



PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DERIDDER, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR SESSION HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026 AT 5:30 O’CLOCK P.M.

The Council of the City of DeRidder, Louisiana met in Regular Session at its meeting place, the Council Chambers, located at City Hall, 200 South Jefferson Street, DeRidder, Louisiana on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 5:30 o’clock p.m. President Randy Larken called the meeting to order, Councilmember Danny Reynolds led the Invocation and Councilmember Vincent Labue led the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America. The roll was called by the Clerk as follows:, Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr., Councilmember Monte’ Woods, Councilmember Keith Hooper Councilmember Danny Reynolds, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken. Councilmember John Marcello was absent and all remaining Councilmembers were present representing a quorum. Also present were Glenna Luther, Council Clerk; Shane Williams, City Attorney; Michael Harris, Mayor; and LTC Gutierrez, Ft. Polk Officio Councilmember.

6. Amendments to the Agenda. President Larken asked for a motion to amend the Agenda to remove Resolution 12.A. Councilmember Reynolds made the motion and Councilmember Hooper offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Monte’ Woods, Councilmember Keith Hooper, Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr., Councilmember Danny Reynolds, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Councilmember John Marcello.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been approved, the Agenda was amended to remove Resolution 12.A.

7. Adoption of Minutes. President Larken announced that the January 9, 2026 workshop and regular meeting minutes have been distributed and there being no corrections, the minutes were approved by the Council.

9.A. Bid Awards.

Roy Keen, Utilities Director, provided an overview of the project to the Council. Councilmember Reynolds made the motion to approve the bid award to Blake D. Hines, Inc. in the amount of \$271,801.00 for the Water Sector Program – Phase 2, Raising of MLK Lift Station and Councilmember Godfrey offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Keith Hooper, Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr., Councilmember Monte’ Woods, Councilmember Danny Reynolds, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Councilmember John Marcello.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been approved, the bid award to Blake D. Hines, Inc. in the amount of \$271,801.00 for the Water Sector Program – Phase 2, Raising of MLK Lift Station was approved by the Council.

11.A. Condemnations. Martin Scott, Code Enforcement Officer, provided a recommendation of the properties with addresses of 1007 Patton Street, 1009 Patton Street and 1011 Patton Street. Mickey Atkinson, owner of the properties, addressed the Council requesting an extension because the property is for sale and will close on March 9, 2026. Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to extend the condemnation to March 9, 2026 and Vincent Labue offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Keith Hooper, Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr., Councilmember Monte’ Woods, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Councilmember John Marcello.
ABSTAIN: Councilmember Danny Reynolds.

The motion having been approved, the condemnation on the properties identified as 1007 Patton Street, 1009 Patton Street and 1011 Patton Street was extended until March 9, 2026.



Item 12.A., Resolution, having been removed from the Agenda, President Larken moved to Item 13. Introductions.

13. ORDINANCES

A. Introductions.

- 1. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DERIDDER THROUGH ITS MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CONTERRA NETWORKS FOR TELEPHONE AND INTERNET SERVICE, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.**

Councilmember Godfrey made the motion to introduce the above-entitled Ordinance as read by Mr. Williams and Councilmember Reynolds offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr., Councilmember Monte' Woods, Councilmember Keith Hooper, Councilmember Danny Reynolds, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember John Marcello.

ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing in Regular Session on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

- 2. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3, ANIMALS AND FOWL, ARTICLE II, LIVESTOCK., SEC. 3-20. SWINE., SEC. 3-21. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH LIVESTOCK MAY BE KEPT WITHIN CORPORATE LIMITS., SEC. 3-22. STAKING OUT IN PUBLIC AREAS., SEC. 3-23, HITCHING TO TREES, SHRUBS, ETC., ON PUBLIC PROPERTY., AND SEC. 3-24. LIVESTOCK AT LARGE – GENERALLY.; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.**

Councilmember Woods made the motion to introduce the above-entitled Ordinance as read by Mr. Williams and Councilmember Hooper offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Monte' Woods, Councilmember Keith Hooper, Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr., Councilmember Danny Reynolds, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilmember John Marcello.

ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing in Regular Session on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

- 3. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DERIDDER THROUGH ITS MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AQUATIC MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH AMI LLC DOING BUSINESS AS AQUATIC MANAGEMENT INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANAGING THE SWIMMING POOL LOCATED IN WEST PARK FOR RECREATION OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY AND AREA, INCLUDING THE YOUTH, FROM MAY 23, 2026 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7, 2026; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.**

Councilmember Godfrey made the motion to introduce the above-entitled Ordinance as read by Mr. Williams and Councilmember Woods offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:



YEAS: Councilmember Keith Hooper, Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr., Councilmember Monte' Woods, Councilmember Danny Reynolds, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Councilmember John Marcello.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing in Regular Session on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

4. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES, OTHER FINANCING SOURCES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF DERIDDER, LOUISIANA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025.

Councilmember Godfrey made the motion to introduce the above-entitled Ordinance as read by Mr. Williams and Councilmember Reynolds offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Keith Hooper, Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr., Councilmember Monte' Woods, Councilmember Danny Reynolds, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Councilmember John Marcello.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing in Regular Session on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

13. ORDINANCES

B. Public Hearings.

1. AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A VARIANCE TO MCLAMORE OUTDOOR ADVERTISING, LLC TO CONSTRUCT A BILLBOARD LOCATED AT 1940 NORTH PINE STREET IN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF DERIDDER, PRESENTLY ZONED B-3 (GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT) AND IDENTIFIED BY VERNON PARISH TAX ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 0787215323; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

The title of the Ordinance was read by Mr. Williams. President Larken opened the public hearing and Shane McLamore explained to the Council that he was unaware that the location of the billboard was in the City limits but in Vernon Parish, that he obtained all the proper permits from Vernon Parish, and there was another billboard erected just this last year in the same area. Mr. McLamore asked for grace to allow him to finish his project. Councilmember Hooper provided an update reporting that there are 88 billboards in the City, provided the location of those billboards, that approximately nine years ago the ordinance governing billboards was put in place that would no longer allow anymore billboards in the City limits, including the spacing and sizes of billboards. Following comments from councilmembers, Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilmember Reynolds offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr., Councilmember Danny Reynolds, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
NAYS: Councilmember Monte' Woods and Councilmember Keith Hooper.
ABSENT: Councilmember John Marcello.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been approved, the Ordinance was adopted as Ordinance No. 2026-7; Charter Series, as follows:



**ORDINANCE NO. 0-2026-7
CHARTER SERIES**

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A VARIANCE TO MCLAMORE OUTDOOR ADVERTISING, LLC TO CONSTRUCT A BILLBOARD LOCATED AT 1940 NORTH PINE STREET IN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF DERIDDER, PRESENTLY ZONED B-3 (GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT) AND IDENTIFIED BY VERNON PARISH TAX ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 0787215323; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the regulations of zoning, commercial signage and billboards within the City of DeRidder, Louisiana ("City") is provided for in the Code of Ordinances of City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor recognize a need to protect and enhance the economic value of property in the City, encourage investment in property in the City, protect the citizens of City from hazardous structures, protect City property owners from unnecessary liability, and enhance the safety of motorists; and

WHEREAS, Applicant, McLamore Outdoor Advertising, LLC, is seeking a variance of Sec. 11.5-93. of General Regulations of Article IV. - Outdoor Advertising, of City's Code of Ordinances concerning its proposed freestanding billboard for said development so as to allow said billboard to conform with the specifications and dimensions identified in the Variance Request Application and Site Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the property located at 1940 North Pine Street is within the corporate limits of the City and is presently zoned B-3 (General Business District) and is a part of the City Council approved development pursuant to Chapter 7 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes (La. R.S. 51:1151, et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the Variance Application of Applicant was forwarded to the City Council by the DeRidder Planning and Zoning Commission from its regular meeting held on January 20, 2026 for final action with a vote to approve the Variance Request of McLamore Outdoor Advertising, LLC:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of the City of DeRidder does hereby grant the variance request of Applicant, McLamore Outdoor Advertising, LLC, authorizing a proposed freestanding, billboard for the aforesaid property as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A" hereto.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED on this 23rd day of February, 2026 by the City Council of the City of DeRidder, Louisiana sitting in regular session duly convened in Council Chambers at DeRidder, Louisiana.

ATTEST:

GLENN LUTHER, CMA/LMMC
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

RANDY LARKEN
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

2. **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DERIDDER THROUGH ITS MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BEAUREGARD PARISH SHERIFF ("SHERIFF") AND THE COASTAL TRUCK DRIVING SCHOOL ("SCHOOL") FOR THE USE OF FACILITIES TO SUPPORT DRIVER TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT WITHIN BEAUREGARD PARISH AND THE CITY OF DERIDDER, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.**



The title of the Ordinance was read by Mr. Williams. President Larken opened the public hearing and there were no public comments and after remarks and questions from Councilmember Reynolds to Mayor Harris concerning the volume of large trucks that would be training throughout the City, Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilmember Woods offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Monte' Woods, Councilmember Keith Hooper, Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr., Councilmember Danny Reynolds, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Councilmember John Marcello.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was adopted as Ordinance No. 2026-8; Charter Series, as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. O-2026-8
CHARTER SERIES**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DERIDDER THROUGH ITS MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BEAUREGARD PARISH SHERIFF ("SHERIFF") AND THE COASTAL TRUCK DRIVING SCHOOL ("SCHOOL") FOR THE USE OF FACILITIES TO SUPPORT DRIVER TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT WITHIN BEAUREGARD PARISH AND THE CITY OF DERIDDER, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the City of DeRidder, Louisiana ("City") is authorized under Article VII, Section 14 (C) of the Louisiana Constitution to engage in cooperative endeavors with others governmental entities and private parties for a public purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office ("Sheriff") and Coastal Truck Driving School ("School") have proposed a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement ("Agreement") with the City for the shared use of certain facilities for driver training, classroom instruction, and relative educational activities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Agreement provides for the use of a City-owned facility located at 401 W. First Street, DeRidder, Louisiana, for classroom instruction, orientation, testing, and related education purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of DeRidder finds that participation in the Agreement serves a valid public purpose, including but not limited to public safety enhancement, workforce development, educational opportunity, and community advancement within the City of DeRidder, Louisiana and Beauregard Parish; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides that no rental fee shall be charged for use of the City facility, and that School shall provide qualified instructors, supervise all activities, maintain required insurance, and indemnify the City to the fullest extent permitted by law, as set forth in Exhibit "A" hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of DeRidder, Louisiana, that City, through its Mayor, enter into a CEA with Sheriff and School in accordance with the said Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Mayor of the City of DeRidder, be, and is hereby authorized to do any and all things and to sign any and all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision or item of this Ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared severable.



BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Cooperative Endeavor Agreement shall be in effect from March 1, 2026 and terminate on February 28, 2028.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED on this 23rd day of February, 2026 by the City Council of the City of DeRidder in Regular Session duly convened in Council Chambers at DeRidder, Louisiana.

ATTEST:

GLENN LUTHER, CMA/LMMC
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

RANDY LARKEN
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Reports. LTC Gutierrez, Ft. Polk Officio Councilmember, reported that on Friday, February 27, 2026 from 10:00 o'clock a.m. to 1:00 o'clock p.m. there will be a job fair for entry level positions at Ft. Polk. Councilmember Woods announced Happy Black History Month and stated "I am black history and I am standing on the shoulders of the first African American City Councilman, Rev. W. W. Batties as well as Elton Mango" who will be honored on March 14, 2026 at 2:00 o'clock p.m. at the Field House at DeRidder High School. Councilmember Godfrey wished Shane Williams, City Attorney, a Happy Birthday and expressed his thoughts on seeing the City going forward, doing great things and that it is going to take each and every one of us working together and that he feels that we as city leaders need to operate a whole lot better for our citizens

Councilmember Reynolds announced that he, Councilmember Hooper and Councilmember Godfrey were at the recent Green Acres water meeting and asked Mayor Harris to clarify Phase I for the other councilmembers. Mayor Harris responded that he spoke to most of the Councilmembers individually about the water, more so the At Larges and two councilmembers that are concerned with Green Acres. He reported that the Green Acres water has been an issue for decades and the past few years it has gotten much worse. He then reported that KPLC did a special on Green Acres and the situation is just not getting better. Mayor Harris said he talked to them and spoke with them initially and he is going to do everything in his power but it is going to take all of us. He reported that he did talk to Magnolia, they are willing to sell the water rights to the City and that was Phase I, and that it was pulled from the agenda so he could discuss it to make people more aware. President Larken requested that the Mayor in the future inform all councilmembers of the dates of future meetings and Mayor Harris responded that there is a meeting tomorrow, February 24, 2026. Mayor Harris reported that he has three ways he can accommodate the water issue with a very good timeline to make it happen because Councilmember Hooper said it is now more of a health issue. The Mayor reported he is very concerned about the health and he doesn't believe it can continue to be kicked down the road. Mayor Harris pointed out that it has taken a lot of work and he began this before he became Mayor, finally got someone to listen, and Magnolia to say that it will sell. Mayor Harris reported that it was shared with him that several years ago a study was done and it came back not to be in the City's best interest. Councilmember Labue confirmed that Meyer & Associates did that study. Shane Williams, City Attorney, suggested that the Council and Mayor not get too deep in the discussions, that this is time for reporting, and to discuss things on the Agenda and in front of us. President Larken thanked Mr. Williams and ended all discussions on the Green Acres Water issue at that point. Councilmember Hooper reported that he respected Mr. Godfrey's comments, that as a seven-member Council we will not always have the same view and further explained to the public and Council and that with the leg work and Council of nine years ago he was trying to beautify the City. Mayor Harris reminded the Council of the groundbreaking of Capstone at Cedar tomorrow. He then addressed variances in the ordinances. Mayor Harris acknowledged Black History Month stating "I am the first black Mayor of the City of DeRidder" but indicated he wants to be remembered by the decisions we make as a City. Holly Buxton stated the audit will be done this week and Council will be furnished with a copy. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 o'clock p.m.

ATTEST:

GLENN LUTHER, CMA/LMMC
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

RANDY LARKEN
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL