



625 Texas Street, Suite 200 | Shreveport, LA 71101
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Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

Friday, March 15, 2024 (9:30 AM)

625 Texas Street, Suite 200
Shreveport, LA 71101

Members Present

Mayor Tom Arceneaux – City of Shreveport (Sitting in for Mayor Chandler as Chair)
Mr. Bruce Blanton – Webster Parish
Mayor Tommy Chandler, Chair – City of Bossier City
Mr. Butch Ford, Vice Chair – Bossier Parish
Mrs. Erica Bryant – Caddo Parish

Members Absent

Mr. Michael Norton–DeSoto Parish–Mr. Michael Rister present for Mr. Norton, but in a non-voting capacity.
Mr. Charles Henington – Caddo Tax Assessor

Others Present

Mr. Kent Rogers – NLCOG
Mr. Chris Petro – NLCOG
Ms. Savannah Williams – NLCOG
Ms. Heidi Stewart – NLCOG
Mr. Adam Driskill - NLCOG
Ms. Rita Arnold – NLCOG
Mr. Josh Chevallier – NLCOG Legal Council

Call to Order

Mayor Chandler called the meeting to order and asked everyone to stand while Mayor Arceneaux did the invocation. Mayor Chandler then led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Chandler asked Mr. Rogers to begin a roll call. Mr. Rogers began the roll call. A quorum was present.

Public Comments

Mr. Rogers stated there was one public comment.

Mr. Hackney wanted to finish reading his comment from the previous meeting. Mr. Hackney's comment is attached below.

Financial - Ricoh IMC3510 Copier Lease Agreement – Lease Agreement for New Copier and Removal of Current Model

Mr. Rogers stated that the lease agreement on the copier had been resolved, and it was actually cheaper for them to replace it with a newer model than to continue the lease on the existing one. He needed a ratification of his signature on the new lease agreement.

Mayor Chandler asked if there were any further questions. Mayor Chandler entertained a motion for the Ratification of Mr. Rogers signature for the Ricoh IMC3510 Copier Lease Agreement. Mayor Arceneaux motioned, and Mr. Ford seconded. Mayor Chandler called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

Legal Report – Establish Sub-Committee on By-Laws and Organizational Structure

Mr. Chevallier stated that per the announcement in the prior meeting, they have been looking at and advising Mr. Rogers and NLCOG on any issues that may be created in handling Dr. Barrett’s appointment to make sure it doesn’t have any implications or issues with NLCOG’s grants or any of those areas that may overlap. In addition, Mr. Chevallier says that he has recommended the establishment of a sub-committee of the board to review the by-laws and organizational structure. Mr. Chevallier stated the by-laws were completely re-written a little more than a decade ago and there’s been significant change in the make-up of this body, the Board of Directors and the MPO. Both have had changes in the administration and the change of population in areas served since that time, including the addition of two other parishes, DeSoto and Webster. They would like to re-access and give a fresh look at the by-laws with input from the board. Mr. Chevallier would like to ask for a motion to establish that sub-committee and he believes that certain members of the board have already indicated that they would be willing to join it and serve to be able to look at how best to have this board made up going forward to serve the four-parish area.

Mayor Chandler asked if they needed to get a third person to move forward. Mr. Rogers stated that he has spoken with Mr. Ford, Mrs. Bryant, and Mr. Norton and all three have expressed that they’d be willing to serve.

Mr. Chevallier stated there have been no significant legal developments since their last meeting and no pending or threatening litigation.

Mayor Chandler asked if there were any further questions. Mayor Chandler entertained a motion to Establish a Sub-Committee on By-Laws and Organizational Structure. Mayor Arceneaux motioned, and Mrs. Bryant seconded. Mayor Chandler called for questions or comments. Having none, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

Other Business

1. Approval of Minutes

The next item on the agenda was for approval of the minutes from the February 2, 2024, meeting. Mayor Chandler called for a motion to Approve the Minutes as provided. Mayor Arceneaux motioned, and Mr. Ford seconded. All approved and motion was passed.

Announcements

Mr. Rogers stated that he would like to congratulate Dr. Shelly Barrett on her appointment to the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission.

Mr. Rogers reminded everyone that the next regularly scheduled meeting for the Board of Directors will be on April 12, 2024.

Adjourn

With no remaining agenda items, The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Mayor Arceneaux was the first to motion, and Mr. Blanton seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Kent Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

All cards must be returned to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting. Comments will not be accepted during the meeting. You will be called upon at the appropriate time to speak.

Please print:

Date: March 15, 2024

Name: Dave Hackney

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: () _____

I am representing: myself business organization

Name of business / organization: _____

Comment on: Agenda item Non-agenda item

Briefly describe your comment(s):

Cont'd Esplanade
TJI discussion

As a reminder, public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Comments relative to any issues that are in active litigation will not be heard in this meeting.

Speakers are to address the Chairman, not each other or the audience, and are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. The use of abusive or profane language shall not be allowed. No debate or argument between speakers and/or members of the audience shall be permitted.

March 15, 2024

My name is Dave Hackney and I reside at 9660 Railsback Ridge, Shreveport, LA. I am a resident of Esplanade subdivision. I have appeared before the NLCOG BOD meeting a couple of times over the past two years, expressing my concerns on the Tim James, Inc, Red River Express Project. More specifically, the part of the project between LA 1 and the current terminus of Hwy 3132 at Flournoy Lucas Rd.

Esplanade homeowners, who are also Shreveport and Caddo residents, taxpayers and voters, would like to be included in the discussion and have an opportunity for meaningful input on this major infrastructure project that will cut through our neighborhood. We want to support this project, but we simply have not received much information from our elected or appointed officials.

For the average private citizen, like me, it has been exceedingly difficult and quite time consuming to get any information on this project. The lack of communication and transparency is disappointing. On an individual basis, I have spoken with a number of you on several issues and for that I am thankful. Many of you were extremely helpful. So as not to be viewed as someone that comes to these meetings to only complain, I earlier this week sent some alternative ideas on this project. I hope that can serve as a basis for further discussion.

Both Shreveport and Caddo have declining population and tax base. Any major infrastructure project will need to factor in and explain to the taxpayers the implications of such projects. Quite frankly, the City, Parish and State struggle to maintain current infrastructure.

The three main issues for the residents of Esplanade are:

- The CEA between Caddo Parish and TJI
- LADOTD Project H.010206 LA 3132 at LA 523 Extend Control of Access.
- The extension of LA 3132 from LA 523 (Flournoy Lucas) to LA 1 and the new bridge.

The CEA with Caddo Parish and TJI is flawed with unsupported concepts and rationalizations. Concepts like "Improve quality of life" and "no cost to the Parish." Running a major highway through my neighborhood will not improve the quality of life for Esplanade residents. TJI representatives have repeatedly proclaimed the roadway will be built on private land, with private funds. This is simply not true, given the fact the roadway will connect, go through or go over City, State and Levee District land. Regarding private funding, TJI and the Port entered into a CEA (Resolution No.19 of 2023), where the Port will apply for a USDA loan to fund parts of the roadway. The USDA loan program is to assist poor, rural communities.

At the February 7, 2024 LADOTD roadshow meeting in Bossier City, Mayor Arceneaux spoke in opposition to LADOTD Project H.010206. On February 9, 2024, I emailed Mayor Arceneaux, voicing my surprise and disappointment with his comments. Mayor Arceneaux phoned me on February 16, 2024 and we had a wide-ranging discussion for about 20 minutes. Mayor Arceneaux stated concerns for "The Glen" senior citizen facility and thought a better alternative to LADOTD Project H.010206 should be found. That might be possible, but no Esplanade homeowners have been privy to what possible alternatives look like. There are also some legal issues, regarding the MPC PUD requirements for Forbing Ridge Road to connect to Flournoy Lucas Road.

As I stated in my February 9 email to Mayor Arceneaux, I think he and his office does a wonderful job communicating to the citizens of Shreveport. Just recently, the mayor went to great lengths socializing the issues surrounding the water and sewer rate increase. This was an excellent example of leadership tackling a difficult issue.

Similarly, the mayor went to great lengths in October of 2023 to explain his veto of a Shreveport City Council approval of Ordinance 110 of 2023. This ordinance was a change to the noise ordinance. Mayor Arceneaux wrote a very detailed and respectful three-page letter, explaining his thought process for the veto. The mayor wrote, "The right to be in a particular place, like one's home, without bombardment of unwanted amplified sound or other noise, is a significant right." Later in the letter, "Pursuant to existing Section 58-30(15), a person violates the ordinance if noise from the person's establishment is "plainly audible" at a residential property line, without respect to a particular decibel level, between 10 pm and 8am." Currently, on Flournoy Lucas Road, there are signs posted that state it is unlawful for vehicles to use a muffler brake (Jake Brake). There is little to no enforcement of this, as I regularly hear trucks using their muffler brake.

I submit to you that the TJI establishment of the Red River Express roadway will violate the City of Shreveport's noise ordinance, unless extraordinary measures for noise abatement and mitigation, reduced speed limits and enforcement are put in place. My hope is that the Shreveport citizens, residing in Esplanade and Twelve Oaks subdivisions, will be accorded protection as detailed in Mayor Arceneaux's letter.

On February 2, 2024 phone conversation I had with Tim James. We talked for over an hour and it was a very pleasant and informative discussion on many facets of this project. When I asked Mr. James about a certain routing alternative on the Bossier side, he stated that the large land owner didn't want the road running near his house.

Lastly, my concern with the actual proposed roadway between the current terminus of LA 3132 at LA 523 (Flournoy Lucas Road), crossing LA 1 and connecting to the proposed toll bridge, somewhere north of the Port. When Hwy 3132 was extended from Bert Kouns to Flournoy Lucas, Ellerbe Road and Flournoy Lucas roads and intersections were expanded, all with taxpayer dollars. A 2012 traffic study, conducted as part of the Hwy 3132 extension south of Flournoy Lucas, indicates all these roads and intersections provide excellent service through the end of study period, which I believe was 2032.

The December 28, 2023 letter from LADOTD to TJI and Willis Knighton, which is a follow-up to a discussion held on December 7, 2023, raises more questions than it answers.

LADOTD is clear in the letter, that the overpass at Flournoy Lucas must be built (Item 1).

LADOTD, in Item 2, talks about “preserve the eligibility to use federal funds to complete the four-laning.....” I thought this was a privately funded project. Please explain.

LADOTD, Item 3, talks about Esplanade permanent access to LA 523 (Flournoy Lucas) will only be granted through an access road currently under design by DOTD. Can the residents of Esplanade be included in this process?

LADOTD, in Item 4, states, “a potential (back-door) connection to Twelve Oaks and to serve the properties to the south with a potential connection to the Esplanade development”. Why are these parties discussing these type of issues, without any public notice or hearings with the residents?

LADOTD, in Item 5, states, “....any extension of LA 3132 from LA 523 must at least connect to LA 1. To me, this seems somewhat vague when compared to Item 1’s detailed requirements for the interchange at LA 523.

My current opinion of the road portion of this project, between Flournoy Lucas and LA 1, is a land development project that benefits a few at the expense of many.

I am requesting that Caddo Administrator, Ms. Erica Bryant, and Shreveport Mayor, Mr. Tom Arceneaux organize an open forum for the residents of Esplanade.

Thank you.

