Public Committee Meeting Minutes

Town of Madisonville

403 St. Francis St

July 24, 2019

7:00pm

Call to Order- Mayor Jean Pelloat

Roll Call- Alicia Watts- all present

Pledge- Councilman Hitzman

Parks and Recreation:

Committee Members- Councilmen Bounds and Hitzman

Operations and Maintenance:

Committee Members- Councilmen Haddox and Bouey

* Annexation- Mayor Pelloat reported that he had spoken with Mr. Coates and he was no longer interested in pursuing the 40 lot proposal with the Town. He is planning to approach the parish with the original 61 lot proposal. Councilmen Hitzman and Haddox agreed that the Town should pursue Mr. Coates, even with the larger number of lots. Councilman Bounds stated he is no longer interested, because of the increased number of lots. Councilman Haddox stated that the Council was in agreement to annex to Motichek Rd, and that would cost a good bit, and we should have allowed Mr. Coates to build and alleviate that cost. Mayor Pelloat stated that by the Council's inaction, they had lost the ability to minimize the impact. Councilman Doran asked Joey Sanders if the fire hydrants had adequate water pressure, they do. He stated to move forward with annexing to Motichek Rd and leave communication open with Mr. Coates.
* Town Hall Options- Mayor Pelloat restated the options available for Town Hall. He cites the Danner complex, the Dendinger property, and renovating the existing building. The Mayor said that after touring both other properties, he thinks the Danner complex would best suit the Town and has the ability to house all Town departments in one facility. He stated the flood risk would not change in the existing Town hall, no matter the renovations. Mr. Danner spoke of his upcoming semi retirement and his desire to minimize his holdings. He stated had received an appraisal of $850,000.00, but would sell it to the Town for $650,000.00 and a $200,000.00 donation tax write off. Councilman Hitzman asked what would happen to the existing Town buildings. Judy Darby asked Mr. Danner many questions about his building; what the elevation is, how many offices he had vacant, what the turnover was, the expenses on his property. Mayor Pelloat stated the hall could be used as a community center, to rent out for events, and for senior activities. He does not agree with the master plan to demolish the building. Councilman Bounds stated the master plan calls for demolition only when the building has outlived its use. Councilman Hitzman thought the hall had served its purpose, and a trailhead would be better. Mr. Ogle would like to see that as well, citing the master plan. He also stated the public should decide the future use of the Town buildings. Councilman Doran stated a community center is a dated concept. Councilman Bounds stated it was obvious that Mr. Danner's property was the best option, and the Town should see what costs would be involved before they make a final decision. Councilmen Haddox and Hitzman agree that is the best option. Ms. Darby had further questions: why it seemed this was being done in secret, what provisions would need to be made for an evidence room and if the Town was buying property just to rent it.
* Proposed Meeting Changes- Mayor recited the outcome of the previous discussion on meeting changes, that the Planning & Zoning meeting day had changed. The other change requested was for the Council meetings to be held at 6:00pm on the second Wednesday of the month instead of 7:00pm. All councilmen were in agreement. An ordinance will need to be created and introduced at the next meeting. Mr. Danner was asked to prepare one.

Finance:

Committee Members- Councilmen Hitzman and Haddox

* Resolution- Property Donation- Stephen and Ashley Guidry want to donate two lots on Johnson St., almost at the corner of 4th st., to the Town. The councilmen had no issues with this.
* Resolution- Town Park Improvements- The Town was awarded a $90,000.00 grant to be matched in kind by the Town, for a total of $180,000.00. This money will go to the town Park amphitheater and walkway.
* Mayor Pelloat amended the agenda to ask the Council to consider raising the salary for incoming Council. They currently make $550.00/ month and the Mayor would like to see it go to $750.00. Councilman Haddox said to put it on the agenda for the next public committee meeting to discuss. Councilman Bounds said he would rather concentrate on the Town hall and the master plan. Councilman Bouey would like it on the agenda, Councilmen Hitzman and Doran agreed.

Public Safety:

Committee Members- Councilmen Doran and Bounds

* Ordinance to Regulate Fire Alarms- Joey Sanders made changes to a previously proposed ordinance, per Mr. Danner's request. The Mayor asked if there were current violators- no. He asked what the fire department does to help violators- Mr. Sanders said they have helped people solve the issues that trigger the alarms. He also stated that this ordinance is geared more towards owners who show neglect. Mayor Pelloat asked what alarms the fire department responds to and how they know the difference. Mr. Sanders said the alarm company gets a code from the alarm that allows them to know what kind of emergency it is. The Council stated they were ok with the fees charged. This ordinance will need to be introduced at the Council meeting and follow all ordinance protocol.

Public Comment Period- none

Adjourn- motion made by Councilman Bouey, seconded by Councilman Hitzman, passed with all in favor.