

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMAN OF THE CITY OF GONZALES,  
STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024, 5:30 P.M.,  
AT CITY HALL, 120 S. IRMA BLVD, GONZALES, LA 70737.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Barney Arceneaux, Mayor  
Councilman Harold Stewart  
Councilman Tyler Turner

Councilman John A. Berthelot  
Councilman Tim Riley  
Councilman Kirk Boudreaux

**MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Scot Byrd, City Clerk/CAO  
Matt Percy, City Attorney  
Brandon Boylan, Finance Director

Chief Sherman Jackson, Gonzales PD  
Terri Delatorre, Administrative Secretary

Motion by Councilman Tyler Turner, seconded by Councilman John A. Berthelot, to approve the Minutes of the Recreation Commission from the meeting of January 17, 2024 and approve their recommendation to name the CARE (Community, Activities, Recreation and Education) Center after Mr. Freeland Jackson, who served on the Recreation Commission from March 1974 until April 2010.

YEAS: Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, seconded by Councilman Tim Riley, to approve the Special Event Permit Request of Lilly Harvey, Director of Millie Mattered Overdose & Addiction Advocacy, for use of Jambalaya Park on Saturday, April 13, 2024 to have a walk carrying the LA banners "Gone too Soon" to the overdose epidemic.

YEAS: Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman John A. Berthelot, seconded by Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, to send Doug Diez' Petition of Annexation of Parcel 3448800 for Brittany Point, LLC, being 55.14 acres, Section 34-9-3, located on the north side of Hwy. 30, currently addressed as 42320 La Hwy 30, Gonzales, back to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

YEAS: Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux

NAYS: Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman Tim Riley

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman John A. Berthelot, seconded by Councilman Harold Stewart, to proclaim March 2024 as Flood Awareness Month.

YEAS: Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Mayor Arceneaux invited anyone to come forward who wished to speak regarding Item No. 10 on the Agenda – Public Hearing for Vernon Adams, property owner for 619 E. Verna Street, to show cause why the property should not be condemned and demolished.

Tammy Skinner, representing her father, Vernon Adams, the owner of the house located at 619 E. Verna Street, came forward to advise that they do plan to demolish the home and have already acquired an estimate to do so; they request additional time in which to clear the house of their possessions.

Motion by Councilman Tim Riley, seconded by Councilman Harold Stewart, to approve the request of Tammy Skinner, giving her an additional sixty (60) days, or until April 19, 2024, to clear the house of all possessions and have it demolished.

YEAS: Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Motion by Councilman Tim Riley, seconded by Councilman Harold Stewart, to table the request of Shawn Nelson, of the Shawn Nelson Foundation, to donate \$40,000.00 to support the Postman Academy, until the next council meeting on March 18, 2024, pending legal research/advise from the City Attorney.

YEAS: Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Mayor Arceneaux invited anyone to come forward who wished to speak regarding Item No. 12 on the Agenda – Consider reasonable accommodation request made by The Grove Recovery Center.

Anastia *{last name unintelligible}*, Attorney for The Grove Recovery Center, came forward to advise that the residents of The Grove Recovery Center, located at 1605 S. Shirley Ave., are protected by the Fair Housing Act, Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act, and if the City Council did not overturn their previous motion to deny The Grove Recovery Center's request for a Special Use Permit, the City would be exposing itself to legal proceedings.

Simpson Aikens, 1212 S. Shirley, Gonzales, came forward to speak in opposition to The Grove Recovery Center. He stated that it's a quiet neighborhood of elderly citizens and he doesn't want this type of facility there.

Cynthia Gray James, 1803 E. Rosedown St., Gonzales, came forward to speak in opposition to The Grove Recovery Center. She stated the facility should not be in a residential area and she worried for the safety of the community.

Ms. Perkins, *{address unintelligible}*, Gonzales, came forward to speak in favor of The Grove Recovery Center. She advised that she was once a resident in a sober living home in a residential area and she is now 28 years in recovery. She spoke on how structured a sober living home is for its residents.

Paul *{last name unintelligible}*, *{address unintelligible}*, Gonzales, came forward to speak in opposition to The Grove Recovery Center. He stated he is just against it.

Lynn Burgett, 625 W. Orice Roth, Gonzales, came forward to speak in favor of The Grove Recovery Center. She stated that the residents there don't bother anyone and that she didn't know it was a sober living house.

Tywanda Aikens, 1212 S. Shirley, Gonzales, came forward to speak in opposition to The Grove Recovery Center. She stated that old people live on each side of the sober living home and she doesn't want it in the neighborhood.

Amanda *{last name unintelligible}*, with The Grove Recovery Center, came forward to advise that the residents at The Grove Recovery Center come directly from inpatient treatment and are already sober. She stated that Grove Recovery has 3 sober living homes in residential areas in Baton Rouge and there has been no trouble at any of them.

Motion by Councilman Kirk Boudreaux, seconded by Councilman Tyler Turner, to deny the reasonable accommodation request made by The Grove Recovery Center.

YEAS: Councilman Harold Stewart, Councilman Tyler Turner, Councilman John A. Berthelot, Councilman Tim Riley, Councilman Kirk Boudreaux

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Brandon Boylan, Finance Director, stated the City Council Members have been provided with a copy of the revenue and expense compared to budget report in their packets. The City is within budget. No discussion was required or requested by the City Council Members.

There being no further business to come before the City Council and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Meeting was adjourned.

  
Barney Arceneaux, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Scot Byrd, City Clerk/CAO