Public Hearing and Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes

Town of Madisonville

403 St. Francis St

Wednesday May 8, 2019

7:00 pm

Public Hearing:

Call to Order- Mayor Pelloat

Roll Call- Alicia Watts- all present

 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 12 IN ITS ENTIRETY

Adjourn- Motion made by Councilman Haddox, seconded by Councilman Bounds, motion passed with all in favor.

Regular Town Council Meeting:

Call to Order- Mayor Pelloat

Roll Call- Alicia Watts- all present

Invocation- Councilman Haddox

Pledge- Councilman Bounds

* Wednesday April 10, 2019 Town Council Meeting Minutes Approved
* Wednesday April 24, 2019 Public Committee Meeting Minutes Approved
* March 2019 Financial Statements Approved
* Public Comment Period- no comments
* Mayor's Special Recognitions:
1. The Northlake Mandeville Rotary Club recently honored two first responders from Madisonville. Mayor Pelloat asked Chief Tyrney to explain Mike
Kast's nomination for that award and the Town recognized Ofc. Kast for his outstanding public service.
2. Myron Bourg stood to explain Ofc. Joey Sanders' nomination for the Rotary Club award, citing his years of service. The Town recognized Ofc. Sanders for his outstanding public service.
3. Mayor Pelloat recognized Amanda Vorhoff and Abby Williams for their service to the Youth Advisory Board, under direction of Keeping Madisonville Beautiful.
* Madisonville Master Plan Steering Committee- Mr. Louis Ogle reported there is currently twenty six people in the four project committees. He would like the meetings posted on the Town website and a status letter mailed out to all Town residents at the Town's expense. Mr. Ogle hopes to come in front of the Council with a definite project scope and possible funding offers by October 31, 2019. He asked for the RPC street and landscaping plan to be implemented by The Blind Tiger Restaurant and also for the Master Plan to be adopted. Guy Hebert stated that the townspeople had worked so hard, come together to help create the plan, donated their time to committees, and was disappointed by the Planning and Zoning Committee's failure to adopt the plan. He would like to know why action has not been taken to adopt. He goes on to say that the plan is a vision- not law. Mr. Ogle suggests the fencing ordinances be looked at by the Beautification Committee and some changes drawn up. Mayor Pelloat suggests they come to the Public Committee, where it will be discussed. Councilman Hitzman questions why Planning & Zoning did not pass it and what their thoughts are. He spoke of the CPEX email, offering their services to help implement the plan for an hourly wage. Mr. Morlier stood to voice his concerns about the "cottage commercial" aspect of the plan, and that if the plan is adopted, citizens would assume all of the aspects are voted in. He thinks the plan should be put to a vote by all Town citizens, as is. Councilman Doran asked if that was what was holding up P&Z, and Mr. Morlier deferred to Mr. Bourg. Mr. Morlier thinks the plan puts the riverfront beautification ahead of public safety. Councilman Doran states that plan is a "place mark". He stated it was disrespectful to not adopt after all the work done. Councilman Haddox states that if there are reasons to not adopt, Council needs to know. He states that the plan is a direction to move forward in, but many parts won't even be used. Mayor Pelloat states he knows there is more work to be done, CPEX has offered their help, and he has asked Steven Villavaso to come to Public Committee to offer his services. He also says parts of the plan and the committee work can be done without adopting the plan and that he doesn't understand the rush. Councilman Doran asks why there is no urgency for the master plan, but there was for The Blind Tiger and for annexation. Mr. Bourg explained that when the April P&Z convened, he was the only one who knew about the master plan, so he asked the others to review the plan before making a decision. He states that in the plan, it says an ordinance to adopt the plan has to be done, which makes it a law. Councilman Doran asks requests a resolution to make P&Z vote at their next meeting. He then suggests CPEX come to public committee to explain the legality of adoption. Councilman Haddox suggests further research to get answers on any questions/ oppositions. Mayor Pelloat explained that he met Mr. Villavaso at an event and when he heard his credentials, he asked him to come speak to the Council. Amy Arnoult said Mr. Morlier's property was included in the plan on accident, it was supposed to stop a block before his house. Mr. Hebert said Mr. Morlier had no right to come in at this point to try and stop the plan. Mr. Morlier is not in favor of the plan and suggests not adopting if you have to pick and choose what you want implemented. Councilman Doran again requests a resolution to vote on the adoption of the master plan at the June Council meeting. Councilman Haddox praises steering committee. Councilman Bounds says they have done a lot of work, they should continue, and that the plan has already been implemented in many things. Judy Darby asked what P&Z do, since they recommend only- why are they even involved. Mayor Pelloat suggests Ms. Darby come to Public Committee. Mr. Hebert stated that CPEX said many times that adopting the plan does not make it law, that it gives credence to outside authorities that this is what the Town wants and that 30 days should not have gone by with no decision.
* Nuisance (Rooster/ Noise) Ordinance- Motion to approve by Councilman Haddox, seconded by Councilman Bouey. Motion passed with Councilmen Haddox, Bouey, Hitzman, Doran, and Bounds approve- asked individually.
* Annexation- Mayor states this was discussed at public committee meeting and there were questions about utilities being able to handle increase so Mr. Mathews received a report from the Town's engineer stating it was more than sufficient. Mayor states he does not want to put forth more effort into contacting home owners without getting direction from the Council. Councilman Doran thinks the master plan should be the sole focus, not annexation. He thinks citizens should vote on annexation. Councilman Haddox thinks it should be passed, that the subdivision will happen anyway and impact the Town, so the Town should have authority over the growth. He lists impact fees, a new sewage system built and donated to the Town, water lines extended and utility costs as some of the perks of annexation. An audience member asks if someone can do a cost analysis and Councilman Haddox says we already have a good estimate based on existing figures. Councilman Doran asks what the urgency is for the annexation. Mayor states he wants direction. Councilman Hitzman is for it but wants a cost analysis and a certified copy of engineer's report, Mr. Danner states a certified copy is not a thing. Councilman Bounds states he has not heard anything negative about annexation, this way we can control our borders, which will actually help the master plan because it allows for more control. He says to continue forward, Councilman Haddox agrees. Councilman Doran states that election time is coming, let the citizens decide on their own. Councilman Haddox motions to pursue annexation, Councilman Hitzman seconds. Motion passed with all in favor but Councilman Doran.

New Business:

* Introduction of FY2020 Budget- Mayor Pelloat asks Council to review budget and it will be discussed at public committee meeting.
* Introduction of State Bond Ordinance- Mr. Offner stood to explain that the introduction of the Ordinance allows them to shop around for the best interest rate. That rate would then be filled in on the Ordinance for acceptance by Council in June. Ordinance was introduced and there were no questions by Council or citizens.
* Joey Mahone- Louisiana Legislative Auditors Report- Mr. Mahone asked if the Town had complied with the policy updates, per the audit report. Mayor Pelloat said yes. Mr. Mahone asked if there had been a response from the Governor's office pertaining to the letter Mr. Danner sent about the Census, the answer was no. Mr. Mahone questions whether the Town needs to advertise an Ordinance three times prior to passing it, and if Mr. Danner could look into that and the Town act accordingly.
* Monthly Department Reports:
1. Engineering- Mr. Joe, PEC, gave an outline of the Town's grant applications. The LGAP, CWEF and Town Park Improvement grants were approved, LDWF is waiting for approval.
2. Police- Chief Tyrney stated that in May 2018 there were 201 citations, in May 2019 there were 219. He reported the Tickfaw 200 was a success, even with the rain, and he spoke of the Rotary Club's recognition of Officer Kast.
3. Maintenance/ Utility- Kyle Matthews reported 12 new gas customers and a new main was installed for a subdivision. He also stated the smoke testing that was done showed 18 minor leaks, all taken care of. He reported the work done on the cemetery sidewalk and fence, the blacktop on Rene st done, and the police station was almost complete.
4. Permits- Mr. Courouleau reported three new permits, two residential and one fence permit.
5. Cultural Arts- no report
6. Town Attorney- Bruce listed several things he was working on: the State Bond Ordinance, cemetery, Council and Public Committee Meeting, a donation, Madison Ridge Phase 2, Maritime Museum insurance, STMA crawfish boil, Municode, Pine St Acquisitive Prescription, Mayor's Court, and the cell tower agreement.
* Council Comments- none
* Mayor's Comments- Mayor announces the May 15, 2019 Deaux To Geaux Ribbon Cutting and some of the grants the Town has received. Mayor Pelloat asked each Councilman to report additions/ changes to the Municode draft- each Councilman will submit by 5/14/19. He also told of the cemetery getting an arched sign for the entry way, the fence, and the back will have handicap access- mostly paid for by motion picture fees and Hurricane Isaac recovery money.
* Adjourn- motion made by Councilman Bounds, seconded by Councilman Haddox and passed with all in favor.