Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, October 4, 2011**

**City Hall, 1314 Main St.**

**Patterson, Louisiana**

7:00 PM – Public Hearing –

A public hearing was held to consider and get public comment on a variance request to reduce the side yard setback requirement from five (5) feet to three (3) ft. creating a two (2) ft. variance at 200 Enterprise Ave. to construct a building on an existing slab. This property was purchased with the slab already existing, created when the setback code was different for commercial property. The existing slab setback varies from three feet to five feet. It was noted that the plan for the slab is to be used for a large metal building to be used as a warehouse for church supplies and equipment.

It is also noted that a public hearing was held before the City’s Planning Commission, and their recommendation to the City is that the variance NOT be granted.

Public comments: James Dumas, with Bethel Pentecostal Church (owners of the property in question), Dana Harden, pastor’s wife, Chad Nelson, resident in the neighborhood, Michael Navish, interested party, and Stan Robinson, church member, all rose and spoke in favor of the variance.

Dustin Domingue, Brenda Jenkins, Brian Griffin, Stacy Domingue, and Clay Jenkins, all neighbor residents, rose to object to the granting of the variance, siting concerns about the esthetics and possible reduced property values in their residential neighborhood in the near vicinity of the proposed warehouse.

A public hearing was also held to consider and get public comment on a variance request seeking permission to build an accessory-use building (24 ft. by 41 ft.) without a main building as prescribed by the Zoning Ordinance on a lot at 507 Lipari.

It was noted that the property has a major pipeline running diagonally across the property, making it impossible to build a main residence with the pipeline requiring 15 ft. buffers and regulations preventing on their right-of-way.

It was also noted that a public hearing was held before the City’s Planning Commission, and their recommendation to the city is that the variance be granted due to the fact that the lot cannot be used in a conventional manner, and without a variance the lot would be rendered useless and therefore decreased in property value.

Public Input: Nathanial Clark (prospective buyer of the land) explained his plans for the property. Neighbors from 502 Mike Dr., the Deans, and 506 Mike Dr., Anne Murray, rose to express their approval of the variance.

Elaine Skinner, 532 Leo Dr., rose to object to the variance citing her concerns for property values.

Larry Mendoza made a motion to close the public hearings, seconded by Joe Russo III, and all voted “Aye”.

Regular Meeting:

Present: Mayor Rodney Grogan, Council members Larry Mendoza, Claire Sawyer, Sandra Turner, Joe Russo III, and John Charles Rentrop.

The invocation was offered by Rev. Couvillier.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Russo.

A motion was made by Joe Russo, seconded by Larry Mendoza, to expand the agenda to include a discussion on issues brought up by the Patterson Housing Board concerning painting. Roll call vote and all voted, “Aye”.

Brian Griffin, representing Patterson High School’s Project Graduation, came before the council seeking a permit to hold a fund-raising can shake on Oct. 15th, 8:00-12:00, Main St at Catherine St. Larry Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Claire Sawyer, that the permit be granted, and all voted, “Aye”.

Joan Adams, representing Franklin’s Harvest Moon Festival, came before the Council to invite everyone to attend this year’s festival, Oct. 29, 2011. She presented the City with a poster designed for that festival.

Jacki Ackel and Herman Hartman came before the Council requesting a $500 donation for the St. Mary Parish Red Ribbon activities. To that end, Larry Mendoza made a motion to adopt a resolution, seconded by John Rentrop to grant the donation, and all voted, “Aye”. Red Ribbon Week is Oct. 21-30, parish-wide.

Katherine Siracusa, State employee with Wildlife & Fisheries, came before the Council to report on the complaints about black bears. She reported 200 complaint calls to her office. She noted that there are 1200 garbage cans across the tracks, supplying a food source, and the bears are increasing in numbers. She is spearheading an awareness program and invited all those concerned to contact her office. Using the Boy & Girl Scout clubs, the Patterson High School 4-H club, and other volunteers, they will be using a federal grant to help educate and spread the word though-out the Parish to attempt to reduce the threats and issues with the bears.

Mayor Rodney Grogan announced that this year in Patterson, Trick or Treat will be held on Monday, October 31st.

The Council, now acting as the Board of Adjustors, considered the boundary variance request from the Bethel Pentecostal Church on 200 Enterprise Ave. After considerable discussion, Larry Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Joe Russo III, supporting the recommendation of the Planning Commission that the variance request be denied, and with a roll call vote all voted, “Aye” to deny the request.

Also, as the Board of Adjustors, the council considered the variance request of Nathaniel Clark at 507 Leo Dr. to put an accessory-use building up without a main building as required by ordinance. Larry Mendoza made a motion to deny the request since there was an objection from the neighborhood, seconded by Joe Russo III, and with a roll call vote, all voted, “Aye” to deny the request.

After a lengthy discussion, Larry Mendoza made a motion, seconded by John Rentrop, to authorize the mayor to enter into a new franchise agreement and electric service agreement with CLECO allowing them to distribute electrical power in Patterson for twenty two years, finishing the term of the present agreement and adding twenty years to the new agreement.

To that end, Larry Mendoza made a motion to adopt an ordinance allowing for that franchise agreement with CLECO, seconded by John Rentrop, and all voted, “Aye”.

John Rentrop made a motion, seconded by Sandra Turner, to authorize the mayor to sign and enter into the Electric Service Agreement with CLECO, and all voted, “Aye”.

Claire Sawyer made a motion, seconded by John Rentrop, authorizing the mayor to sign and enter inter the Street Lighting Agreement with CLECO, and all voted, “Aye”.

Mayor Rodney made a recommendation that Keta Allen be appointed to the Patterson Housing Board replacing Jerolyn Hall. Larry Mendoza made a motion, seconded by Joe Russo III that Keta Allen be appointed to the Housing Board, and all voted, “Aye”.

The proposed introduction of ordinances to address recreational vehicle campgrounds, mobile home parks, and parking on public streets were all tabled.

There were no other legal matters to come before the Council.

Clay Breaud, representing Providence GSE, gave an update on the Catherine Street Sidewalk Project. He recommended partial payment of invoices to that contractor, H.H.P. out of Laplace, Louisiana. He also reported on the progress of the final design of the new water plant.

There being no further business to come before the mayor and Council, Claire Sawyer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Larry Mendoza, and all voted, “Aye”.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Washington