

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF THIBODAUX
CITY HALL
THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA
MARCH 2, 2021**

The City Council of the City of Thibodaux assembled in regular session at its regular meeting place, City Hall, 310 West 2nd Street, Thibodaux, Louisiana, on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.

There were present: Councilman Richard Richard, Naquin, Mire and Councilwoman Johnson.

Councilman Tabor arrived at 5:04.

There were also present: Mayor Tommy Eschete and Beau Brooks.

Absent: None

The minutes of the February 17, 2021 City Council Meeting were approved as written.

Public Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 310 West 2nd St., Thibodaux, Louisiana, the City Council of the City of Thibodaux, State of Louisiana, plans to consider adopting a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in the City of Thibodaux to authorize (i) the renewal of two (2) ad valorem taxes and (ii) two (2) amendments to the Home Rule Charter.

Councilwoman Johnson introduced an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Bayou Country Children's Museum.

Councilman Richard introduced an ordinance to amend and re-enact Section 20-13 of the Thibodaux City Code of Ordinances so as to create Sub-Section (fff) – No Parking Zone on Goode Street.

Councilman Richard introduced an ordinance to amend and re-enact Chapter 5, Article V of the Thibodaux City Code of Ordinances - Livestock.

Councilman Naquin introduced an ordinance to ratify the Mayor's execution of a grant agreement with the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration for improvements at the Thibodaux Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Public Hearings on these ordinances will be held at the Council meeting on March 16, 2021.

The City would like to enter into a cooperative endeavor agreement with Friends of Bayou Lafourche, Inc. in order to provide funding for the services they will provide in order to promote, encourage and develop tourism, recreational opportunities, infrastructure improvements and economic development within the City of Thibodaux along Bayou Lafourche. The City will remit \$10,000.00 to Friends of Bayou Lafourche with \$5000.00 payable on or before March 31, 2021 and the balance of \$5,000.00 payable on or before September 30, 2021.

Ryan Perque updated the Council on projects going on throughout the Parish with Friends of Bayou Lafourche.

On motion of Councilman Tabor, seconded by Councilman Naquin, the Council voted on an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Friends of Bayou Lafourche, Inc. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None

ORDINANCE NO. 3126

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH FRIENDS OF BAYOU LAFOURCHE, INC.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Thibodaux in regular session assembled, that:

WHEREAS, the City of Thibodaux and Friends of Bayou Lafourche, Inc. (FOBL) desires to promote, encourage, and develop tourism, recreational opportunities, infrastructure improvements, and economic development within the City of Thibodaux along Bayou Lafourche; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to provide funding to Friends of Bayou Lafourche, Inc. to assist the City in carrying out this public purpose in the aforesaid areas; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to provide an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for a one year period with \$5,000 payable on or before March 31, 2021 and the balance of \$5,000 payable on or before September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, in order for the City to provide the said funding, it is necessary to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement outlining the benefits to be received by the City of Thibodaux in exchange for the said funding; and

WHEREAS, in order for the City to execute this proposed agreement it is necessary for the Council to authorize the Mayor to execute the said cooperative endeavor agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Friends of Bayou Lafourche, Inc. for the purposes, and under the conditions mentioned hereinabove.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a copy of the said agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and thereby made a part hereof.

The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this 2nd day of March 2021.

/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

/s/ Chad J. Mire
Chad J. Mire, President

The Mayor proposed two Charter amendments to be presented to the voters at the October 9, 2021 election. Article IX, Section 2 (A) of the City Charter provides that an amendment to the City Charter may be presented to the voters

once the City Council approves the proposed amendment by the adoption of an ordinance. The ordinance approving the proposed Charter amendments must receive an affirmative vote of 4/5's of the Council membership in order to go to the voters. Any ordinance approving a charter amendment proposition cannot be vetoed by the Mayor.

The first proposed amendment is to Article III, Section 4(E) of the Thibodaux City Charter in order to have the newly elected officials take office on the second Monday in January following the election. This amendment is necessary due to the changes in election laws, with our municipal elections being held in November with run-offs in December. If we have a run-off, we would not have certified results from the election in time for the officials to take office on the second Monday in December, as the Charter now states.

The second proposed amendment is to Article IV, Section 6(A) of the Charter which provides for the manner in which we receive nominations to the Thibodaux Civil Service Board. The current Charter includes nominations from the Presidents of Tulane and Southern Universities. The Council Administrator has trouble obtaining nominations from these institutions and usually gets no response to her requests. In order to have a more local input into the members of that Board, the Mayor has proposed to replace these nominations with the Chancellor at Fletcher Community College, and the Superintendent of Lafourche Parish School District.

On motion of Councilman Naquin, seconded by Councilman Richard, the Council voted on an ordinance to propose the amendment and re-enactment of Article III, Section 4(E) and Article IV, Section 6(A) of the Thibodaux City Charter (Elections and Civil Service Department). Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None

ORDINANCE NO. 3127

AN ORDINANCE TO PROPOSE THE AMENDMENT AND RE-ENACTMENT OF ARTICLE III, SECTION 4(E) AND ARTICLE IV, SECTION 6(A) OF THE THIBODAUX CITY CHARTER (ELECTIONS AND CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT)

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Thibodaux in regular session assembled, that:

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 4(E) of the Thibodaux City Charter establishes the date on which persons elected, pursuant to the provisions of said Charter, take office; and

WHEREAS, due to a change in the dates of elections as set by the State, it is very possible that certified election results from our municipal elections may not be available prior to the second Monday in December after said elections; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 6(A) of the Thibodaux City Charter provides for the nomination of individuals to serve on the Thibodaux Civil Service Board; and

WHEREAS, it is more practical to have all nominating authorities be local to our area so as to be familiar with potential candidates; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 2(A) of the Thibodaux City Charter provides that the City Council may propose and amendment to, or the repeal of, the City Charter by the adoption of an Ordinance by an affirmative vote of at least four-fifths of its members.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that in accordance with the provisions Article IX, Section 2 (A) of the Thibodaux City Charter that the City Council of the City of Thibodaux does hereby propose the following Charter amendments to the qualified electors of the City of Thibodaux as follows:

AMENDMENT #1

Article III - Organization, Structure and Distribution of Powers and Functions

Section 4. - Elections

- E. The next elections for Mayor and seats A, B, C, D and E on the Council shall be held at the same time as the open primary and general elections in the year 2002 pursuant to the election laws of the state. Elections for these offices shall be held in like manner every four years thereafter pursuant to the state election laws then in existence. Persons elected under the provisions of this Charter shall take office on the second Monday in January following their election.

AMENDMENT #2

Article IV – Civil Service Department

Section 6. - Nomination and Appointment of Civil Service Board Members

- A. Upon the existence of a vacancy in any Board position, nomination to fill the vacant position for either a new term or the remaining term of the vacant position shall be made within sixty days as follows:
- (1) One member shall be nominated by the President of Nicholls State University;
 - (2) One member shall be nominated by the Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce;
 - (3) One member shall be nominated by the Lafourche Bar Association;
 - (4) One member shall be nominated by the Chancellor of Fletcher Community College; and
 - (5) One member shall be nominated by the Superintendent of the Lafourche Parish School District.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 3 of the Thibodaux City Charter, that within 30 days of the adoption of this ordinance, the City Council shall call for an election to submit the proposed amendment to the qualified electors of the City of Thibodaux.

The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this 2nd day of March 2021.

/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

/s/ Chad J. Mire
Chad J. Mire, President

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends that the City Council approve the acceptance of the preliminary plat of Rienzi Village Townhomes, Addendum 5. This development is located on the east side of N. Canal Boulevard approximately 863' east of the intersection of N. Canal Boulevard and Arlington Drive. The approval of the preliminary plat of this subdivision is required in order to comply with the provisions of Section 18-53 of the Thibodaux City Code of Ordinances.

On motion of Councilwoman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Tabor, the Council voted on an ordinance to approve the preliminary plat of Rienzi Village Townhomes, Addendum 5. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None

ORDINANCE NO. 3128

***AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PRELIMINARY PLAT OF
RIENZI VILLAGE TOWNHOMES, ADDENDUM 5***

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Thibodaux in regular session assembled, that:

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Thibodaux has reviewed a request at their February 3, 2021 meeting by Leonard Chauvin, P.E., P.L.S. concerning the approval of the preliminary plat of Rienzi Village Townhomes, Addendum 5 located on the east side of N. Canal Boulevard approximately eight hundred sixty-three (863') feet east of the intersection of N. Canal Boulevard and Arlington Drive; and

WHEREAS, the said commission has approved the aforesaid request and is recommending that the City Council concur with their recommendation; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18-53 of the Thibodaux Subdivision Regulations, the preliminary plat of this subdivision should be accepted by the adoption of an appropriate ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Thibodaux in regular session assembled, that the preliminary plat of the Rienzi Village Townhomes, Addendum 5 as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission is hereby accepted and approved as requested.

The above ordinance having been submitted to a vote the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Johnson, Naquin, Mire
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: None

And the above ordinance was declared adopted this 2nd day of March 2021.

/s/ Jennifer Morvant
Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

/s/ Chad J. Mire
Chad J. Mire, President

A condemnation hearing was held for property located at 319 Talbot Avenue and a brief discussion took place between the Council, Mayor and City Attorney.

On motion of Councilman Naquin, seconded by Councilman Richard, the Council voted on a motion to give the property owner 90 days (June 1, 2021) to have the property cleaned and demolished.

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Naquin, Mire

NAYS: Johnson

ABSTAINED: None

Deana Lafont, 502 Abby Road, addressed the Council with an update that Entergy plans to decommission the old power plant located within the City. The estimated timeline is expected to be 4-6 weeks.

The Mayor updated the Council on several projects going on throughout the City.

Councilwoman Johnson asked for an update on the lighting project in her district and a brief discussion took place.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer Morvant, Council Adm.

Chad J. Mire, President