

TOWN OF MADISONVILLE
REGULAR MEETING
June 13, 2012

On roll call the following answered present: Mayor Gitz, Councilmen Badeaux, Lange, Ostendorf, Bouey and Bounds.

The Mayor requested the Public Notice items be read.

1. A request by the Madisonville Town Council to re-consider a proposed amendment to the Planning and Zoning Ordinance to allow "Conditional Uses". This proposed amendment is in draft and can be reviewed Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Madisonville Town Hall, 403 St. Francis Street, Madisonville, Louisiana.
2. A request to amend Section 10.14.1 – C-3 Riverfront Commercial of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Madisonville under Permitted Uses;
Item (3) Professional offices, limited to accountants, architects, artists, attorneys and engineers to read
"Item (3) Professional offices, such as accountants, architects, artists, attorneys, engineers, ***insurance offices and real estate offices.***"

All other portions of Section 10.14.1 shall remain as original.

After the Public Hearing Notice was read, Mayor Gitz asked the audience if there were any questions. There being none, the Public Hearing was closed and the meeting continued to the next item on the agenda.

Mayor Gitz asked for the approval of the minutes of the May 9, 2012 Council Meeting. On motion by Councilman Bouey and seconded by Councilman Lange, the approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

The Mayor inquired of the Council if there were any questions they might have on the Financial Statements of April 2012. No questions were submitted and a motion to accept the Financial Statements was made by Councilman Bounds and seconded by Councilman Badeaux, all were in favor.

The Mayor began the meeting by asking if anyone in the audience, not listed on the agenda, wanted to address the Council. There being no answer, the mayor moved to the next item on the agenda.

Mr. Joe Harman of PEC reported on the status of the Bulkhead Project. He stated that the revised specs, in the proper format, had been submitted along with the intergovernmental agreement. Included is additional detail that will connect the bulkhead to the Coast Guard Shed.

It was explained that "Conditional Use" request from the Public Hearing had been tabled and only one item needed to be addressed at this time. Council Bounds questioned the wording "such as" in the

proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 68 dealing with businesses included in "Riverfront Commercial". The phrase "such as" leaves an opening for further expansion. Mr. King stated this would limit the professions to those listed in the ordinance. The new ordinance would need to be amended if there are any other professionals wanting to establish a practice on Water St. On motion by Councilman Badeaux and seconded by Councilman Bouey the vote to amend the ordinance to include real estate offices and insurances offices is as follows:

YEAS: Councilmen Badeaux, Ostendorf, Lange and Bouey

NAYS: Councilman Bounds

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

The Mayor explained that last year there was a discussion to alternate between the St. Tammany Farmer and the St. Tammany News as the Town's Official Journal. This year, St. Tammany News would be the new Official Journal. Mayor Gitz stated that the Council would make the decision. On motion by Councilman Bounds and seconded by Councilman Lange, the motion to select St. Tammany News as the Official Journal for the 2012-2013 fiscal year passed unanimously.

Mayor Gitz asked for the Council's approval to appoint Joyce Core as Clerk and Jeanie Morlier as Secretary-Treasurer. There being no objection, a motion was made by Councilman Badeaux and seconded by Councilman Bouey. Motion passed unanimously.

Arts for Madisonville requested the free use of the Community Center on August 18th and 19th, 2012 for an art workshop. Fees relating to janitorial services will be paid by the organization. On motion by Councilman Bounds and seconded by Councilman Ostendorf, the motion passed unanimously.

The next item submitted for the Council's consideration is the request from various organizations located in Town to use the Community Center free of all fees on July 4th, 2012, from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. Councilman Badeaux questioned if the use of the Community Center is in conjunction with the activities being held at the ballfield. Councilman Bounds also asked if the organizers would be responsible for cleaning the hall after the event. Mrs. Morlier responded the organizations requested all fees be waived. Councilman Badeaux wanted clarification on the non-profit status of the event. Councilman Ostendorf stated this event is not a "fund raiser". With that statement, Councilman Bounds believes that since the organizations involved are non-profit, the Town needs to absorb the cost; especially since this celebration follows the recent bicentennial of the Town. On motion by Councilman Bounds and seconded by Councilman Badeaux, the motion carried without opposition.

Since July will start the new fiscal year, the mayor presented to the Council a suggestion to give the Town's employees a cost of living raise. After reviewing the previous year's payroll expenses, including insurance benefits, FICA and Unemployment, the amount expended was \$1 million. A 1 % (percent) payroll increase would cost the Town an additional \$10,000 and a 1 ½ % (percent) increases the liability to the Town to \$15,000. At this time, we are already over budget due to increases in gasoline, vehicle

maintenance, and a decrease in gas system revenue because of the recent warm winter. Mayor Gitz opened the floor for discussion by the Council. Councilman Bouey quoted the amounts Abita Springs, Folsom and Pearl River was giving their employees. Councilman Bounds stated that although the economy is not doing well, the employees deserve a raise because of their efforts. Councilman Badeaux agreed and added the Town needs to look at some ways to tighten its belt. It was proposed by Councilman Bounds that the Council authorize a 1 ½% (percent) cost of living raise. As the audience submitted no comments or questions, a motion was made by Councilman Bounds and seconded by Councilman Badeaux, the motion carried unanimously.

A movie company requested the use of the library for filming. The organization will pay the Town \$10,000, the police will receive \$35 per hour and \$10 an hour per police vehicle. Mayor Gitz stated Mr. King reviewed the contract and everything seemed to be in order. A motion was made by Councilman Bouey and seconded by Councilman Lange to allow the filming of the movie on Town property, the motion passed unanimously.

The use of "Paychex" for the Town employees' payroll, which was tabled from last month's meeting, was presented to the Council. It was stated in the discussion there would be no contract and the Town could discontinue services at any time. On motion by Councilman Bouey and seconded by Councilman Badeaux, the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Bouey inquired on the status of the fire hydrant on Rampart at Cedar St. The Mayor replied that we would need the line hot tapped, which will cost approximately \$5,000. Councilman Bouey stated he would like to see the repairs completed before school begins in August. Because of other projects being worked on at the school, the Mayor stated any additional work needs to be prioritized.

Also discussed was the status of the dry hydrant located on Mabel Dr. In order to eliminate destroying property, the Mayor will have Mr. Rawlin Williams assess the situation and possibly place the pipe in the drain.

Councilman Badeaux presented two items for new business. The first item was an invitation, particularly to the Council, to visit the Maritime Museum. There are many exciting programs including an underwater vehicle program, boat building, and field trips.

The second item presented by the Councilman was establishing a checklist for festivals. A proposed checklist was given to each Councilman detailing what information would be necessary, such as police details and clean-up responsibilities, before permission would be granted for an event. By doing so, the confusion over police paid details, possible use of the town hall and opened dates would already be addressed before requesting permission.

Mayor Gitz also commented on the great work being done at the Maritime Museum. This organization has approximately 275 volunteers with only two paid employees. These workers are doing a fantastic job.

Also discussed by the Mayor was the use of the town facilities. He stated that we try to eliminate organizations using town resources that are not a non-profit organization associated with the Town.

Garbage fee increases beginning in the next fiscal year was presented to the Council. Mayor Gitz stated that dumpster fees alone cost the Town \$10,000 a year. Although no one in Town is charged for this service, we collect and dispose of everything from refrigerators, bedding and furniture, and television sets. We are only allowed to burn in emergencies only. The Mayor suggested a discussion be held during the next Council meeting to increase garbage fees an additional \$2.25 to defray the cost of garbage collection.

The Mayor reported the status on the repairs to the ballfield facilities. The Pavilion is complete with new flooring and a roof. Repairs also included the small concession stand. The tennis court should be completed within the next ten days and the Coast Guard shed roof had been painted with a special rubber-based sealant. Councilman Bounds, upon inquiring on insurance coverage on the wind-damage repairs to the Pavilion, was told by the Mayor the Town was not insured.

Mayor Gitz stated Capital Outlay monies might be available for use by the Town. PEC is working on this endeavor and should file for funding by September or October. Some possible uses of the money would be for the riverfront or Morgan St.

There being no more items before the Council, the Mayor asked for a motion to pay all bills. On motion by Councilman Bouey and seconded by Councilman Lange, the motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was given by Councilman Lange. Along with the motion, Councilman Lange stated he enjoyed his time on the Council and appreciated the opportunity to serve. Although he will be leaving, he will not be going away.

Before the second motion to adjourn, Mr. King reported changes that were made to a movie contract previously sent to the Council. The change made Louisiana rather than California law apply. Mayor Gitz added that a movie will be filmed for one day and the Town will collect \$5,000.

Council Bouey seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Jeanie A. Morlier
Secretary-Treasurer