

**MINUTES - PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2018**

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MINUTES

TOWN OF MADISONVILLE

403 ST. FRANCIS STREET

PUBLIC HEARING

AND REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

January 10, 2018

7:00P.M.

**I. PUBLIC HEARING:**

Call to order Mayor Pelloat

Roll call Wayne C. Morlier

Councilmen Haddox, Bouey, and Hitzman present

Councilmen Bounds and Doran absent

A. Proposed Ordinance No. 152, Amending Chapter 10, Article A, Section 10.19  
Building Permits

The Proposed Ordinance No. 152 was read by Mr. Morlier. Mayor Pelloat asked if there were any comments. Mr. Myron Bourg, 404 St. Tammany Street, recommended there be an ordinance restricting building sizes so that situations like the Friends Restaurant cannot occur. The Council thanked Mr. Bourg for his comment.

Mayor Pelloat requested a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Councilman Haddox made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilman Bouey, all were in favor.

**II. REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:**

Call meeting to order Mayor Pelloat

Roll Call Wayne C. Morlier

Councilmen Haddox, Bouey, and Hitzman present

Councilmen Bounds and Doran absent

Invocation – Councilman Hitzman

Pledge –Councilman Bouey

1. Approval of December 13, 2017 Regular Town Council Minutes

Councilman Bouey made a motion that the December 13, 2017 minutes be approved. Councilman Hitzman seconded the motion, the motion passed with all in favor.

2. Approval of November 2017 Financial Statements

Councilman Haddox made a motion that the November 2017 Financial Statements be approved. Councilman Bouey seconded the motion, the motion passed with all in favor.

3. 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).

Mayor Pelloat introduced Ms. Terry Lynn McDonald as the new Director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum. Ms. McDonald introduced herself stating she had been the Director of a Regional Museum in upstate New York and was able to resolve the museum's financial situation from a deficit to positive earnings. The Council welcomed her to Madisonville.

Mr. Nashat Haider, Arabi, LA, introduced himself as the the potential new owner of the River Food Mart as he is negotiating with Mr. Steven Marcus to lease the business. He stated that he owns businesses in Hammond, Chalmette and New Orleans. The Council welcomed Mr. Haider and wished him the best in his business endeavor.

Mr. Myron Bourg, 404 St. Tammany Street, stated that he had seen on Facebook that the Abita Roasting Company was going to have music this coming weekend. Mr. Bourg asked the status of Abita Roasting Company being approved as a restaurant. Mayor Pelloat responded that the new owners made a request to be on the Public Committee agenda on January 24th so they could explain what they want to do. Mayor Pelloat encouraged all to attend. Councilman Bouey asked why Abita Roasting is being allowed to act as a restaurant if they are not classified as a restaurant and don't

they need to abide by the rules. Mayor Pelloat stated that he understands the concerns.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

4. Status of Police Chief Vacancy – Mayor Pelloat stated that 11 applicants will be interviewed by a five-person panel at the end of the month. He further stated that there is no time table for making a selection but expects a recommendation will be made to the Council by the end of February. He stated the department is running well at this time.

5. Status of Post Office Closure – Mayor Pelloat read a letter received from Congressman Steve Scalise. The letter stated the Post Office lease has been renewed to 2023 and would not be closing. Councilman Haddox asked if the routes will be originating out of Mandeville. Mayor Pelloat stated “yes”.

6. Status of Recreational Trails Grant – Mayor Pelloat stated that the Town received a letter stating the Town does not qualify for the grant. He further stated that the Town is working on the challenges and problems. The grant request will be resubmitted for June 1, 2018.

7. Keith Dufour, 451 Hwy 22, Request for Approval of Fill Dirt – Mr Dufour and his wife, Lauren Dufour, presented their request and referenced a five page document that was provided to each councilman and the Mayor. Mr. Dufour explained that his property is leased to Southern Woods and that his neighbors elevation are 3 to 4 feet above his property. He further explained that he desired to be equal to his neighbors because flooding continues on his property. Mayor Pelloat asked Mr. Dufour to clarify his request. After much discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Dufour’s request was for approval to keep the fill dirt that already exists on his property and not to add any additional fill dirt or move existing fill dirt such that it increases the height of his property above its existing level. Also, it was agreed that swales ditches would be constructed to allow water to flow to the Hwy 22 ditch without flooding his neighbors. It was also decided that this agreement is a variance to the fill ordinance and that Mr. Jewell Chatellier will inspect the work to ensure it is in accordance with Page 3 of Mr. Dufour’s document.

Councilman Haddox made a motion to approve the request. Councilman Hitzman seconded the motion, the motion passed with Councilmen Haddox and Hitzman in favor. Councilman Bouey abstained.

8. Update on Rampart Street - Mayor Pelloat stated that letters were sent to the property owners based on surveys. Councilman Hitzman confirmed that the second

request on verifying the property line was completed. Mr. Joey Mahon, 201 Rampart Street, stated that several months ago he asked the Council to approve removal of the obstacles on Town property that had an impact on his customers and his personal ability to utilize his driveway. He then stated that the obstacles have been removed and that his complaint has been satisfied. He then asked the Council to declare the matter resolved. There was no response from the Council.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

#### 9. Proposed Ordinance No. 152, Amending Chapter 10, Article A, Section 10.19 Building Permits

Mayor Pelloat asked if there is a motion to approve Ordinance 152 that was read and considered during the public hearing. There being no comments, Councilman Bouey made a motion to approve, Councilman Haddox seconded, the motion passed with all present in favor; Councilmen Haddox, Bouey and Hitzman. Councilmen Bounds and Doran were absent.

#### 10. Monthly Department reports:

##### Engineer

Mr. Joe Harmon stated that the Pine Street punch list items have been completed. He then stated that Mr. Kyle Matthews and he met with the developer of the Madison Ridge extension and that he (Mr. Harmon) would perform inspections on the streets and utility relocations.

##### Police Department

Chief Ryan Mahne reported the following:

.The equipment for the new police vehicle has been provided to the Parish to install.

.The radar grant program report was submitted and subsequently returned by the grant reviewer. The revised report was submitted and awaiting approval by the grant reviewer.

. Organization of the evidence room is 99% complete and additional shelving is being constructed. Chief Mahne will be meeting with the Covington Evidence Officer to go over orders of destruction.

. The Police Clerk, Alicia Watts, is doing a tremendous job in making the patrolmen and the Chief's lives better. She is working on a police records retention schedule that will be provided to the State of LA for approval.

. In order to let citizens know what is going on, the hours of traffic control is now being captured. From December 14th through December 27th 61 hours of traffic control was logged resulting in 24 stops (17 tickets and 7 warnings).

. During December 2017, there were 46 tickets, 5 accidents and 4 arrests.

## Public Works

Director Kyle Matthews provided the following report:

. Twenty new gas customers

. Will meet with the Town gas supplier, Gulfsouth, and consultant, Blackbelt Energy to ensure that our gas supply is adequate in the Goodbee and Robert areas.

. Met with Mr. Joe Harmon and Madison Ridge developer regarding inspections of blacktop streets and relocation of utilities.

. Madisonville Jr. High students will plant trees on Tuesday, January 16, 2018. Funds for the plants came from a Brown Foundation grant.

## Permits Department

Mr. Jewell Chatellier stated that activity in December 2017 was slow and reported the following:

. The new Firehouse on Hwy 22 should be completed within the next 60 days.

. The boat shed project on Hwy 22 is under way.

. He is working with architects for Dr. Ferrara's dental office located on the corner of Covington and Rampart Streets. Dr. Ferrara is considering adding on or demolishing his commercial building and rebuilding.

. The owner of two properties and buildings on Morgan Street where the old laundromat was located is asking to subdivide the property. This will be on the Planning and Zoning Commission February 6, 2018 agenda.

## Town Attorney

Mr. Danner reported that he handled LaMats contracts/agreements, public records requests, Rampart Street issues, retirement of Chief Smith, solicitation for a new Chief

of Police, the preparation of ordinances and resolutions, and provided advice to the Mayor on a sundry of items.

#### 11. Comments by Council

There were no comments by any Councilmen.

#### 12. Mayors' report to Council

Mayor Pelloat stated that the Town's Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Audit reflected no recommendations or issues; thus, it was a clean audit.

Next, Mayor Pelloat pointed out a five page article on the Madisonville Cemetery that was in the January-February 2018 edition of Inside Northside magazine. The article entitled "Resurrecting A Cemetery" was submitted by Ms. Sandra Juneau and Mr. Anthony "Chopper" Leone.

Mayor Pelloat then reported on an email he received from the Corps of Engineers on January 9th at 4:39pm. The email was in regards to the dredging of the mouth of the Tchefuncte River that is scheduled to start on January 25th. The dredging is scheduled to be 5 foot deep and 125 feet wide with waste material being dumped on either side of the Lighthouse. Councilman Haddox asked for clarification when the dredging would start. Mayor Pelloat stated around January 25, 2018.

He then stated that the Public Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, January 24, 2018. The agenda will include the size of commercial and institutional buildings as well as the rezoning of Water Street that the new owners of Abita Roasting Company will request.

#### 13. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilman Bouey to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Haddox, motion passed with all in favor.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Wayne C. Morlier, Town Clerk