

**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF KINDER, LOUISIANA**

May 6, 2024

The Notice of Meeting/Agenda having been duly posted in accordance with requirements, and a quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Wayland LaFargue at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor, Council and Staff Present:

Wayland LaFargue, Mayor
LaToya Tunwar, Councilwoman Dist.1
Maria DeWees, Councilwoman Dist. 2
Jerry Nevils, Jr., Councilman Dist. 3
Angie Van Norman, Councilwoman Dist.4
Susanne Sonnier, Councilwoman at Large
Paul Courville, Chief of Police
Traci Fontenot, Town Clerk
Michael Holmes, Town Attorney
Eric Fontenot, Public Works Superintendent
Brendon Gaspard, Pan American Engineers

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor LaFargue asked the council to consider approving the minutes for the regular council meeting of April 1, 2024.

Motion: To dispense with the reading of the minutes from April 1, 2024, and approve them as distributed.
Made by: Councilwoman Tunwar
Second: Councilwoman Van Norman
Vote: 5-0, passed.

MAYOR REPORT

Blake Trahan addressed the mayor and council regarding his new training facility called The U. He reported that it is geared towards youth sports and personal training and that the grand opening will be Monday, May 27th.

Brodie Rice was at the meeting to ask the council to consider passing an ordinance banning the sale of items sold in local stores that he believes is used as drug paraphernalia. He talked about the danger of these items being easily accessible. Michael Holmes, Town Attorney, reported that the Town currently does not have an ordinance in place to ban the sale of these items, but that he would do some research and report back to the council at a later meeting.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

No report.

TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Holmes discussed two ordinances related to the annual budget. Councilwoman Tunwar introduced Ordinance No. 881, an ordinance to amend the budget for FY 2023/2024 and

Ordinance No. 882, an ordinance proposing the budget for FY 2024/2025. There will be a public hearing, discussion, and vote at the next regular council meeting.

Mr. Holmes reported on several other items under his report. He has been asked to investigate the legality of adult items for sale and on full display in local stores. He reported that the administrative staff recently met with Mrs. Linda Thompson, Allen Parish Library Board of Directors, regarding their interest in purchasing the library from the Town. Mr. Holmes also reported that the agreement between the Town of Kinder and the Coushatta Tribe regarding the purchase of natural gas for the Coushatta Casino Resort facilities is being finalized and will be presented to the council for approval at a later date.

ENGINEER REPORT

Brendon Gaspard opened a public hearing to hear comments for or against a variance request from Pattie Delafoisse regarding setback requirements for her property located at 1004 Church Street. Mr. Gaspard explained that Mrs. Delafoisse is planning to tear down the current house on the property and build a new home but due to the narrowness of the lot, a variance from the current setback requirements would be necessary. He reported that the existing structure violates that setback requirements and that since the proposed structure would cause less of an encroachment into the setbacks less of impact to the surrounding properties, he recommends approval of the variance. After some discussion, a motion was made.

Motion: To accept the recommendation from the Town Engineer to approve the variance request from Pattie Delafoisse waiving the setback requirements for 1004 Church Street.

Made by: Councilwoman Van Norman

Second: Councilman Nevils

Vote: 5-0, passed

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Eric Fontenot reported that he is currently looking into installing one meter for the apartment complex on 14th Street instead of individual meters at each apartment. He explained that due to the way the apartments are currently billed, there is a major loss of water revenue because of leaks on the property that don't run through the individual meters. He said that once the single master meter is installed, the apartment complex would be billed for the water usage to the entire complex. He also reported on several other ongoing projects that the public works department is working on.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion: To adjourn.

Made by: Councilwoman Tunwar

Second: Councilwoman Van Norman

Vote: 5-0, passed.

Adjournment

/s/Wayland LaFargue, Mayor

/s/Traci B. Fontenot, Town Clerk