

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

March 9, 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
LaToya Tunwar, Councilwoman Dist.1
Maria DeWees, Councilwoman Dist. 2
Jerry Nevils, Jr., Councilman Dist. 3
Angie Van Norman, Councilwoman Dist.4
Susanne Sonnier, Councilwoman at Large
Cynthia Tunwar, Town Clerk
Michael Holmes, Town Attorney
Rhett Deselle, City Engineer

Council and Staff Absent:

Chief of Police

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 February 2, 2026, as presented.

Motion: To approve minutes as presented

Made by: Councilman Nevils

Second: Councilwoman Sonnier

Discussion: None

Vote: 5-0, passed

Mayor's Report

Mayor asks the council to consider surplus of (1.) Old Maintenance Building, 508 N 8th St; (2.) Bush Hogs – 2; (3.) Old building at Veteran’s Park.

Motion: To surplus Bush Hogs (x2)

Made by: Councilwoman VanNorman

Second: Councilwoman Tunwar

Discussion: None

Vote: 5-0, passed

Motion: To surplus Old Building at Veteran's Park

Made by: Councilwoman Sonnier

Second: Councilman Nevils

Discussion: None

Vote: 5-0, passed

Motion: To surplus Old Maintenance Building, 508 N 8th St, including property

Made by: Councilman Nevils

Second: Councilwoman Sonnier

Discussion: Councilwoman Tunwar opposed to surplus with property

Vote: 4-1, passed

Mayor request a motion to add agenda item 6 (b.) Resolution #2026-04 - Demolition and Clearance of Dilapidated and Blighted Structures for Lot 1 & Lot 2 – FY 2025 LCDBG - to the agenda

Motion: To add item 6 (b.) Resolution #2026-04 - Demolition and Clearance of Dilapidated and Blighted Structures for Lot 1 & Lot 2 – FY 2025 LCDBG – to the agenda

Made by: Councilman VanNorman

Second: Councilwoman Dewees

Discussion: None

Vote: 5-0, passed

Public Comments – None

Chief of Police Report

None

Town Attorney Report

Holmes confirms that agenda item 6 (b.) was added to the Engineer's Report. It was not published but added to the agenda.

Holmes advises agenda item 8.a to appoint an interim Chief of Police to serve the unexpired term.

Just to be clear, the vacancy for the elective Chief of Police the law provided the mayor and the council an opportunity to appoint a qualified person to fill the unexpired term. Because the unexpired term is less than 18 months there will not be a special election.

Mayor LaFargue recommended Kevin Doise from within the department to serve as interim Chief of Police. This is not an endorsement of any future elections but simply a temporary appointment to fulfil the duties for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Mayor requested a motion to appoint Kein Doise as interim Chief of Police to serve the unexpired term of Paul Courville.

Motion: To appoint Kevin Doise as interim Chief of Police to serve the unexpired term

Made by: Councilman Nevils

Second: Councilwoman Sonnier

Discussion: Councilwoman Tunwar makes a substitute motion to move to enter Executive Session regarding pertinent information about the suggested candidate or others who were involved. Motion under Act 42.17.1 to discuss the disciplinary actions from his prior employee (Village of Reeves) and complaints filed against Mr. Doise at that time.. Tunwar also wanted to make a motion to table or call Special Meeting

Councilwoman VanNorman requested motion to discuss. VanNorman thinks the fairest approach is to appoint a police chief who does not intend on running for the position. This keeps the town neutral, avoids giving any candidate an advantage and allows citizens of Kinder to make the final decision at the ballot box.

Councilwoman Tunwar exposes the results from freedom of information public records request by reading openly to the council.

Mayor requested a motion to close the votes.

Motion: To close the votes.

Made by: Councilman Nevils

Second: Councilwoman Dewees

Discussion: Councilwoman VanNorman made motion for independent roll call to avoid any confusion.

Mayor called for roll call vote on nomination of Kevin Doise for Chief of Police:

Councilwoman Tunwar	Nay
Councilwoman Dewees	Yea
Councilman Nevils	Yea
Councilwoman VanNorman	Nay
Councilwoman Sonnier	Yea

Motion passed 3-2.

Holmes informs that the rezoning of 123 N 4th St, was tabled / rescheduled for April 6, 2026, due to quorum / zoning board.

Holmes iterates on vape shops being near the church, daycare and school. Holmes will draw up a draft ordinance for council to review.

Holmes asks council to accept Vickie Tunwar's resignation as zoning board member. Appoint two new board members replace the resignation of Vickie Tunwar and one unexpired term of Brittney Taylor.

Councilwoman Tunwar makes a motion to recommend Barbara Harrison as Zoning Borad Member for District 1.

Mayor requested motion to accept the resignation of Vikie Tunwar -District 1 - Zoning Board Member

Motion: To accept the resignation of Vikie Tunwar Councilwoman Tunwar and appoint Barbara Harrison as District 1 - Zoning Board Member

Made by: Councilwoman Sonnier

Second: Councilwoman Dewees

Discussion: None

Vote: 4-0, passed; **Abstained:** 1 - Councilwoman Tunwar

Councilman Nevils makes a motion to recommend Molly Karam as Zoning Borad Member for District 3.

Mayor requested motion to appoint Molly Karam - Zoning Board Member – District 3 to fill unexpired term of Brittney Taylor

Motion: To appoint Molly Karam - Zoning Board Member – District 3 to fill unexpired term of Brittney Taylor

Made by: Councilwoman VanNorman

Second: Councilwoman Tunwar

Discussion: None

Vote: 5-0, passed;

Councilwoman Tunwar makes a motion to recommend Barbara Harrison as Zoning Borad Member for District 1.

Mayor requested motion to appoint Barbara Harrison as Zoning Board Member – District 1

Motion: To appoint Barbara Harrison - Zoning Board Member – District 1

Made by: Councilwoman VanNorman

Second: Councilman Nevils

Discussion: None

Vote: 5-0, passed

Mayor recommends \$50.00 compensation for zoning members presence at zoning board meetings. Holmes advised looking at ordinance beforehand.

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: Councilwoman Tunwar

Second: Councilwoman Dewees

Vote: 5-0, passed

With no further business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

/s/Wayland LaFargue, Mayor

/s/ Cynthia Tunwar, Town Clerk