**Regular Town Council Meeting**

**Town of Madisonville**

**403 St. Francis St**

**Wednesday May 12, 2021**

**6:00 pm**

**Regular Town Council Meeting:**

Call to Order- Mayor Jean Pelloat

Roll Call- Alicia Watts

Invocation- Councilman Haddox

Pledge- Councilman Bounds

* April 14, 2021 Town Council Meeting Minutes Approved
* April 28, 2021 Public Committee Meeting Minutes Approved
* March 2021 Financials- Council was given financials one week prior to meeting with budget to actuals and asked for comments or questions. During the meeting, Mayor Pelloat asked if there were any questions again, there were none. Financials approved.
* Public Comment Period: members of the audience will have three (3) minutes to make a statement or express a concern at the outset of the meeting. (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)

**Old Business:**

* Water Street- Mayor Pelloat reported DOTD had verbally approved the plans to be submitted in June.
* Cell Tower Update- Mayor Pelloat asked each Councilmember for their opinions on whether to sell the lease to the cell tower, for $701,240.00, or keep on receiving rent. Councilman Hitzman voted to take the lump sum and hold it to use as matching money for future grants. Councilmen Haddox, Bounds and Denis voted the same. Councilman Bouey voted to keep the rental income and not take the lump sum. The vote to pursue the lump sum sale was 4 for, 1 against.
* Golf Cart Ordinance- Mr. Danner reported having requested from the DOTD clarification on whether the denial of golf carts crossing state highways included LSV's( low speed vehicles). He received a phone call first and then a follow up letter from the DOTD stating even an LSV crossing "would constitute an impermissible risk to the motoring public" and was denied. Brian Davis, 305 St. Joseph, asked if the Town would oppose going through legislation to pass a bill to allow LSV's to cross the highway. He also stated the letter from the DOTD was not valid unless they had gone through the proper rule making process. Three audience members stated their support for golf cart/ LSV usage in Town. Council opinion was as follows:

Hitzman- was "on the fence" pending the Town Attorney and Police Chief's opinion

Haddox- in favor, stated DOTD should stop bikes and people walking across the highway if they don't allow carts

Bounds- stated there was no need for approval if the state deems it legal, DOTD should explain how they can deny the request

Dennis- is for as long as the Town is not liable and has legislative approval

Bouey- does not want the town to be liable

Mayor Pelloat asked who would be seeking legislative approval. Chief Tyrney stated if the DOTD denied it, they should not pursue it. Council conceded State law authorizes LSV use except for crossing highways.

**New Business:**

* Introduction of FY 21/22 Budget Ordinance- Deidre Boudreaux explained that the budget had been handed out to Council prior and there had been no previous questions. She went through some of the figures and asked if there were any further questions. There were not. A motion to introduce the Ordinance adopting the FY 21/22 Budget was made by Councilman Dennis, seconded by Councilman Bouey and approved by all.
* National Safe Boating Week Proclamation- Pete Scamardo and Keith Dufour, Coast Guard, were awarded a proclamation claiming May 22-28, 2021 as National Safe Boating Week.
* Sawmill Docks Requests Conditional Zoning Change From Marina to Multi-Family and Marina- Erin Poole, Sawmill Docks, requested a conditional zoning change from marina to multi-family. Kenneth Lobell spoke of the condominiums he wants to build on a portion of land at Sawmill Docks. The piece he would buy is 302x186x306x163 and would house 16 units, approximately 2300 sf each, with two pools and lots of landscaping. On record, he stated there would be no short term rentals allowed and that would be in his condo documents. A motion for conditional approval for a zoning change for that specific piece of property to house multi- family built by Kenneth Lobell with the terms of no short rentals allowed, no variances asked for and that he will be saving as many Cypress trees as possible was made by Councilman Dennis, seconded by Councilman Bounds and approved by all.
* 403 St. Francis St.- Town Hall- Mayor Pelloat presented a contract from Antoine Architects for renovation of the current Town Hall. Councilman Dennis stated it would be a good use of the building. The estimated cost is $515,900.00. Councilman Bounds stated it would be a great revenue source and it falls in line with the Master Plan. All of the Councilmen voted to move forward with the plans except for Councilman Hitzman, who would like to see a rental income estimate.
* Monthly Department Reports:
1. Engineering- Mr. Harmon reported the status of several projects: the Emergency Water Connection project is substantially complete, he requested approval to advertise for bids on the WWTP Improvements ( motion to approve by Councilman Bouey, seconded by Councilman Hitzman and approved by all), the Sanitary Sewer Study has been completed and review has begun, and Boat Launch Improvements is 70% complete.
2. Police- Chief Tyrney reported a death, a high speed pursuit, and that in April 2021 there were 217 citations, 22 arrests and 4 accident; as opposed to in 2020 20 tickets, 1 arrest and 2 accidents.
3. Maintenance/ Utility- Mr. Matthews reported 30 new services, finishing replacing fire hydrants, new street signs and overlaying 3rd through 6th streets.
4. Permits- Mr. Courouleau reported 5 permits: 3 sheds, 1 fence and 1 fill.
5. Town Attorney- Mr. Danner reported attending Mayor's Court, Public Committee Meeting and Council Meeting and working on several contracts, Ordinances and the cell tower offers.
* Council Comments- Councilman Bounds thanked everyone for participating in the Cleanest City Contest and announced that the town had won the district title.
* A new Madisonville Park and Playground rental application was offered for review and a motion was made to approve by Councilman Bouey, seconded by Councilman Dennis and approved by all.
* Mayor's Comments
* Adjourn- Motion by Councilman Bouey, seconded by Councilman Haddox and approved by all.