

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE
PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING
CITY OF THIBODAUX
JANUARY 8, 2020**

The Planning and Zoning of the City of Thibodaux assembled in special session at its regular meeting place, City Hall, 310 West 2nd Street, Thibodaux, Louisiana, on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.

There were present: Clay Breaud, Robert Mire, Mark Kearns, Cheryl Thomas, Drew Andrews

Absent: None

The minutes of the December 4, 2019 Planning and Zoning Special Meeting were approved as written.

YEAS: Breaud, Mire, Kearns, Thomas, Andrews

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

Matthew Ledet, T. Baker Smith, 1100 South Acadia Road addressed the Board on behalf of Jaron Land Development Company with their request for final plat approval for re-division of Lot 7-A of Acadia Plantation, Phase I, Village I of Acadia Plantation into Lots 10 thru 17 located on the west side of Acadia Road approximately 530' south of intersection of Percy Brown Road in Sections 36, 37 & 90, T15S-R16E, City of Thibodaux, Louisiana. Mr. Ledet gave a brief overview of the project noting the need to amend the request to re-division for Lots 10 thru 16. Re-division for Lot 17 was done administratively and sold to the adjacent property owner. The cul de sac is also complete along with subsurface utilities. He also noted the need to amend their request to conditional approval; Entergy has not completed installation of power.

Clay Breaud, Chairman of the Board replied this has been presented to us before; there have been issues with Entergy in the past where conditional approval has given but no occupancy is to be issued until street lights are installed and energized.

Gene Farrell, Jaron Land Development Company, 116 Rue Angelique addressed the Board with his concerns referencing the turnaround time it takes Entergy to install their utilities and energize subdivisions and the possibility of the City finding a new provider other than Entergy.

On motion of Mire, seconded by Thomas, the Board voted on a motion to accept the plat as submitted by T. Baker Smith with the condition that street lights be installed and energized prior to the issuance of any occupancy permit.....Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Breaud, Mire, Kearns, Thomas, Andrews

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

John Lafargue, 215 East Bayou Road addressed the Board on behalf of himself and residents of the City of Thibodaux to amend and re-enact portions of the sign ordinance, Article IX, to read as follows:

Section 908 Off-premise outdoor advertising.

(B) (3) Signs are prohibited on the batture (area between highway and bayou) on LA Highway 1 from Canal Blvd. to Ridgefield Road and LA Highway 308 from St. Patrick Street west to the City limits. (Proposed Add-on) Digital signs must be at least 1,500 feet from the following intersections: Tiger Dr. & LA Hwy. 1, Jackson St & LA Hwy. 1, Canal Blvd. at LA Hwy. 1, Audubon Ave. & LA Hwy. 1, Percy Brown Rd. & LA Hwy. 1, N. Canal Blvd. & Hwy. 308, St. Patrick St. & Hwy. 308 and Canal Blvd. & Jackson St.

Mr. Lafargue stressed his concerns referencing distraction of billboards and digital signs in high traffic corridors at the above mentioned intersections and the impact it has on public safety.

Marguerite Knight Erwin, 840 East 1st Street, addressed the Board on behalf of the Sign Committee and noted the Sign Committee has been disbanded. She also noted the Sign Ordinance was more restrictive and they did address Mr. Lafargue's recommendations and were not in favor of approving them especially with the limitations of 1500' from those particular intersections.

Clay Breaud, Chairman of the Board, posed questions of prohibited signs on North Canal Boulevard from Bayou Lafourche heading north if that would remain as is in which Mrs. Erwin replied yes.

Miki Pfeffer, 1961 Bayou Road addressed the board with questions referencing how the Sign Ordinance will remain a living document if the committee disbanded. She also posed questions with street lighting and illumination studies along with how brightness of signs will be monitored.

On motion of Mire, seconded by Thomas, the Board voted on a motion to approve to add-on additional text to Section 908 Off-premise outdoor advertising (B) (3) Digital signs must be at least 1,500 feet from the following intersections: Tiger Dr. & LA Hwy. 1, Jackson St & LA Hwy. 1, Canal Blvd. at LA Hwy. 1, Audubon Ave. & LA Hwy. 1, Percy Brown Rd. & LA Hwy. 1, N. Canal Blvd. & Hwy. 308, St. Patrick St. & Hwy. 308 and Canal Blvd. & Jackson St..... Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

- YEAS: None
- NAYS: Breaud, Mire, Kearns, Thomas, Andrews
- ABSTAINED: None
- ABSENT: None

(B) (4) No new off-premise sign permits will be granted. ~~Other than for relocation of existing signs with proper permit.~~

John Lafargue, 215 East Bayou Road addressed the board opposing relocation of existing off-premise signs. Mr. Lafargue feels it does not decrease the number of signs by allowing them to relocate or trade for a digital sign.

Board members posed questions for clarification of tradeoff/relocation of signs, could a location be re-permitted, and what would it do to remove ~~other than for relocation of existing signs with proper permit.~~

Marguerite Erwin, 840 East 1st Street addressed the board noting no new permits will be issued for off-premise signs. To relocate an off-premise sign another sign would have to come down and to allow relocation for a large digital sign four faces would have to be given up, reducing the number of off-premise signs.

On motion of Kearns, seconded by Mire, the Board voted on a motion to strike-out ~~other than for relocation of existing signs with proper permit~~ as presented under Section 908 Off-premise outdoor advertising (B) (4)..... Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

- YEAS: None
- NAYS: Breaud, Mire, Kearns, Thomas, Andrews
- ABSTAINED: None
- ABSENT: None

(E) Digital off-premise signs.

1. One (1) digital sign is allowed in exchange for four (4) existing or permitted sign faces.
2. No digital sign can be exchanged for a legal, but non-conforming sign that has been grandfathered by adoption of this ordinance effective September 3, 2019.

John Lafargue, 215 East Bayou Road addressed the Board with his concern opposing legal, non-conforming signs to be allowed to be converted to a digital sign along the batture.

Clay Breaud, Chairman of the Board noted some of the regulations in the previous Sign Ordinance were in different places and made it a bit confusing but with the current changes to the new Sign Ordinance should help avoid situations like this.

Marguerite Erwin, 840 East 1st Street noted according to the Sign Ordinance that is in existence today, signs are actually allowed there.

On motion of Thomas, 2nd by Andrews, the Board voted on a motion to approve to add to Section 908 Digital off-premise signs (E) (2) no digital sign can be exchanged for a legal, but non-conforming sign that has been grandfathered by adoption of this ordinance effective September 3, 2019..... Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

- YEAS: None
- NAYS: Breaud, Mire, Kearns, Thomas, Andrews
- ABSTAINED: None
- ABSENT: None

(F) Lighting of off-premise signs (subparagraph d)

- (d) Message Display:

- i. Any digital display containing animation, streaming video or text of images with flash, pulsate, move or scroll is prohibited.
- ii. The content of a digital display must transition by changing instantly, with no transition graphics (e.g., no fade-out or fade-in).

John Lafargue, 215 East Bayou Road addressed the Board with regard to addition of verbiage pertaining to compliance of the Louisiana Administrative Code relating to electronic signs.

- iii. Each message must remain stationary for a minimum of eight (8) seconds.
- iv. Message changes must be accomplished within four (4) seconds.
- v. Message must be accomplished in such a manner that there is no appearance of movement of the message or copy during the change.
- vi. Digital displays must include a default design that will freeze the sign in one position if a malfunction occurs.

Brett Moreaux, 301 East Bayou Road addressed the board noting message display should occur within 8 seconds with no transitions period form one message to the next. He also noted if a malfunction occurs the sign will freeze in one position.

Marguerite Erwin, 840 East Bayou Road noted it is a Louisiana Administrative Code and Mr. Moreaux and other sign companies do have to comply by it.

On motion of Mire, seconded by Kearns, the Board voted on a motion to add a paragraph to Section 908 (F) Lighting of off-premise signs (subparagraph d) (d) Message Display, which states all message displays shall comply with the Louisiana Administrative Code.....Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

YEAS: None
NAYS: Breaud, Mire, Kearns, Thomas, Andrews
ABSTAINED: None
ABSENT: None

Clay Breaud requested a revised copy of the Sign Ordinance for board members upon approval by the City Council.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Liz Guidry, Secretary

Roland Soignet, Zoning Administrator