

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF KINDER, LOUISIANA**

April 6, 2026

The Notice of Meeting/Agenda having been duly posted in accordance with requirements, and a quorum being present, the council meeting was called to order by Mayor LaFargue at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor, Council and Staff Present:

Wayland LaFargue, Mayor
Maria DeWees, Councilwoman Dist. 2
Jerry Nevils, Jr., Councilman Dist. 3
Susanne Sonnier, Councilwoman at Large
Cynthia Tunwar, Town Clerk
Michael Holmes, Town Attorney
Kevin Doise, Chief of Police
Rhett Deselle, City Engineer

Council and Staff Absent:

LaToya Tunwar, Councilwoman Dist.1
Angie Van Norman, Councilwoman Dist.4 *

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None

Approval of Minutes

Mayor asks the council to consider approval of the minutes for the regular council meeting of March 9, 2026, as presented.

Motion: To approve minutes as presented

Made by: Councilman Nevils

Second: Councilwoman Sonnier

Discussion: None

Vote: 3-0, passed

Mayor's Report

Mayor asks the council to amend Resolution #2026-04 – Demolition and Clearance of Dilapidated and Blighted Structures for Lot 1 & Lot 2 - FY 2025 LCDGB due to clerical / addition error.

Motion: To amend Resolution #2026-04 – Demolition and Clearance of Dilapidated and Blighted Structures for Lot 1 & Lot 2 - FY 2025 LCDGB)

Made by: Councilwoman Dewees

Second: Councilman Nevils

Discussion: None

Vote: 3-0, passed

*Note: Councilwoman VanNorman entered the meeting.

Mayor Lafargue advised that he spoke with Jacob Delahaye on the overlay of Nielson Road and our cost would be \$25,000. They will be chip sealing the road. Also, if Guillory Road is included in overlay our cost will be \$60,000. Mayor stated after speaking with Dewitt Carrier could possibly fund half of the project. Mayor plans are to overlay both Nielson and Guillory this year.

Mayor gave update on DOTD project on Hwy 383 & Hwy 165 (Safe Routes Grant). Advised Jared Chaumont will schedule to come do a presentation once confirmation is received.

Chief of Police Report

Chief Kevin Doise asked the council to accept Angela South's resignation.

Mayor Lafargue request a motion to accept Angela South's resignation

Motion: To accept Angela South's resignation

Made by: Councilman Nevils

Second: Councilwoman VanNorman

Discussion: None

Vote: 4-0, passed

Chief Doise asked the council to consider hiring part-time officer Taylor Jackson back as full-time officer.

Mayor Lafargue request a motion to hire Taylor Jackson as full-time officer

Motion: To hire Taylor Jackson as full-time officer

Made by: Councilwoman VanNorman

Second: Councilwoman Dewees

Discussion: None

Vote: 4-0, passed

Chief Doise asked the council to consider hiring John Cummings as a full-time officer, who is highly recommended by Evangeline Parish Sheriff. Cummings has 18 years of law enforcement experience. He is K-9 certified. He is involved in a lot of cases throughout the state. He also worked with Allen Parish.

Councilwoman VanNorman asked, "Is he present tonight". Cummings motioned to make his presence known.

Mayor Lafargue asked were there any questions.

Councilwoman VanNorman stated, "I have a question" and continued to say, "It was brought to my attention that there was a problem with your K-9 in Rayville? Can you explain, can you talk about that incident?"

Cummings, "Yes ma'am, he died of heat exposure off duty and we did a restitution to the sheriff's department and it cleared out.

VanNorman advised it was brought to her attention and needed to follow up to make sure everything was OK. VanNorman asked if he left on good terms.

Cummings replied, "Yes ma'am in 2016"

VanNorman asked where he has been employed since 2016.

Cummings answered Glenmora, Evangeline and Allen Parish Sheriff's Office.

Mayor Lafargue request a motion to hire John Cummings as full-time officer

Motion: To hire John Cummings as a full-time officer

Made by: Councilwoman Dewees

Second: Councilwoman Sonnier

Discussion: None

Vote: 3-1, passed Councilwoman VanNorman opposed.

Chief Doise asked the council to consider hiring Samantha Joubert as a full-time dispatcher.

Mayor Lafargue requested a motion to hire Samantha Joubert as a full-time dispatcher

Someone from audience asked can someone who has not been hired yet in Allen Parish yet can that office give someone a ticket. Holmes questioned if she was talking about this particular person or just in general. She stated she's just asking a question. Holmes turned the question over to the chief. Chief Doise advised that officer Cummings was doing riding along with us and we got a call of a drunk driver and he did a test them. We are certified for alcohol but he is certified to test for narcotics and drugs or other substances and he performed a test while he was riding. VanNorman asks who wrote the ticket. Officer Manuel stated Cummings was riding with her and he filled the ticket out because he was the one doing the actual testing himself. VanNorman asked who signed the ticket. Manuel advised that Cummings signed the ticket. VanNorman asked, "And he wasn't hired yet, is that right?" Unknown lady stated that's what I'm saying he wasn't hired yet. Chief Doise said he was a full-time officer. VanNorman asks if he was part-time. Doise stated we have to pay to train and he was in his training on the streets. He is very competent at what he can do and he has done probably 40 of these types of DWI's. He was in the car and we agreed to pay him for the training period and he just happen to be in the car when his expertise showed up on a traffic stop. Holmes asked if he was a sworn member of the police department. Doise said as a reserve officer he was. Holmes advised if the chief had hired him as a reserve officer and empowered him to do what he did then I don't think there is a legal issue. Holmes advised that the ticket will be transferred to 33rd District Judicial Court. The District Attorney will make that decision.

Mayor Lafargue requested a recommendation to hire Samantha Joubert as a full-time dispatcher

Motion: To hire Samantha Joubert as a full-time dispatcher

Made by: Councilwoman VanNorman

Second: Councilwoman Sonnier

Discussion: None

Vote: 4-0, passed

Chief Doise recommended promoting Sgt. Det. Marie Manuel to Assistant Chief.

Mayor Lafargue request a motion to promote Sgt. Det. Marie Manuel to Assistant Chief

Motion: To promote Sgt. Det. Marie Manuel to Assistant Chief

Made by: Councilman Nevils

Second: Councilwoman Sonnier

Discussion: None

Vote: 4-0, passed

Chief Doise recommended the council preparing an ordinance on the skateboard type motorized scooters in town. They are running stop signs, riding on the highway, in the late hours of the night with no lights, signals, etc.

Chief Doise requested a Joint Service Agreement with Allen Parish Fire Department District #4 and Kinder Police Department so that we can link the first responder communication services for quicker response time.

Town Attorney Report

Holmes confirms that agenda item 8(a) is to introduce ordinance for Vape Shop. The documents previously provided a copy of the Baton Rouge ordinance at the last council meeting will be introduced as a place holder until the ordinance is drafted. Consider adoption at the May 4th meeting.

Mayor Lafargue requests an introduction of the Baton Rouge ordinance as a place holder. Councilwoman VanNorman introduce the Baton Rouge ordinance as a place holder until the town ordinance is drafted.

Holmes confirms that agenda item 8(b) is to approve rezoning 123 N 4th St. The zoning board meet and staff recommend that the board approve the rezoning of 123 N 4th St. The application was to rezone the property of Nanette Mayes on 4th St that is currently zoned as a Mobile Home Park to a single-family residence Medium Density. Zoning board unanimously approved the recommendation to rezone to Medium Density single family residence.

Mayor requested a motion to confirm the recommendation of the zoning board to approve the rezoning of 123 N 4th St from a Mobile Home Park (MHP) to Single family residence Medium Density (MD).

Motion: To approve the rezoning of 123 N 4th St from a Mobile Home Park (MHP) to Single family residence Medium Density (MD).

Made by: Councilwoman Sonnier

Second: Councilwoman VanNorman

Discussion: None

Passed: 4-0

Engineer's Report

Rhett Deselle of Pan American Engineers (PAE) reported: (1) on status of Wastewater Treatment Plant project (2) status of Nixon Addition drainage project; (3.) status of Clearance Project - Demolition and Clearance of Dilapidated and Blighted Structures.

Council Report

None

Town Clerk Report

None

Adjournment

Mayor LaFargue requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: To adjourn.

Made by: Councilman Tunwar

Second: Councilwoman Sonnier

Vote: 4-0, passed

With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

/s/Wayland LaFargue, Mayor

/s/ Cynthia Tunwar, Town Clerk