



PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DERIDDER, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR SESSION HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026 AT 5:30 O’CLOCK P.M.

The Council of the City of DeRidder, Louisiana met in Regular Session at its meeting place, the Council Chambers, located at City Hall, 200 South Jefferson Street, DeRidder, Louisiana on Monday, April 27, 2026 at 5:30 o’clock p.m. President Randy Larken called the meeting to order, Councilmember Godfrey led the Invocation and Councilmember Marcello led the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America. The roll was called by the Clerk as follows: Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr., Councilmember Monte’ Woods, Councilmember John Marcello, Councilmember Danny Reynolds, Councilmember Keith Hooper, Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken. All Councilmembers were present representing a quorum. Also present were Glenna Luther, Council Clerk; Michael Harris, Mayor; and Shane Williams, City Attorney.

5. **Visitors’ Docket.** Christopher Mount addressed the Council concerning Commercial Lighting Nuisance and City Code violations at 2741 Highway 190 West, which lights from the business are directed into the residential neighborhood windows and streets. Greg Henderson addressed the Mayor and Council concerning his denial of public records requests from a City attorney. President Larken informed Mr. Henderson that he would need to meet with Mayor Harris, informed Mr. Henderson that this is not a City Council issue and it is under administration and explained to Mr. Henderson the process of public records requests. President Larken advised Mr. Henderson to call Ms. Margaret Lyons, Personal Assistant to the Mayor, to make an appointment and the Mayor asked Mr. Henderson to give him a call.

7. **Adoption of Minutes.** President Larken announced that the April 13, 2026 regular meeting minutes have been distributed and there being no corrections, the minutes were approved by the Council.

13. ORDINANCES

A. **Introductions.**

1. **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUEST TO PLACE B 2025 CLASS B MOBILE HOME ON PROPERTY IDENTIFIED BY BEAUREGARD PARISH TAX ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 0335862500 IN DERIDDER, LOUISIANA, AND BEING MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE BODY OF THIS ORDINANCE, SAID PROPERTY BEING PRESENTLY ZONED R-3 (MULTIPLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT), AS REQUESTED BY MELIQUE SOWELLS; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.**

Councilmember Marcello made the motion to introduce the above-entitled Ordinance as read by Mr. Williams and Councilmember Reynolds offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Monte’ Woods; Councilmember John Marcello; Councilmember Keith Hooper; Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr.; Councilmember Danny Reynolds; Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been approved, the Ordinance was introduced and set for a public hearing in Regular Session on **Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 5:30 o’clock p.m.**



13. ORDINANCES

B. Public Hearings.

1. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15, ZONING, ARTICLE III, SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS, BY REMOVING SEC. 15-64. SUPPLEMENTARY YARD REGULATIONS, (g) FENCES AND WALLS. AND ADDING SEC. 15-66. REGULATION OF THE INSTALLATION, LOCATION, HEIGHT, MATERIALS, AND DESIGN OF FENCES; DEFINING AND PROHIBITING SOLID WALLS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS FOR RESIDENTIAL ZONED DISTRICTS; ESTABLISHING GROUND CLEARANCE AND MAXIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS; REQUIRING CITY PERMITS, PROVIDING FOR PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION APPROVAL OR DENIAL; REQUIRING TAPERING AND VISIBILITY FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY; ESTABLISHING AN APPEAL PROCESS TO THE CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT, ADJUDICATION, AND CIVIL FINES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

The title of the Ordinance was read by Mr. Williams. President Larken opened the public hearing and announced that the public hearing was postponed to tonight's meeting for amendments to the Ordinance. Martin Scott, Neighborhood Preservationist, summarized those amendments and following questions from Jerry Egbert and Councilmember Marcello, Councilmember Marcello made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as amended and Councilmember Reynolds offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember John Marcello; Councilmember Keith Hooper; Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr.; Councilmember Monte' Woods; Councilmember Danny Reynolds; Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was adopted as amended as **Ordinance No. O-2026-19**; Charter Series, as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. O-2026-19
CHARTER SERIES**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 15, ZONING, ARTICLE III, SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS, BY REMOVING SEC. 15-64. SUPPLEMENTARY YARD REGULATIONS, (g) FENCES AND WALLS. AND ADDING SEC. 15-66. REGULATION OF THE INSTALLATION, LOCATION, HEIGHT, MATERIALS, AND DESIGN OF FENCES; DEFINING AND PROHIBITING SOLID WALLS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS FOR RESIDENTIAL ZONED DISTRICTS; ESTABLISHING GROUND CLEARANCE AND MAXIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS; REQUIRING CITY PERMITS, PROVIDING FOR PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION APPROVAL OR DENIAL; REQUIRING TAPERING AND VISIBILITY FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY; ESTABLISHING AN APPEAL PROCESS TO THE CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT, ADJUDICATION, AND CIVIL FINES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, Chapter 15 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of DeRidder, Louisiana ("City") governs Zoning within the City limits of the City; and



WHEREAS, City recognizes that there is a need from time to time to protect the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens by regulating the construction and installation of fences within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City finds it appropriate to amend Chapter 15, Zoning, ARTICLE III, SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS, by removing **Sec. 15-64. Supplementary Yard Regulations, (g) Fences and walls.**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of DeRidder declares that it is in the best interest of the City that Chapter 15, Zoning, ARTICLE III, SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS, of the Code of Ordinances be amended, by adding **Sec. 15-66. Regulation of the installation, location, height, materials, and design of fences; defining and prohibiting solid walls within the city limits for residential zoned districts; establishing ground clearance and maximum height requirements; requiring city permits, providing for planning and zoning commission approval or denial; requiring tapering and visibility for traffic safety; establishing an appeal process to the city council; providing for enforcement, adjudication, and civil fines; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date,** as shown on the document attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A":

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the City's Code of Ordinances for the City be and the same is amended to include the above stated amendments.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all other paragraphs, subsections, subparagraphs, clauses, phrases and words of Chapter 15, Zoning, of the City's Code of Ordinances, not specifically amended by this Ordinance, are to remain the same.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED on this 27th day of April, 2026 in regular session duly convened by the City Council in Council Chambers in DeRidder, Louisiana.

ATTEST:

GLENN LUTHER, CMA/LMMC
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

RANDY LARKEN
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

2. **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DERIDDER, THROUGH ITS MAYOR, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JUSTIN PIERCE MUSIC TO PROVIDE FOR MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT AT THE DERIDDER MAIN STREET EVENT TO BE HELD ON MAY 29, 2026; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith.**

The title of the Ordinance was read by Mr. Williams. President Larken opened the public hearing, there were no public comments and following comments from Councilmember Reynolds and Councilmember Marcello, Councilmember Hooper made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Councilmember Godfrey offered a second. The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows, to-wit:

YEAS: Councilmember Keith Hooper; Councilmember Wayne Godfrey, Sr.; Councilmember Monte' Woods; Councilmember John Marcello; Councilmember Danny Reynolds; Councilmember Vincent Labue and President Randy Larken.

NAYS: None.



ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.

The motion having been unanimously approved, the Ordinance was adopted as **Ordinance No. O-2026-20**; Charter Series, as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. NO. O-2026-20
CHARTER SERIES**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF DERIDDER, THROUGH ITS MAYOR, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH JUSTIN PIERCE MUSIC TO PROVIDE FOR MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT AT THE DERIDDER MAIN STREET EVENT TO BE HELD ON MAY 29, 2026; AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the City of DeRidder (“City”) finds there is a need for entertainment to support the City’s Main Street event to be held on May 29, 2026; and

WHEREAS, City desires to contract with Justin Pierce Music to provide musical entertainment at said event; and

WHEREAS, City has received seventy-five percent (75%) of the cost of entertainment from the Louisiana Division of the Arts Grant (LPG FY26 Grant) and after the Main Street event is held, the City will receive the remainder of the grant; and

WHEREAS, City finds that entering into such Contract for Entertainment constituting Exhibit “A” hereto is in the best interest of its residents, businesses and visitors:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the City Council of the City of DeRidder, authorizes the City of DeRidder, through its Mayor, to enter into a Contract for Entertainment with Justin Pierce Music, as set forth and in accordance with the terms and conditions, and for the consideration, set forth in Exhibit “A” hereto.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

THUS DONE AND ADOPTED on this 27th day of April, 2026 by the City Council of the City of DeRidder in Regular Session duly convened in Council Chambers in DeRidder, Louisiana.

ATTEST:

GLENNA LUTHER, CMA/LMMC
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

RANDY LARKEN
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Reports. Mayor Harris thanked everyone for working together and thanked everyone that is working with the City and moving the City forward. He announced that the Young Entrepreneurs Event is scheduled for May 2, 2026 and encouraged adults and others to come out and support the youth. Mr. Walker with Fort Polk Public Affairs reported that the Colonel is transferring out and updated the Council on past and scheduled events and explained the process for getting on post. At the request of President Larken, Mr. Walker explained that you can have a standard driver’s license to get on post. At the request of Mr. Godfrey, Mr. Walker explained to the Council how someone is authorized to be on post with a valid military identification subject to Federal law.

Councilmember Reynolds reported that at the last meeting he let the people know about the Public Service Commission meeting to be held at the Green Acres Building and provided an update announcing that 4 members of the Public Service Commission showed up for one-on-one meetings and 22 out of 487 people showed up expressing concerns for costs, rates, quality water questions and even some compliments. Pastor Egbert announced to the Council that he was shocked by the lack of people who showed up. In response to a question from Councilmember Reynolds to Mayor Harris as to where we are on the Green Acres issue because the TV says we are in negotiations, the



City Attorney, Shane Williams, indicated that this is not the proper forum to be discussing this because it is a potential legal matter and we should protect the City.

Councilmember Marcello reported that in 2024 the City benefited from transportation of pipelines coming to our City and from sales tax receipts, that he was out on bypass road this weekend and saw pipes and asked if that is something the City could benefit from for sales tax for the City. Mayor Harris said he was not here in 2024 but would look into it for Mr. Marcello.

Councilmember Hooper wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day on May 9th, invited everyone to participate in the Patriot Walk at West Park and to the Wings and Wheels event with cars, airplanes and motorcycles, to be held at the DeRidder Airport on May 9 from 9:00 o'clock a.m. to 1:00 o'clock p.m. Councilmember Hooper wished Councilmember Reynolds a Happy May 10 birthday.

Councilmember Labue acknowledged and recognized the City Attorney, Shane Williams, for his recent induction into the Southern University College Hall of Fame. Mr. Williams thanked everyone, and that he was blessed to be able to work with a lot of good people, including municipalities, throughout his 20-year career and places the City of DeRidder in that category.

Councilmember Woods reported that yesterday there was a celebration of an organization known as the Gospel Harmonettes of DeRidder, Louisiana and after 54 years, they are still holding on and if you want to view the event, go to Pastor Stafford's page to see young women in their 80s and 70s still singing unto the Lord. Councilmember Woods wished President Larken a Happy May 3 birthday.

Councilmember Godfrey reported that he is proud of where the City is heading but is concerned that we are the voice of the people of DeRidder and there is so much discord at this time and that we need to keep the big picture in our focus.

President Larken reported that financials were delivered to Council's desks and that he has received an email from Rhonda Farris that our 2026 millage rates for the City have been accepted and approved by the Legislative Auditor and commended Ms. Luther for her hard work.

President Larken asked Mayor Harris as to what the Council can know because we do need some information on Green Acres, if that information can be disseminated out to Council because the Council is being bombarded with questions by citizens and the Council needs to know what is legal and what can the citizens be told about the negotiations to buy Green Acres. Mayor Harris responded that he attempted to place it twice on the agenda and President Larken corrected the Mayor stating that he cancelled the workshop meeting because of something that was going on and the workshop has never been rescheduled. Mayor Harris announced that he wants to share the information, this is new to everyone and he will get it out.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 o'clock p.m.

ATTEST:

GLENN LUTHER, CMA/LMMC
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

RANDY LARKEN
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL