



**NOVEMBER 5, 2013**

**CITY HALL**

**6:00 P.M.**

**I) PUBLIC HEARING REZONING E SOUTH BLVD**

The public hearing was call to order at 6:05p.m. by the Mayor, Anthony Howard. The Mayor explained that the public hearing was on property on E. South Blvd. – the old skating rink. Mr. Seaborn Grist spoke to the Council against the rezoning. He spoke of previous ventures at this location stating that these previous commercial ventures had all turned into juke joints which caused problems in the neighborhood. He then stated that the building was dilapidated that it should be torn down. He stated that he felt that there was no reason to have a commercial building in the residential neighborhood.

Mr. Robert Henderson addressed the Council stating that he lived across from the building and that it has always been a problem. He feels that it would disrupt the neighborhood and feels that residential and commercial zoning should not be mixed.

Mr. Fletcher Thompson addressed the Council stating that he and Mr. Clay Crawford had bought the building four or five year ago. He stated that the building should be renovated or torn down and that it would be costly to renovate. He stated that the building/property was actually worth more zoned commercial. He stated that he had not intentions to try to turn the building into a juke joint. He then stated that they were trying to improve the building but then the rain set in and made the roof issue much worse.

**II) CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Mayor, Anthony Howard, called the meeting to order. Let the record show that the Mayor, Anthony Howard, Councilman Torre' Mills, Councilman Al Hutchins, Councilman Andy Smith and Councilman Charles Middleton were all present. Ms. Williams gave the invocation. Also let the record show that the City Attorney, Tommy Coleman and the City Clerk, Melinda Crook were present.

**III) APPROVE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilman Hutchins and seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the October 1, 2013 minutes. The motion carried unanimously with Councilman Mills stating that a correction be made to the spelling of Freddy Spade's name to Freddy Speight.

**IV) CITIZENS AND DELEGATIONS**

**D'Arsey Stewart of Blankenship Construction**

Mr. Stewart came before the Council to update them on the repairs at the City Treatment Plant. He stated that the repairs went well and that due to that fact the cost decreased about \$2,200 from the previous quote. He stated that repairs would be completed within the week and that his crew would then be moving on the cemetery. Mr. Stewart then informed the Council that he had investigated the overflow problem behind the hospital a little further and found that there was sufficient grade so that the replacement pipe can go to where they had previously replaced sewer line as monies are available. He stated that he felt the City should look at upgrading from the 8" pipe to a 12" pipe at this point. He then stated that he would be able to give a better update when there is another large rainfall. He also stated that he felt that the proposal submitted at the previous meeting will help alleviate some of the problem. He recommended working on the project small steps at a time.

Mr. Stewart then spoke to the Mayor and Council regarding repairs on Colonial Dr. and Southside Dr. Mr. Stewart stated that after looking at Google maps and the videos he felt that making point repairs would work, however even though more costly, permanent action would be the better option. Mr. Stewart further explained that some of the point repairs would be 16 to 18' deep and that in some areas slip lining would work due to sags and other problems in the lines. He then explained how the slip lining would take place and how they would tie the laterals into the new line. He presented the Council with breakdowns of points repairs which were around \$279,000, and a breakdown of a more permanent fix which would be around \$661,000. He further stated that he had presented the breakdowns in different

sections so the City did not have to incur the full cost all at one time and would be able to do sections at a time. Mr. Stewart then answered questions from the Council.

**V) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning Commission – Rezoning E South Blvd**

The Building Inspector, Kenneth Jones, spoke to the Council regarding the rezoning. He stated that the Planning Commission had not taken any action on the rezoning. The Mayor then stated that he had to recue himself from any vote because of a conflict of interest. Councilman Mills questioned Mr. Jones if any other property around this was zoned commercial. Councilman Mills then questioned why work had been stopped on the property. Mr. Jones explained that work could have continued, even under residential zoning, if the correct type of contractor had been gotten. Mr. Jones then explained what he had heard regarding the history of the zoning of the property and previous businesses at this location. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to send the rezoning back to the Planning Commission. Councilman Mills questions what the point of this would be and stated that if the Planning Commission didn't make a motion the issue did not pass. He then stated that sending it back to the Planning Commission was just going in circles. Councilman Middleton withdrew his motion. The Mayor then called for a new motion. A motion was made by Councilman Mills and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to deny the rezoning. Let the record show that Councilman Smith and Councilman Middleton voted "No". Being that the Mayor had recued himself from the vote the tie could not be broken therefore the City Attorney stated that the motion did not pass.

**Planning Commission – Flea Market On Highway 62 East**

Kenneth Jones informed the Council that the Planning Commission recommended approval. Mr. Jones then explained that this would be conditional use for an open air market. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to approve the conditional use for a flea market on Hwy 62 East. The motion carried unanimously

**Planning Commission – Discuss Rezoning Walker Springs Road**

Kenneth Jones explained to the Council that it had been asked that the corner lot of Howell and Walker Springs Rd. be rezoned R2 but he felt that the entire street should be rezoned due to there being 19 mobile homes being located on Walker Springs Rd. He stated that Walker Springs Rd. is currently zoned R1. Councilman Mills questioned the zoning differences between R1 and R2. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to initiate the rezoning process. The motion carried unanimously

**VI) CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**Second Reading And Adoption Of Brown Bagging Ordinance**

The City Attorney explained that adopting this ordinance would affect private clubs the same as all other clubs. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to keep the brown bag ordinance in place. Let the record show that Councilman Hutchins and Councilman Mills voted "No". The Mayor voted to abstain. There was then some discussion on looking into the ordinance further. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to table the issue for further study. Let the record show that Councilman Mills and Councilman Hutchins voted "No". The Mayor broke the tie with a vote of "Yes".

**VII) CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk gave the Mayor and Council their financial reports. She stated that the City finished the month with \$108,367.47 in the bank. She then informed the Council that \$145,500 had been transferred to the Combined Savings account and the Combined Utility account. She stated that the City was able to transfer these funds because the insurance premium refund had been received a little over \$261,000. She also stated that an additional \$15,000 had been transferred to each account, out of the General Fund, to put towards the funds that had been transferred into the General Fund but that we have not been able to replace all the monies borrowed. The Clerk then informed the Council that she had provided a copy of the budget, to this point, for their review and asked that the Councilman let her know which departments they wanted to meet with.

**VIII) NEW ITEMS PROPOSED BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

**Discuss Hotel Motel Tax Agreement With GMA**

The City Clerk informed the Council that she had talked to the City Manager in Donaldsonville and was informed that they had found an increase in revenue and that the relationship between the City and the hotels/motels was much better. She reminded the Council that the cost was \$4,500 per year for GMA to audit and manage the accounts. A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Smith to enter into the Hotel/Motel agreement with GMA starting in January 2014.

**Discuss Designating Streets For Truck Routes**

Kenneth Jones presented the Council with maps to show the existing designated truck routes and the additional routes being suggested (Bay, Arlington and Maple). There was discussion between the Mayor

and Council. The Mayor suggested that the Council study the map and address the issue at the next regular meeting.

The Mayor brought to the Council that the County had recommended Michael Allred for the at large joint position on the Rec. Dept. board. Councilman Hutchins informed the Council that another gentleman, Travis Price, had shown interest in the position as well. No action was taken at this time.

**IX) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A member of the public asked the Council to look at trucks on 39 and E. South Blvd. when looking at the new truck routes.

**X) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Hutchins to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel. The motion carried unanimously

When back in open session Ms. Freeman addressed the Council stating that Gordon was in speech therapy and was making good progress. The Council made no decision on how long to give Gordon on donated time. The City Attorney would be reviewing.

Danny Williams came before the Council to inform them of a gas meter at the middle school that had been cut off, in the system, and not billed since December 2010. He informed the Council how the issue had been discovered. He informed the Council that he was unsure as to who and when had turned the gas back on. Danny then informed the Council that the total not billed was around \$38,000 and that a meeting was being arranged to talk to the interim superintendent about the issue.

**XI) ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilman Middleton and seconded by Councilman Mills to adjourn the November 5th City Council Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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Anthony Howard, Mayor