs for City Hall was denied by insurance due to the age of the building. Mr. D. Green left the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Mr. Orrels stated a bid in the amount of \$473,000.00 by Triad Maintenance Service of Ruston, Louisiana was recommended by the engineering firm. Mr. D. Green returned to the meeting at 9:09 p.m. During discussion, Mr. D. Green left the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Ms. Tappin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Tappin rescinded her motion to adjourn to consider liquor licenses.

Mr. Bradford left the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

The meeting ended at 9:14 p.m. due to lack of a quorum.