



City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Date: July 24, 2023
Time: 4:30 o'clock p.m.
Place: City Council Chambers
DeRidder City Hall
200 South Jefferson, DeRidder, Louisiana 70634
Contact: Glenna Luther
337-462-8905

President Hooper called the meeting to order at 4:30 o'clock p.m., Councilmember Danny Reynolds led the prayer and Councilmember John Marcello led the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmember John Marcello; Councilmember Wayne Godfrey Sr., Vice President Randy Larken, Councilmember Artemese Hickman, Councilmember Danny Reynolds, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Keith Hooper.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Holly Buxton, Finance Director; Roy Keen, Director of Utilities; Cassie Henry, Water Office Supervisor; Janet Vincent, Utilities Assistant; Ginny Brand, Finance Department; Tommy Landry, Public Works Director; Fire Chief Ken Harlow; and Glenna Luther, Clerk of the Council.

President Hooper announced that the meeting will be conducted in an orderly manner, thanked Rusty Reeves with the Rural Water Commission for his presence, that the Council had the updated water rate study, and there were four scenarios presented in the packets. Mr. Reeves provided an update on the percentages on rate class which offered a truer picture of what the rates need to be. After President Hooper offered a summary of the four scenarios, the floor was opened up for discussion among the Council and administration. Citizen, Shanel Handy, addressed the Council with questions regarding the different rates for different scenarios. Discussion continued among the Council and administration. Citizen, Sonny Jackson, questioned the Council about flat rates for commercial and residential use and why the sewer bills exceed sewer rates. After continued discussion and at the request of President Hooper, in summary, Councilmember Labue announced that he would like to talk to his constituents to see which one they would be comfortable with and asked that all four scenarios be placed for introduction at the next meeting, Councilmember Hickman announced that she is in favor of Scenario 2 without a second or third year proposal, Vice President Larken explained his reasons for choosing Scenario 2 or 3 with a two to three-year plan, Councilmember Godfrey stated his reasons for Scenario 2 to be revisited next year with a one-year plan only, Councilmember Marcello explained that he is in favor of Scenario 2 with the understanding for one year only, Councilmember Reynolds responded that he is in favor of Scenario 2 or 3 with leaning towards Scenario 3 because we will be here again next year. Councilmember Labue then stated he could lean towards Scenario 2. President Hooper announced the Ordinance will be introduced with Scenario 2 with no three-year plan and it stands alone for one year. Mr. Reeves announced that when he sends this into the State he has to confirm that the City has a plan to maintain the sustainability rate for ten years. After selection of one of the scenarios to introduce in the form of an Ordinance at the August 14, 2023 City Council Meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 o'clock p.m.

ATTEST:

GLENN LUTHER, CMA/LCMC
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

KEITH HOOPER
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL