



SHREVEPORT CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

May 19, 2011

The Special Meeting of the Shreveport City Council was called to order by Chairman Oliver Jenkins at 6:35 p.m., Thursday, May 19, 2011, in the University Center Theater on the campus of Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Louisiana, located at One University Place, Shreveport, LA 71115.

This special meeting was called for the following purpose:

“In accordance with Resolution 89 of 2011: A Resolution to call a Special Meeting for the purpose of holding a public hearing to receive comments from the public concerning transportation issues near the Inner Loop Expressway (LA 3132) and Flournoy Lucas Road, and at Ellerbe Road and Flournoy Lucas Road, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.”

The following City Council members were present: Councilman Rose McCulloch, Jeff Everson, Oliver Jenkins, Michael Corbin, Ron Webb, Joe Shyne and Sam Jenkins. Present: 7. Absent: None. **Elected officials present:** Mayor Cedric B. Glover, Senator Sherri Cheek, Representative Alan Seabaugh, Commissioners Mike Thibodeaux and John Escude. **Others present:** Kent Rogers, Executive Director of NLCOG; Dr. Eric Kalivoda, Deputy Director of LA DOTD and approximately 300 concerned citizens.

The Chairman stated the rules to be followed during the meeting, and then asked Councilman Corbin, who represents the district most affected by the issues being discussed, for comments.

Councilman Corbin stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments from the public concerning the extension of the Inner Loop Expressway (LA 3132) from Flournoy Lucas Road, and other transportation issues on Flournoy Lucas and Ellerbe Road. As background, Mr. Corbin showed three maps with lines representing the extension of LA 3132 that have been proposed at different times, over several years.

Comments were also made by the following persons: Mayor Glover, who gave additional background concerning the issues to be discussed, Commissioner Escude, Senator Cheek, Representative Seabaugh, and Commissioner Thibodeaux.

Dr. Kalivoda discussed the policies of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, particularly those concerning traffic lights and curb cuts on state highways.

Mr. Rogers discussed the proposed extension of La 3132 and federal rules that apply.

Public comments were made by the following persons: Dorothy Payne, Jim Zander, Scott Green, Joe Miciotto, Dr. Gary Joiner, Jim Roberts, Phil Serio, Jeremy Brigham, Lorraine Krajewski, Father Murray Clayton, Elliot Stonecipher, Margaret Elrod, James Elrod, Timothy Larkin, Marian Dehan, Ronda Beauvais and Gary D. Salter.

At the end of the comments by citizens, Dr. Kalivodia was asked to state what needs to be done to establish the corridor and to construct the extension of La. 3132; to include immediate and specific actions that the Louisiana Legislature and Governor Jindal's administration need to take.

Dr. Kalivodia said: "To re-enforce something the Mayor said about truck driving - If the road (Flourney Lucas) becomes a city road then the City will control and regulate the traffic on there. It was mentioned that DOTD would regulate traffic on the roadway as long as it is a State Highway, that is true for speed limits and things like that, however the State Law (and I cannot reference what State Statute addresses this off the top of my head) - State Law precludes us from restricting truck traffic on state highways. This comes up all the time in communities across the state. Communities will say, we don't want trucks coming through here. If it is a state highway, trucks have a right to use it. So if you have a very, very specific reason, such as the width of the road won't accommodate those trucks - which is not the case here.

The path forward (and I have discussed this with Kent Rogers): We have agreed to work cooperatively to move forward to undertake a very quick feasibility study followed by what (we) call an environmental assessment, where we look at the impacts alternative corridors would have on both human environment and natural environment. We follow the federal process very carefully. The process will take somewhere around two years to complete. At which time we will have identified a very specific corridor and then we can start engineering on that (corridor) - enough engineering to identify the right of way lines, then start purchasing right of way. As to the cost of that, I'm thinking somewhere, off the top of my head, - probably somewhere around \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 for the study over two years. We can work with NLCOG for funding that, and we can begin immediately to move that process forward. We will take any help that Senator Cheek can give us financially and certainly for the representative, but we are prepared to move forward with that right away."

There being no further business to come before the Council and no action taken, the Special Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.

Oliver Jenkins, Chairman

Arthur G. Thompson, Clerk of Council