

**SHREVEPORT CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
*May 27, 2014***

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Councilman O. Jenkins seconded by Councilman Webb 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

Mayor Glover: Thank you, Mr. Shyne. I want to first of all, just once again start by thanking Councilwoman McCulloch and the members of this council for conducting today's Public Hearing. I want to thank all of the citizens who came out today to be a part, to share their thoughts, to share their sentiments. Again, I want to express my regrets and apologies for those who did not get a chance to express themselves as (inaudible) and as completely as some others were afforded the opportunity to do so, but I think that opportunity to be able to share this information directly and unfiltered either thru media or thru other individuals is something that is helping to enlighten and empower our citizens to be able to see exactly what our situation and circumstances are. I certainly hope that we'll manage to be able to figure out some way to be able to have the city to go forward. The reality of allowing all of these issues and matters to layover until the next mayor and the next City Council has some potentially very dire circumstances in terms of the viability of those projects going forward, but not the least of our concerns would be the thought that this would be I think the dog park council and that would ultimately end up being the largest and biggest characterization of this administration. As I said earlier, and this council as I mentioned on my earlier comments the Architects and Engineers Committee will gather on tomorrow assuming they have a quorum. They're going to review and they're going to select three design professionals that they're going to recommend to me as the mayor to pick from. We're going to pick one of those firms. We're gonna negotiate a contract with them. In short order, they're contract would be signed. That work will be under way and you could very well have ground being turned. If not a complete facility for dogs in this city before this year is up. The truth of the matter is that we have elevated pets over people and we need to figure out some way to come back and get focused on what it is that folks have sent us here to do and that's to be about the business of moving this city forward. And so I look forward to hopefully having a chance to be able to continue this dialog, not just with our citizens, but each of you all as well and see if we can't come up with some way in some fashion to

be able to do what it is that the folks have given us the duty and the responsibility for. The biggest concern for all of us should be, is that there's going to be other needs and other issues that this city is going to have to face and to address in years to come based upon what has taken place over the last three years, based upon what the Parish Commission just encountered several weeks ago. The ability for any future administration or future council to be able to effectively go before the citizens of this city and offer to them a body of work to be done with a committed commitment that it will be done can only be held in absolute doubt based upon the collective inaction that has been demonstrated here. I'll go back to my earlier point that I've made again and again. Selecting the financial advisor is a part of the administrative team that we put in place to be able to do the work of the administration that we in turn present to the council; selecting the Council Staff, Arthur Thompson as your Clerk of Council; Jackie White as your Council Analyst; Leanis Graham, as your Internal Auditor. Those are the duties and responsibilities of the City Council. For me to interject myself into those efforts and operations because I have some issue or concern about the qualifications in the (inaudible) of Arthur Thompson to fulfill his duties would be inappropriate if the council has decided by a majority vote that that's who you want. For you all to interject yourself into the problems of this administration under the basis of what you've done so and again, Mr. Cesario you are absolutely correct. The assumption is that there was something wrong. We have stepped forward and withstood absolutely every level and degree of scrutiny from this council, from its investigators, from this local media. There are folks who would have the realistic possibility that there is something amidst with this administration. That's the kind of news, just like a dog park that leads. It's the good news that follows or the bad news rather. Bad news that leads, it's the good news that trails so if there's anything that there or was there possibly those things would be known. Again, we look forward to continuing this dialogue. I encourage the citizens out there to not rest, to not cease, to not allow some of the disrespectful treatment that some of you all may have received today to discourage you, but to continue to push, continue to press and ultimately to demand that we act and we do exactly what it is that you don't – by electing us and that is expect us to serve the interest of the city of Shreveport. With that Mr. Chairman, I turn it back over to you.

Councilman Shyne: Mr. Cesario, you can see what our problem is and I hope that you would know that we're not known as the dog park council. Maybe that's what the mayor want it to be because I've heard the people say the mayor will be known as the dog park mayor. We work down here. There are some things that we agree on and some things that we disagree on and you know. I'm not going to talk about a council member because they might not agree with me on something and I hope that they would not talk about me because I don't agree with them on something. This is what democracy is all about. I've been down here for a long time and some things we agreed on and some things we didn't. I've never had mayors who have made derogatory criticisms about people that they have to work with. Anybody who's intelligent knows that that's not the way you get things done. If you criticize your wife all the time at home because she does not maybe agree with you on something you won't have a marriage long. And if you're a female, if you criticize your husband because they don't agree with you all the time you're not going to have a marriage. I've been elected time and time again to come down

from my district and they love me because evidently I do a good job and maybe if I lived in the mayor's district I might not have been elected, not one time. If I knew then what I know now there's a certain person that I never would have campaigned on behalf and I hope that we can get to the point where we don't have to do this. If we disagree we don't have to be disagreeable. Councilman Oliver Jenkins, do you have anything else to say? If not, I'll come to Michael, Councilman Mike Corbin.

Councilman Oliver Jenkins: Not on this matter, but I do have some communications unrelated.

Communications from Council Members

Councilman Oliver Jenkins: First thing, there's a letter sent out by essentially the Retirement Board and we're – there's an initial proposal out there. I believe Wednesday and Thursday –

Mayor Glover: Mr. Chairman, can I just make one observation?

Councilman Shyne: Is it on what he's talking about?

Mayor Glover: Yes, it is.

Councilman Shyne: Okay. Councilman, you don't mind it?

Councilman O. Jenkins: No, no, I'm happy –

Mayor Glover: Just the point, we're in the Committee of the Whole?

Councilman Shyne: Yes.

Mayor Glover: I believe that these are comments that you are about to make that actually should be in the minutes.

Councilman O. Jenkins: I'll be honest with you. I agree with you. My initial reason why I moved to the Committee of the Whole was for my – and honor John McGuinness, but when I was going thru my notes I forgot about the E.R.S. so I guess his point is valid. Wait 'til the end of the meeting and we go back in and I'll make my comments relative to that.

Councilman Shyne: Right. Thank you.

Councilman Shyne: The reason that I was gonna make some comments before was just to say that, you know, kind of how sad I was in the passing with John McGuinness, which happened unexpectedly Saturday evening or Sunday, this weekend. And certainly somebody that in my opinion has done a great deal for the state in terms of what goes on in the interest for people across the state and I think maybe there was a time

that North Louisiana didn't really have much of an idea of what was going on in South Louisiana and Baton Rouge if it weren't for people like him who made politics or policy interesting to a broad group of our citizens. And I do appreciate some of the things that he has done for both the transparency of political policy. Granted, like any well published author he's got some friends and foes out there that maybe some have been insulted by, but I certainly think on a balance he has done more for the state than against it and I certainly have appreciated his professional acts over the years so that was my Committee of the Whole. The good point on the ERS thing we'll bring that up back when the meeting starts back up.

Councilman Shyne: Jeff.

Councilman Everson: I'm good.

Councilman Shyne: Great.

Councilman Webb: I'm good as well.

Councilman Shyne: Alright, Rose.

Councilwoman McCulloch: I'm good and I've shared with my constituency and other constituents in other districts – as a matter of fact I attended North Highlands Association Meeting and before I got started talking the first thing I told them, let me explain something to you all. You know, you might see us fighting up in that council, but one thing I know is that I love Ron. Ron loves me. I love Jeff. Jeff loves me and I didn't say Uncle Joe. I said Joe Shyne loves me. I love him. We all love each other and I'm just hoping and praying that we can, you know, get past all of what has gone and kind of work things out in the best interest of the citizens. And even if it doesn't go my way I'm praying that it goes God's way. Just know that I still love you.

Councilman Shyne: Rose, I appreciate you saying that. I've been down here a long time. As a matter of fact, me and your dad used to meet a lot, that's how you got to calling me Uncle Joe, all that good chicken that you come by.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Every since I was a child.

Councilman Shyne: That's exactly right. All that good chicken I used to come by and Hersey and I even taught school together and as a matter of fact, your dad and the mayor's dad and I walked the David Raines when there wasn't anything on there but just an old building because Rose you're not old enough to remember that because you're just thirty-two.

Councilwoman McCulloch: No, I'm fifty-seven.

Councilman Shyne: No, you're just thirty-two Rose. See if you be fifty-seven then that's gone make me older and we ought to learn how to work together. Now

although we might have disagreed on different things, but we didn't come back and try to punch one another in the stomach time and time again because you don't get anything done like that. You know, when you dealing with real people the only thing you do is just make them harder and tougher, but you're right. You fight, you get over it, you love, you hug, you kiss.

Councilwoman McCulloch: You still love each other.

Councilman Shyne: That's exactly right and you keep on, but that old bullying that you come by, Rose you don't get anything done. I'm sorry. Let's move into Public Comments and Sammy we gone keep you last and who is the lady over here? Right there, please come up and give us your name and the other two ladies back there would you all please start up to the front? Yes. I don't see as well as I used to.

Public Comments

Mrs. Dessire Crawford: (646 W. 68th Street, Shreveport 71106) You see well enough to know who I am. I have a personal concern that goes back as far as 2007 and I've been dealing with this thru every channel that I thought I should go thru. It started back with Mr. Shyne when he was my councilman during the time when they was doing all the work for the senior citizens in Shreveport and they did all the inadequate work. And I'm one of the persons that got the bulk of the inadequate work. I've sent letters to the Mayor's Office.

Councilman Shyne: I'm sorry, let me just stop you. Is that dealing with housing?

Mrs. Crawford: Yes.

Councilwoman McCulloch: Bonnie Moore.

Councilman Shyne: Mrs. Moore, would you please come up? Hold on. Let Mrs. Moore come up because that's gone be your contact person and then Mr. Sibley. That's the boss man.

Mrs. Crawford: Okay, now can I continue?

Councilman Shyne: Yes, ma'am.

Mrs. Crawford: I know very well who Mrs. Moore is. I'm sure Mrs. Moore knows who I am because I've dealt with Mrs. Moore before, but like I say this started way back in 2007. I started contacting the mayor, the councilman, and everybody that I thought I should contact in 2008. It started with a water problem. I sent a communication to the Mayor's Office. He turned me over to the assistant. The assistant turned me over to the Water Department. The Water Department sent me back to the Mayor's Office. The Mayor's Office sent me back to the assistant. This is what I've been going thru, but my biggest problem right now – that in September of last year when

they started to relocate the gas meters. They came out and busted up my yard to run the gas line. In the process they broke something down there and I have a humongous water flood. It's not a water leak. It's a water flood. I have some pictures that I want to leave with somebody. They broke my driveway. I contacted them on several different occasions. Ron Clark, Ricky Dunn, again I wrote another letter to the Mayor's Office. I got no reply. I came down to the Mayor's Office, talked with Ms. Jenkins. She informed me to send another letter to her along with all the pictures that I have. I did that, still no reply and I talked with Mr. Jenkins. I was hoping that he would not leave, called his office. He told me without a doubt last month that he was gonna bring it to the council because I talked with him the day of the Council Meeting and that he was gonna bring it before the council and he would get something in place. This has become very, very, very uncomfortable for me because I have to continue now to turn the water off. If it's raining and I can't go out and turn the meter off then that mean I can't take a bath so this is very uncomfortable. Something needs to be done about this and it needs to be done about it now. I've gone thru all the chains of command that I know, the mayor, the councilman. So as of today I don't know who I'm gonna give these pictures to, but I need to give these pictures to someone that can see how they left my driveway. I had a young man to fall the other day, but it just happen my car was sitting right there and it caught him right at my driveway. They just busted it up and left and where I have to go from my driveway to my car it's very, very dangerous, very dangerous. So hopefully, this will be resolved and I would get some kind of –

Councilman Shyne: Please give it to Mr. Sibley. Mr. Sibley is the boss man, beside the mayor. Now you know mayors is his boss, but Mr. Sibley is the man that's responsible for the day to day operations of the city. I thought it was something that –

Mrs. Crawford: This is something – this has to do with the city.

Mr. Sibley: Mrs., this is your water line?

Councilman Shyne: This is Mr. Sibley and the mayor.

Mrs. Crawford: Part of it is.

Councilman Shyne: That's Mr. Sibley and the mayor. Mrs. Moore, thank you for coming up here. I thought it was something about, you know, about houses and – yes ma'am. Young lady right there, now I know the other young lady in the back. Yes ma'am, come on up. That's Ms. Foppe` back in the back. I knew her when she was a girl. I knew her mama, too. Her mama was a great Grambling supporter.

Ms. Erica Foppe`: (8200 Pines Rd.) Hey, good evening everyone. I came here last meeting, spoke briefly with you guys about just the progression of the city.

Councilman Shyne: You the youngest then, huh?

Ms. Foppe`: I am the youngest.

Councilman Shyne: That's why I don't know you.

Ms. Foppe`: Okay, so basically where I am right now is – I can come up here all day and complain about what's not happening, what's not working, basically what y'all hear everyday day in and day out, but I'm more so about figuring out what's the solution. That's where I am. I sent you an email. I know you are really seriously busy so –

Councilman Everson: We didn't get one from you yet.

Ms. Foppe`: Yeah, I know. That's another reason I just wanted to come back again today.

Councilman Everson: Well, come back and see if maybe the address got wrong or something.

Ms. Foppe`: Right, so basically that's just really – I just wanted to make some brief statements on that. This will be my first time voting here. I unfortunately didn't have the privilege of voting for any of you guys, so this time around I'm really paying attention to who is going to be in your seats this go round; just wanting to see a change. I know y'all have heard about what happened – well, some of y'all may have and may not that there are now celebrities outside of this city discussing how we're behind so and I just think that's unacceptable, basically. So I mean basically that's all I had to say. I mean me and Councilman Everson are gonna get together about that so I just thank y'all for your time and hopefully we'll be able to progress a little bit more.

Councilman Shyne: Ms. Foppe`, we appreciated you coming down and please come down again because it's young people like you that's gonna have to get involved and we're gonna have to have more young people like you.

Ms. Foppe`: Thank you. Oh, I have a lot coming with me on the 10th.

Councilman Shyne: Because it's gonna take a lot for change, you know, and sometimes change comes slow. It's an evolution type process.

Ms. Foppe`: Right.

Councilman Shyne: So please come back and your sister and I worked together for a while at Fair Park High School.

Ms. Foppe`: My mama?

Councilman Shyne: Wait a minute. Is that your mama?

Ms. Foppe`: That is my mother.

Councilman Shyne: You all look like sisters. Ah, Sammy and we got Marvin. Marvin, did you want to come back up after Sammy? You think can you follow a good speaker like Sammy or you think Sammy ought to follow you? Sammy's a home run hitter. Come on, Sammy.

Mr. Sammy Mears: (1901 Centenary Blvd. Apt M110, Shreveport, LA 71101) This past Saturday night going into Sunday morning we had a very serious problem that woke up several people and it had to do with about four gun shots that were fired over at our place and the police had been called out, but they never came. Of course I have no problems with firecrackers as long as they're not too close to the building I live in. However, I did not like gun shots being fired at the same time that firecrackers are being fired. Fire crackers okay, but when anyone fires gun shots even around during the 4th of July or around December or something like that, we do have a problem with that and it was addressed by Cedric Glover before, that if they happen to come out and the police do come out and they are caught doing this that they will be arrested. So I hope by the 4th of July that only fire crackers will be allowed to be fired and not any gun shots. It's ridiculous. We can't have this going on because it disturbs the rights of others who are trying to sleep. Need to mind their own business, so I just wanted to address this to your attention in case it does come up around the 4th of July. Firecrackers are okay, but I hate gun shots. Thank you.

Councilman Shyne: Thank you, Sammy. Marvin, you might be able to follow that. I don't know.

Mr. Marvin Muhammad: Well, I appreciate you not putting the time on me this time so I'll begin by closing out my first statement when I was saying that – and I also agree with you that criticism back and forth isn't necessary. However, there must be lawful to liberty of dialogue and when lawful to liberty of dialogue is not an option then sometimes the door have to be kicked in to get any type of conversation at all, to be able to get at the table. However, at this point I'm coming for us with Ordinance No. 28 of 2014 which of course I was able to come down and we believe that we negotiated and compromised a piece of an ordinance that will serve all purposes. However, it has come to my attention in a conversation that I had today with Assistant Chief Smith, Wayne Smith that there are some interpretations that I don't think we were willfully trying to do. There's intersections that we're trying to be on that crosses for instance, Jewella and Hollywood. One is a 35, the other one is a 40 and it was under our impression that we wouldn't be able to work those intersections. So we're gonna ask that there be some type of amendment that those intersections that I believe that was approved that we can work those intersections. So our permit that we filled out, the application for the permit that we filled out was consequently denied so we're really right back to square one until we can get this resolved.

Councilman Shyne: Have you had a chance to get with Councilman Oliver Jenkins and Sam Jenkins to see to really get a –

Councilman O. Jenkins: Let me just say this. This is really the first I've heard of it and I'm not saying he's – sounds like he found out today. He hadn't even had time to talk to myself or Sam. It's what I'm guessing.

Mr. Muhammad: Right, I did find out today and, you know, and again this is an interpretation issue that I believe is easily resolved by pushing up the speed limit in the ordinance up to 40 mph which would include those intersections that was pre-approved, but at the same time doesn't allow us to get on the state highways, the expressways and the passage ways that was of course excluded. And of course anything other than that – that I believe that it would be the more simplistic and most simple way to move forward.

Councilman Shyne: I thought I say – I'm sorry. I thought I saw you all at the corner of Jewella and Hollywood.

Mr. Muhammad: Well, we were informed that we couldn't be at that four point intersection so in order to not to be indifference in the defiance of the law we decided to remove ourselves so there wouldn't be any further conflict until the matter could be resolved judiciously.

Councilman Shyne: Councilman Jenkins.

Councilman Jenkins: It is my recollection – I'm gonna confer with my colleague and Attorney Glass. We had this discussion I believe what we agreed to was that if the street crossing was higher than 35 then it was off limits. That, you know, one of the two streets was enough to make the whole four off limits. Okay, but that's the way I remember it because we were worried about this confusion about well we're on the side that's 35 or we're on the side that's 45 and how could the police interpret whether I was soliciting on the 35 side of the street or the 45 side of the street and so we wanted to simplify it for enforcement. I believe we came to the agreement that it's Councilman Jenkins and myself on what those amendments were at the last minute that we would eliminate those intersections altogether, but –

Mr. Muhammad: If I could Councilman Jenkins, what I believe that you might be referring to is – and it's a very similar dilemma as for as the state highways that we admitted, Youree Drive, you know, Hearne Avenue, Greenwood Road, Highway 5, 1170 Street. In those instances we agreed –

Councilman O. Jenkins: We agreed not to do.

Mr. Muhammad: That we would not ask for those intersections that was crossing that – right.

Councilman O. Jenkins: That was a certain distance from that.

Mr. Muhammad: Right, so I think that's where your thoughts might be.

Councilman O. Jenkins: Actually, you could be correct.

Mr. Muhammad: But in this instance I was under the assumption that we would have access to those intersections. That's why I was so easily and readily to submit those intersections because we would still have access to other intersections in the city, but without these intersections that crosses the 40 mph zones then we're right back where we started from, especially just not having any access of all.

Councilman O. Jenkins: Again, I think I'll just say this. I think between email Sam and I and you get together and make sure we're clear on what we had agreed to because I'd hate to give you any response right tonight because I'm not sure what will transpire between the emails and the discussion. So I appreciate you bringing that up (inaudible) is on us to kind of give you some answer.

Mr. Muhammad: Okay, good deal and I'll send out an email to yourselves.

Councilman O. Jenkins: Send it to Sam particularly because he's not here right now. We'll talk to him about it, but I don't want to misrepresent what you're saying.

Mr. Muhammad: Indeed.

Councilman O. Jenkins: Okay.

Mr. Muhammad: Okay, great.

Councilman Shyne: Marvin, thank you, fine fellow. I believe we're at the end. We're going to go back into our Regular Session.

Councilman O. Jenkins: I got a comment.

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 6:34 p.m.

//s// *Joe Shyne, Chairman*

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