Public Committee Meeting Minutes

Town of Madisonville

403 St. Francis St

May 22, 2019

7:00 pm

Call to Order- Mayor Jean Pelloat

Roll Call- Alicia Watts- all present but Councilmen Doran and Hitzman

Pledge- Councilman Bouey

Parks and Recreation:

Committee Members- Councilman Bounds

Councilman Hitzman

* Sunset at the Park- Mayor Pelloat announced the rescheduling of the event for June 9, 2019

Operations and Maintenance:

Committee Members- Councilman Haddox

Councilman Bouey

* Environmental Consulting- Stephen Villavaso- Mr. Villavaso could not make it- Mayor Pelloat read his email to Mr. Villavaso expressing his disappointment. Guy Hebert stated that Haley from CPEX was present and should speak. Haley asked for questions. Bruce Danner had a question about the word adoption. He found a case where that word had divided a town when Planning and Zoning adopted a master plan. They then approved a developer's plan using existing zoning, but Council denied it because it did not follow the master plan. The First Circuit Court tried the case and said the decision has to go by zoning. The zoning is the law. Haley explained that zoning would have to be changed to match the master plan. She agreed that zoning is law. She also stated that adopting the plan does not by law require you to change zoning immediately. Mayor Pelloat asks why it has to be adopted by Planning and Zoning at all. Haley said it can be accepted, whatever word that makes the Town comfortable can be used, as long as it goes forward. Mayor Pelloat states that the adoption/ acceptance of the plan should not keep the three committees from moving forward with listing what Ordinances or Zoning matters need to be changed and bringing it in front of the Council. He states a couple of concerns: that the Steering Committee members have called CPEX to change the plan and someone from the committee spoke to Heritage Bank about a street change in the plan and how it might affect the business. His concern is that these things were done without going through or even consulting the Town or the Council. Louis Ogle admitted that he had done this. He also stated the plus of adopting the plan is the negotiating power it gives with the state. Mr. Hebert said the whole thing started because people saw St. Tammany Parish taking over the Town and pushed for a master plan to have some form of power to stop it. He states that citizen participation was a very high level, agreed upon by Haley. Haley said the reason the Mayor pushed for CPEX was because of the level of participation they requested from citizens. Judy Darby states that adoption implies legal ramifications and would require someone that had an issue with the plan to get a lawyer. Haley said that is not the case. Councilman Bounds states there were a lot of positive feedback from citizens about the plan, and that the legal team should handle the legal wording. He suggests changing the temper of the conversations and keeping the momentum going. Haley directs the Town to look at the implementation pages included in the plan.
* Municode- Mayor Pelloat commented on the amount of participation with the Municode proof. At the May Council meeting, the Mayor requested each Councilman review the proof and submit their questions/ changes by May 14. Mayor Pelloat thanked Councilmen Haddox, Hitzman, Bounds and Bouey, Kyle Matthews, Al Courouleau, Wayne Morlier, Bruce Danner and Alicia Watts for their participation. All the concerns submitted have been reviewed and addressed. August is the projected time to start hearings to adopt the code. Councilman Haddox suggests having signs posted to tell people about mooring permits and where to get them.
* Fencing- Mr. Ogle mentions the plan recommends consistency in fencing throughout town. This discussion was postponed until suggestions were brought forth by Council.
* Parking- Councilman Haddox thinks current parking Ordinance is sufficient. Councilman Bounds suggests removing this topic from further agendas until Councilman Doran brings forth a plan, which has been promised for months. Topic will be removed.

Finance:

Committee Members: Councilman Hitzman

Councilman Haddox

* FY2020 Budget- Councilman Haddox suggests adjusting the anticipated sales tax since The Blind Tiger will not be building in Madisonville. Mayor Pelloat answered that it was a very conservative figure.
* State Bond Ordinance- the bond was approved. Mayor Pelloat said he would not recommend passing the Ordinance until a location for the meter was found.

Public Safety:

Committee Members- Councilman Doran

Councilman Bounds

* Fire Department- Chief Randy Hess- absent

**Public Comment Period: members of the audience will have three (3) minutes to make a statement or express a concern. (Anyone having or expressing a concern tonight may or may not get an answer due to the fact that the council is hearing the concern for the first time. All statements will be considered and everyone will receive an answer in the near future).**

Councilman Bounds states that the master plan and Municode go hand in hand and to know that there is a Councilman that did not review the Municode with everything going on, is very disappointing.

* Adjourn- Motion made by Councilman Haddox, seconded by Councilman Bounds, passed with Bounds, Haddox and Bouey in favor.