

TOWN OF MADISONVILLE  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 10, 2012

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

Mayor Gitz opened the Public Hearing by requesting Ms. Morlier read the Minutes of the Planning and Zoning Meeting held on October 2, 2012.

As no questions were submitted, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Scott Gardner asked to address those in attendance. Mr. Gardner stated he has been an Assistant District Attorney with trial experience in prosecuting violent crime cases. He asked for support in his run for Judge for the Court of Appeals in St. Tammany Parish.

Mayor Gitz requested approval of the Minutes of the September 12, 2012 meeting. On motion by Councilman Bouey and seconded by Councilman Ostendorf, the approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

The motion to approve the Financial Statements of August 2012 was made by Councilman Pelloat and seconded by Councilman Bounds. All were in favor.

The Mayor asked those in attendance if they would like to express their comments to the Council. Michelle Vanderbrook, representing the Madisonville Chamber of Commerce, asked permission to hold the Christmas Parade on December 1, 2012 at 4 p.m. Photos with Santa and a Santa's Workshop will be available for the children. Because of action needing to be taken by the Council, it was necessary to amend the agenda. On motion by Councilman Badeaux and seconded by Council Bounds, all were in favor.

Since Ms. Vanderbrook was unavailable to be present at last month's meeting, the Mayor questioned the need to hold the annual car show, sponsored by the Madisonville Chamber of Commerce, on two days. Ms. Vanderbrook stated the preparation for the car show will commence on Friday with the car show being opened to the public on following day. This will only be a one-day event.

Martin Morgan of 400 Morgan Street inquired when the letters from the Floodplain Administrator be issued to the citizens that sustained flood damage during Hurricane Isaac. The Mayor answered the letters will be in the mail by the end of the week.

Mrs. Janell Mire asked about the status of the Madisonville Post Office. It was suggested by Mr. Roland Morris that letters be sent to our Senators and Representatives requesting their involvement in helping to restore the Post Office. Mr. Myron Bourg also recommended asking Ms. Brister, St. Tammany Parish President, to write a letter of support.

Ms. Kate Fath of PEC offered the following updates:

1. The final plans were submitted for the bulkhead. We are awaiting the approval letter to begin the advertising for bid process.

2. The plans and application for the Gas Line Relocation Project on Hwy. 1077 and 1085 were submitted to the DOTD. PEC received a call from the project manager and advertising for bids should begin soon. The gas line will also be upgraded to a four-inch line.
3. We are now awaiting for additional information to complete the application on the Capital Outlay Project for the resurfacing of Morgan and Water Streets.

#### Mayor's Report to the Council:

The Mayor began his report to the Council by introducing Kyle Matthews and updating Mr. Matthews' job description. Mr. Matthews works closely with the Mayor, office staff and maintenance crew and is the Town's representative to the Louisiana Municipal Gas Authority. It was also discussed that Pelican Gas will no longer be our natural gas purchaser. Blackbelt Energy, managed by CJ Arnold, will be purchasing Pelican Gas and will be our new purchasing agent.

The Villages at Bocage will be adding an additional 400 homes in St. Tammany Parish. The Town of Madisonville is the supplier for water, sewer, and gas for the subdivision. Mr. Raymond Addison, inspector for the sewer system installation, has been overseeing the Bocage project.

Our gas system needs to be moved to allow for the new round about on Highways 1077 and 1085. The Mayor stated this move will be at the State's expense.

Also adding to our gas system are the new homes in the subdivisions of Grand Oaks, Fair Oaks, Heritage Oaks, and Mayhaw. We will probably have approximately 4,000 gas customers. Mayor Gitz stated that the cost of installing a new gas service is now costing \$425.00. By the next meeting, the Mayor will bring to the Council what he considers to be a fair price for the installation of gas services. It was also stated that larger meters will be at an additional cost as these larger meters costs approximately \$600.00.

Will Murray with DOTD spoke with the Mayor concerning the status of the bridge on Lake Road. A construction meeting will be held next week with bids possibly advertised within a month or six weeks.

Mayor Gitz spoke of the meeting with 11 parish presidents and approximately 8 mayors concerning the Resolution for flood protection. He stated that at the meeting ten points were brought up for consideration, however, additional meetings will be held after the national election.

Ms. Trilby Lefant, Director of Intergovernmental Relations for St. Tammany Parish, was introduced to the Council. Ms. Lefant stated that water has no boundaries and the Parish needs levees and a barrier system. A barrier was approved by Congress in the '60s but was never funded. She also stated that some of the 10 points that were agreed upon at the meeting were as follows: asking the National Weather Service to initiate a better modeling system, better and storm -proof gauges in the lake, for the Corps of Engineers to work in an expedited manner and a reassessment of the Stafford-Simpson model. Ms. Lefant also stated there is a need for public education to address the misconception of Category 1 storms as to the possible threat of the duration and direction of storms. She also stated that President Brister supports Madisonville in the recovery process.

Mayor Gitz recognized the need to protect the citizens as much as we can. He suggested building a barrier that would not affect Mississippi.

It was stated by the Mayor that payroll has been approximately \$115,000 since the storm and we used \$29,000 in gas during the last two months between the police and maintenance departments. It seems that our budget might be getting strapped.

Next on the agenda was the action to be taken on the re-subdivision request by Ms. Doussan. On motion by Councilman Bouey and seconded by Councilman Badeaux, the motion passed unanimously.

In an effort to formalize the action taken last meeting concerning restrictions in the Home Occupation Ordinance, Mr. King read the proposed Resolution.

Resolution 10-01-12

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Town Council requests the Planning and Zoning Committee change wording to include the following into the Code of Ordinance, Chapter 10, item 18 reading "Home Occupation".

***"Only that portion of the home itself, which is used as a home occupation, shall be utilized for the conduct of such business. No other part of the premises shall be so utilized, including but not limited to, the placement or storage of material, equipment, or products related to the home occupation."***

On motion by Councilman Bounds and seconded by Councilman Ostendorf with the vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:	Councilmen Badeaux, Bounds, Bouey, Pelloat, and Ostendorf
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Because of the recent flooding from Hurricane Isaac, some houses in Madisonville received 50 percent (50%) or more damage. This determination might require a particular action. Mr. King suggested that a three-member Board of Review be created to review the findings as to the percentage of damage. Mr. Morgan asked the purpose of the review. The Mayor stated that if a homeowner did not agree with the determination, he could ask for a review by a three-member panel. The Mayor stated the Board was a requirement in the Floodplain Ordinance but there was never any need until Hurricane Isaac. The Board will have the final decision. If the homeowner was not satisfied with the decision of the Board, Mr. King stated the next step would be to bring the matter to court. Mr. King asked the Council to authorize the Mayor to appoint a three-member Board of Review in case of a necessity. The Mayor asked if there was any opposition. As none was given, a motion to authorize the Mayor to appoint a three-member Board of Review was made by Councilman Pelloat and seconded by Councilman Bouey, the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gitz suggested to the Council the use of Fueltrac for the purchase of gasoline for vehicles and equipment.

Although no old business was presented for discussion, Councilman Pelloat asked for the status on the repairs to the Town's buildings. The Mayor estimated that the repairs to the Town Hall and offices should be completed by the next Council meeting. The Library (Police Station) is being repaired and should not take as long due to the water level being lower.

The Mayor asked for a motion to pay all bills. On motion by Councilman Bounds and seconded by Councilman Bouey, all were in favor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Pelloat and seconded by Councilman Ostendorf. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeanie A. Morlier  
Secretary-Treasurer