

**SHREVEPORT CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
*April 22, 2014***

The Committee of the Whole was called to order by Chairman Joe Shyne.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Councilman Corbin seconded by Councilman O. Jenkins for approval. Motion approved by the following vote: Ayes: Councilmen Rose McCulloch, Everson, O. Jenkins, Corbin, Webb, Shyne, and S. Jenkins. 7. Nays: None.

Awards and Recognition of Distinguished Guests by the Mayor

Awards and Recognition of Distinguished Guests by City Council Members

Communications of the Mayor

Communications from Council Members

Public Comments

Councilman Shyne: Mr. Mayor and council members if you all don't mind it I'll change this around a little bit and we'll go to Public Comments right quick and we have Pastor Mayes and we always have our good friend sitting there; Jeff's good friend Sammy Mears, so Pastor Mayes.

Pastor Linus Mayes: (335 E. Dalzell Street, Shreveport, LA 71104) Yes, sir. Thank you Councilman Shyne. Thank you other council persons, Councilwoman McCulloch, to the mayor, thank you for your service and for all of those that are here. I came to publicly – we already sent a written request to the media and to other outlets thru the radio and other entities to invite you guys to an open meeting that would take place – it's an open community meeting that would take place on the 24th of May. We're putting together another meeting in concert prior to this meeting, prior to the next Council Meeting and the meeting is for all the citizens and leaders of the entire city – oh yeah, I'm sorry.

Councilman Shyne: No, we're waiting on you.

Mr. Mayes: Okay, okay. I thought he had something.

Councilwoman McCulloch: May the 24th?

Mr. Mayes: Yes, ma'am. It's gonna be May the 24th at Valencia Park, Valencia Recreation Center inside of the center so we're inviting the entire public to come out to

be a part of that and it's just gonna be an open meeting so that individuals throughout this city can voice their opinion. Prior to this we're having a meeting of all the ministers of District B to come together and we're gonna have a breakfast meeting with them and it's gonna be a meeting that is gonna be very enlightened for the pastors of this city. I spoke to many of them. They are in favor of it. We're gonna move from district to district as a united effort as pastors of this city and leaders of this city to speak out on issues that address the people from which we speak to on Sundays and throughout the week. So we just wanted to personally invite and I thank Councilman Jeff Everson because he was at the meeting and also our honorable mayor, Mayor Glover for also being at the meeting because the last meeting that we just had was a very enlightening and interesting meeting. Most – we got a good crowd there. People was concerned about their community and it was just a good overall meeting. This time we expect more than what we had there. At that time – I also want to personally thank Mrs. Bessie Smith. I'm openly Mrs. Smith inviting each one of the council persons to attend this particular meeting on that Saturday on May the 24th. We're gonna have a meeting on May the 20th with the pastors over there in that district and other pastors throughout the city that is gonna join us in a collective effort in order to voice some concerns of what we see going on within our community. With that being said, I just want to say to you all, thank you for your service. Thank you for all that you are doing and we look forward to these meetings to take place. The media have already received my information, 12, 3, and 6. They have assured me that they would be at the meeting to see is each one of the council persons would be a part of this particular meeting. So with that –

Councilwoman McCulloch: What time?

Pastor Mayes: It's gonna be from 3 to 4 in the afternoon because we had it set early, but we had to change it because on a Saturday they got – and that Mr. Everson can also attest to that the meeting had a lot people at the meeting. So there will be no some people will be there. The meeting concerns a lot of people and everything went very professional at that particular meeting and I just want to thank the citizens of this city for being concerned about their community and speaking out on some of the things that concerns them. So we look forward to seeing you guys there and you have a personal invitation and I'm sending each council person a copy of what we have already written up. Our organization is called Citizens for Positive Change and we look forward to all the leaders of this city to come out and to share in this event with us. I know it's gonna be a lot of people there because the lady at the center said that her phone has been ringing off the hook so it's gonna be a meeting a lot of folks there. Mr. Everson, we appreciate you asking the questions that you answered there on that particular meeting and Mayor Glover we appreciate what you did as well. You brought a lot of things to the forefront and we appreciate that as well and we're also hoping that the other council members when you come out because we're going from district to district. I have spoken to every pastor in the different districts and we have assurance that they would be a part of anything that we are trying to do in order to help better the city of Shreveport. So with that being said Chairman I want to thank you very much for this opportunity to come up and speak and I look forward to seeing you guys there and Mrs. Bessie Smith, thank you for all that you are doing over there in the district. We are personally and also sent letters

to each one of you guys to let you know when the meeting, what time the meeting gonna be and what the meeting consist of.

Councilman Shyne: Thank you, Pastor. Any questions? Anybody have any questions for the pastor?

Mayor Glover: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to thank Pastor Mayes for coming down and sharing his thoughts as well and certainly enjoyed the time I spent with him and other members of the Stoner Hill area on last Thursday. We had a very productive meeting and then had a great time at the *Movies & Moonbeams* that took place right afterwards.

Councilman Everson: That's right.

Mayor Glover: Just a great event on the eve of Good Friday, just a great neighborhood experience. I also want to commend the folks with River Park Church who came out and served as volunteers of that effort. They have adopted the *Movies & Moonbeams* Program for the City of Shreveport, followed around, help provide water and other refreshments and so we want to express our thanks and appreciation for them. I look forward to joining you on the 24th. As I have said, you know, we will go and be at any and all neighborhood grassroots community driven gatherings any time we get a chance to. Also, we look forward to being there. I also want to reference – I think – I'm not sure if you had a chance to have your information directed to you yet, but it's my understanding that Mrs. Smith along with Joe and Shirley Wills, Mr. & Mrs. Wills, they have called another follow-up meeting May 6th I believe –

Pastor Mayes: May 6th, that's right. That's correct.

Mayor Glover: On Tuesday the 6th and so we look forward to being there on the 6th of May and on the 24th of May. And there's some other meetings that we also will be working with you and others to plan around the city as well, to carry on this dialogue to give us a chance to talk about issues that are effecting and impacting people in the neighborhoods where they live and what it is that we think folks need to be aware of and what they can possibly look to do to try and make things better.

Pastor Mayes: That's wonderful.

Councilman Shyne: Pastor Mayes, we appreciate you coming down and do appreciate the work that you're doing in the community.

Pastor Mayes: Thank you, Councilman Shyne. I appreciate your years of service and appreciate the dedication that made it available for us to stand here in order to speak our opinion as citizens of this great city. And beyond racial boundaries you and others allowed this opportunity for us and we will abuse it with any way. I just want to thank you sir.

Councilman Shyne: Pastor, thank you. I was one of the ones with the late Hilry Huckaby.

Pastor Mayes: That's who I was speaking in reference to.

Councilman Shyne: Justified in federal court. Some of these folks were still in school running around to make sure that the democratic process here in Shreveport would be open to everybody.

Pastor Mayes: Beautiful job.

Councilman Shyne: Appreciate you coming down.

Pastor Mayes: I appreciate you mentioning also the need to compromise, so that's gonna be some of the things we want to see down at the next meeting.

Councilman Shyne: Right.

Pastor Mayes: Some need to compromise.

Councilman Shyne: Make sure you remember that. You know you have to be able to compromise in order to move forward. This old idea it's my way or it's no way – that's why we have a democratic process. Thank you and we'll be at your meeting.

Pastor Mayes: Thank you, sir. God bless you.

Councilman Shyne: Alright, we have Mrs. –

Councilwoman McCulloch: She's gone. Virginia?

Councilman Shyne: Yeah, Mrs. Virginia Evans.

Councilwoman McCulloch: She left.

Councilman Shyne: She left? Okay, tell Mrs. Evans when you get back that we gave her an opportunity to come forward.

Councilwoman McCulloch: She was actually with the Nation of Islam.

Councilman Shyne: Oh, she was with them? Oh okay, great. Now the one and only – nobody else in the city of Shreveport is like Mr. Sammy Mears. Sammy, the great Sammy Mears who is a friend of Councilman Oliver Jenkins I'm told.

Councilman O. Jenkins: He's a friend of many.

Councilwoman McCulloch: He's my friend.

Councilman Shyne: Well I know he's your friend.

Councilman Everson: A friend of the council.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Yeah, right.

Mr. Mears: There better be just one that's messy as me.

Councilman Shyne: Sammy, you see how they're so jealous of your relationship with somebody?

Mr. Mears: Jealous?!

Councilman Shyne: Sure they are.

Mr. Mears: That's sick!

Councilman Shyne: I know, Sammy.

Mr. Mears: And that's why I wish that Mile Roberts were here so he can say that is sick.

Mr. Sammy Mears: (1901 Centenary Blvd. Shreveport, LA 71101) I just wanted to give an update about the Easter Celebration Meal that took place on April 12 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. We had a good turnout that came. We had an Easter egg hunt for the kids. They gave away four bicycles. The food was great. We had barbeque chicken with bread and corn and beans and a good all sorts of dessert with lemonade and ice water. We all had a great time and the only two singers that they had were myself and (inaudible) Caesar and he lives over at 625 Jordan at the Jordan Square Apartments and we were both the ones that did the singing, so I sang with my CD and he sang A cappella and we both as I understand it did a great job and I'm looking forward to singing again next year, but Ron if you would have been there we could've done a good duet.

Councilman Webb: Good thing I didn't show up.

Mr. Mears: Pity, such pity. I would like to say also that today was really a shock for me because when Monty Walford came in here today it was just the happiest moment of my life. At least it's better that he walked in than Dr. Phil cause I would have been ill and I just remembered that when we were talking about dogs earlier I remember it also helped funny it was on *The Jefferson's* when the Doberman pincher scared everyone and then Florence walked in and it barks at her and she just looks at the dog and said, "Don't be no fool." The dog sits down and then later on when George throw a ball out the window the dog followed it 12 stories down and went splat. Thank you.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Thank you, Sammy.

Councilman Shyne: Thank you. We have – is Mrs. Watson here? Mrs. Latonya Watson. Jean Core. Is Jean here? Mrs. Jean please come forward.

Mrs. Jean Core: First of all, I want to thank the mayor and the council for being visionaries. The vision that you have for our city is immense and beautiful and wonderful and my prayers are that it all comes to pass because it's some great things for all of the citizens. It grieves my heart we don't have 211 any longer. We really need it. It also grieves my heart that the Providence House will be closing for the abused women and children. That is desperately needed. I used to work for the Rescue Mission for 3½ years. Often times we were full and people would have to be turned away. When I think about the people that came to us that we could not serve and I think of the women and children living at the Providence House and that when those doors close where are they gonna go. And I think about being a member of Summer Grove Baptist Church and how we have a huge facility. We have the Dillard's building that was donated to us. Don't know how many square feet, but it's a lot of square footage. It's not been used for anything of purpose since 2001. In 2005, except for when Katrina happened; 2005 it was used wisely and well to distribute goods that were needed, but now it sits void of anything except a few skeletons of shelving from a heyday time. I would love to see that facility or some facility like it utilized for this purpose and I think if our citizens can come together – we've got Salvation Army, Rescue Mission, Providence House, other facilities, Hope Foundation, which is opened on Levy Street that's great. We have all these wonderful services, but we have this void. What if we could collaborate and work together? It's a big project, but together our groups and organizations and churches – if we unite that could be handled so smoothly, so smoothly. Collaboration and like y'all were talking about where no one has to be the head dog we can all work together united and we could get that done. We could get that done with expediency and the CCC and the guys out at Zion Ridge, the Rescue Mission guys and the Discipleship Program. We got some master carpenters with those programs. They could do the renovation and I believe that people would step forward that have money that could provide materials for them to do that with. What a wonderful location with the Sheriff's Department and Safety Town right there. It just makes good sense to me and I'm hoping that today I planted some seed. I did have a little letter that explains a little further that's attached to the application to speak. Thank you for your time and I appreciate it.

Councilman Shyne: Just before you go do you have any questions? That's a very worthwhile project.

Councilwoman McCulloch: I'd just like to express my gratitude to you for coming up to address such an issue as domestic violence. I mean because coming up as a little girl I came up in some situations that I know it's so important that women and families and children have a place to go.

Mrs. Core: It is.

Councilwoman McCulloch: You know when they're caught up in situations where, you know, there's a lot of domestic violence. As a matter of fact, we had a young

man that came in on yesterday, but he had been charged on five different occasions, you know, with domestic violence and I was really thinking about well, you know, what if we didn't have a Providence House. I mean where would this lady go?

Mrs. Core: That's right.

Councilwoman McCulloch: And I was a little worried about her when he left the chamber on yesterday, but it's definitely something that the city of Shreveport need and I would really love to see us be able to serve our own women, children and families.

Mrs. Core: I do, too. We also have young women coming from Heart of Hope that have to go back in to home situations, which sometimes are horrible and it could be a united effort with Heart of Hope, also. Teenage girls – Ellie Foundation is I think the only one I know of in town. There may be a couple of others, but I don't know of them, but work with teenage youth, teenage girls. Kennedy Center is just boys, just guys so it's really, really needed. And also, if you'll allow me another minute we're gonna a container planting contest. We need to learn to grow our own food and Cassie Hammett over at Hub Ministries has started a program where the people that come there for service get points. They get points for going to their classes. They teach Celebrate Recovery classes, Job-Training Skill classes to get their GED's. They teach Jobs for Life and Bible Study so they get points accrued and it's wonderful to see a homeless person offer to a new person coming in. Let me get your lunch for you. Let me get you some shampoo and soap out of the closet with my points. I've got plenty of points. Let me take care of that. Let me get you some clothes. So they trade those points in for their needed services. So they've become part of the healing process. What we could do out there? What if they could raise their own food, but also raise plants to sell that are organically grown and healthy. When you see the wonderful things that people can do if they're part of the process of healing – Boy's Town years and years ago, it was set up like that and very, very successful.

Councilwoman McCulloch: I commend you on your efforts today.

Mrs. Core: Thank you for your time.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Thank you.

Mrs. Core: Thank you.

Councilman Shyne: Alright –

Mayor Glover: Mr. Chairman, before – ma'am? Before you leave I just want to express appreciation for your coming down and sharing your sentiments with us. Also, want to let you know that thankfully there is a group that has been empaneled under the leadership of Paula Whitman and the Community Foundation. It is inclusive of representatives from the Mayor's Offices of Shreveport and Bossier, the 2 parishes, the 2 Sheriff's Offices, the DA's of both sides of the river, as well as the Juvenile Court. And

we're also welcoming other folks to join that coalition that's focused on trying to ensure that we do not have a single day or night when there is not an appropriate shelter available for those who are the victims of abuse. What had been proposed by the Providence House at this point from my perspective is not acceptable. And we're working towards trying to ensure that there will not be a point where we'll say that no other people can be brought in or accepted for shelter and also to ensure that there is not a day when folks who are currently being sheltered or will have to find some other place to go. It's our hope that we'll be able to effectively stand up the Providence House well enough for them to carry on this obligation until a new entity can be identified and properly assembled so that they can effectively take over. It needs to be a seamless transition. It does not need to be one that has any hitches or glitches because the folks that are in need of this protection or folks who literally have their lives at risk.

Mrs. Core: Right.

Mayor Glover: This isn't about just trying to get in out of the cold. This isn't about just trying to make sure that you got a good meal. This isn't about trying to ensure that you got just a roof over your head. This is in many instances trying to keep people from being physically beaten and ultimately in many cases unfortunate as we in the state of Louisiana lead the country – people who end up being killed so we thank you for your concern. I will share with you to express to Paula Whitman and the folks at The Community Foundation and with the group and if there's some scenario that that might be able to be a part of going forward we certainly will welcome the ideas. And we welcome the interest so again, thank you for your concern and thank you for all that you do to help to support those who are in need. Thank you.

Councilman Shyne: Okay, I believe we've had our comments from council members and the mayor so at this particular time –

Mayor Glover: Before you adjourn I want to make a comment Mr. Chairman and wanted to go back to the regular meeting.

Councilman Shyne: Okay.

Councilman O. Jenkins: I'd like to make 2 public announcements while we're still in the Committee of the Whole. First, I want to remind everybody about the Air Show this weekend being that we're supporting and obviously there's a Friday night show, Saturday's show and a Sunday show. Good to have them back again this year and they got the Thunderbirds coming in town. Of course the Blue Angels were already booked doing something else, but maybe we'll get them next year. I'm just kidding, but a great opportunity. Hopefully, we'll have good weather this weekend and I know people are certainly excited and their expecting a big crowd. Secondly, sort of on a city issue The First Tee is having a golf fundraiser a week from today at Querbes. Still looking for teams or sponsors if anybody that wants to be part of that and as you know we have a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with them and Lakeside so that money does go to the kids in that program. So that's an opportunity and then lastly this Saturday is the

Ambassador's Barbeque and there are four \$2500 scholarships that are being awarded Friday night. Two students in our area that participated in an essay contest and they will be awarded those scholarships in between A Train which is coming back in to play Friday night at the Festival Plaza for a couple of hours.

Councilman Shyne: Okay, Grambling State University and I know you all have heard of Grambling State University. Their dance team will be in town. They will be performing at the Strand Theatre.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Orchesis.

Councilman Shyne: That's right. This Saturday night and we would – now you talking about a beautiful show so please come out.

Miscellaneous Matters

THE COMMITTEE RISES AND REPORTS: (Reconvenes Regular Council Meeting)

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:21 p.m.

//s// Joe Shyne, Chairman

//s// Arthur G. Thompson, Clerk of Council