**MINUTES**

**FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBUARY 25, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Mandeville City Council was called to order by the Council Chairman at 6:10 p.m. Following the call to order, we continued with the Pledge of Allegiance then observed a moment of silent prayer.

**ROLL CALL - present:** Jason Zuckerman, Jill McGuire, Rick Danielson, Rebecca Bush, Skelly Kreller

**Also present:** Mayor Madden, Keith LaGrange, Dir. Public Works, Louisette Scott, Dir. of Planning, Kathleen Sides, Finance Director, Elizabeth Sconzert, City Attorney, and Chief Sticker

Mr. Danielson explained the council was meeting via Zoom, by his decision, and wanted to read the statue that allows the public body to meet to possibly clarify any questions. The council would like to meet in person and hopefully that will happen very soon. The council will continue to work with the administration and mayor to get back to the Community Center soon, however the Community Center is still closed to the public.

In compliance with La. R.S. 42:17.1. The statue reads: Under La. R.S. 42:17.1, when there is a gubernatorially declared state of emergency, a public body conduct and its members may attend and participate in a public meeting via electronic means. To do so, the presiding officer of the public body must certify on the notice of the meeting that the agenda is limited to one or more of the following:

 \* Matters that are directly related to the public body’s response to the emergency and are critical to the health, safety or welfare of the public;

 \* Matters that if they are delayed will cause curtailment of vital public services or severe economic dislocation and hardship;

 \* Matters that are critical to the continuation of the business of the public body and that are not able to be postponed to a meeting held in accordance with the other provisions of the Open Meeting Law due to a legal requirement or other deadline that cannot be postponed or delayed by the public body; or

 \* Other matters that are critical or time-sensitive and that in the determination of the presiding officer should not be delayed; however, such matters shall not be considered at the meeting unless 2/3 vote of the members present at the meeting approve the consideration of the matters.

Mr. Danielson explained he used criteria #4, critical or time-sensitive matters to conduct the meeting. Before every item he will ask for a vote to move forward with the agenda, this would require 2/3 vote of the council or 4 votes. If we have 4 votes we will proceed, if not, there will be no discussion on that item and it will be moved to the next meeting. He asked if there were any questions from the council. Mr. Danielson explained the Community Center is closed to the public and the council meetings are public gatherings so we will meet in person when the mayor opens the Community Center.

**MINUTES:**

Adoption of the February 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Danielson asked for a motion to move forward with the agenda item. A motion was made by Mrs. Bush and seconded by Dr. Kreller. A hand vote was required and the adoption passed 4-1 (Zuckerman opposed). Mr. Danielson asked for a motion to discuss. A motion was made by Mrs. Bush and seconded by Mrs. McGuire. With no further comments or questions, a vote was taken and the adoption of the February 11, 2021 meeting minutes passed 5-0.

**REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**:

Mr. Danielson wanted to welcome Keith LaGrange, our new Public Works Director, and the council looks forward to working with him in the future. The mayor reminded everyone the Mandeville Market is open this Saturday from 9-1pm.

Mr. Danielson announced the Mandeville City Council seeks to appoint a commissioner to Fire Board District #4. Candidates interested in being considered for this appointment should submit a letter of consideration and/or a resume to the City Council Clerk by Thursday, March 11, 2021, 4:00 p.m. to kscherer@cityofmandeville.com Each member appointed shall serve for a term of two years. Members are eligible for reappointment. Each member of the board shall be a resident property taxpayer of the district.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Mr. Danielson asked for a motion to move forward with the agenda item. A motion was made by Mrs. Bush and seconded by Dr. Kreller. A hand vote was required and the motion to move forward passed 5-0. Mr. Glen Runyon, Pyramid Consulting, discussed the efficiency study he performed for the City. The report is on the city’s website. The mayor stated some technology changes have been started; other issues are addressed in the proposed budget adjustment. He will keep the council informed on the next steps. Mr. Danielson inquired as to what will included in the next steps. The mayor stated he has meet with half of the employees so far for their one on one meeting. Many have discussed changes in their departments. He is not surprised with the study’s results. Mrs. Bush asked if there is a set timeframe to re-ask employees the same questions after some of the processes have been put in place. The mayor stated he could do an internal survey and will discuss this with Mr. Runyon.

**OLD BUSINESS**: none

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Appointment of Stewart Buck as commissioner to the Historic District Preservation Commission. Mr. Danielson asked for a motion to move forward with the agenda item. A motion was made by Mr. Zuckerman and seconded by Mrs. Bush. A hand vote was required and the motion to move forward passed 5-0. The mayor explained this is for a new 4 year term expiring on 2/28/2025. Mr. Buck has extensive experience in construction and he will be replacing a commissioner with similar experience. Mr. Buck has also gone through the Historic District process himself. Mr. Zuckerman wished to explain his vote to move forward. The commission needs 7 members to operate. Mr. Buck has a tremendous amount of experience and he recommends his appointment. With no further comments or questions, a vote was taken and the appointment passed 5-0.

2. Re-Appointment of William Barry as commissioner to the Historic District Preservation Commission. Mr. Danielson asked for a motion to move forward with the agenda item. A motion was made by Mr. Zuckerman and seconded by Mrs. Bush. A hand vote was required and the motion to move forward passed 5-0. Mr. Danielson explained this is for a new 4 year term expiring on 2/28/2025. Mr. Zuckerman stated he has served on the commission with Mr. Barry and he is valued to the commission and recommends his re-appointment. With no further comments or questions, a vote was taken and the appointment passed 5-0. The mayor wished to thank Bobbie Lipscomb for his service on the commission.

3. introduction of [Ordinance No. 21-02](https://www.cityofmandeville.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ord-21-02.pdf); AN Ordinance for the City of Mandeville to enact a twelve month amortization on SECTION 10.5.3.11 ELECTRONIC MESSAGE CENTERS OR DIGITAL SIGNS OF THE LAND USE REGULATIONS OF APPENDIX A- COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH. A motion to discuss was made by Dr. Kreller and seconded by Mrs. Bush, as fitting within the criteria. A vote to proceed with the discussion failed 3-2. Mrs. McGuire and Mr. Zuckerman voted against, therefore it could not be discussed. Mr. Danielson stated this will now be taken up at the next council meeting

4. Introduction of [Ordinance No. 21-04](https://www.cityofmandeville.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ord-21-04.pdf): AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE TO REZONE LOTS 15 AND 16, SQUARE 51, BEING 820 LAMARQUE ST., CITY OF MANDEVILLE, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, STATE OF LOUISIANA, FROM R-1, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO B-1, NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING FOR FURTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

A motion to discuss was made by Dr. Kreller and seconded by Mrs. Bush. A vote to proceed with discussion passed 4-1 (Zuckerman against). Mr. Danielson asked for a motion to discuss. A motion was made by Mrs. McGuire and seconded by Mrs. Bush. Mr. Danielson stated this will be referred to Planning and Zoning.

5. Introduction of [Ordinance No. 21-05](https://www.cityofmandeville.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ord-21-05.pdf); AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NUMBER 20-13, THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE CITY OF MANDEVILLE AND FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

 A motion to discuss was made by Mrs. McGuire and seconded by Mrs. Bush. A vote to proceed with discussion passed 4-1 (Zuckerman against). Mr. Danielson asked for a motion to discuss. A motion was made by Mrs. McGuire and seconded by Dr. Kreller. Mr. Danielson stated this will be discussed and voted upon at the next meeting. Mr. Zuckerman stated there is a narrative at the end of the budget adjustment spreadsheet which explains the line items.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The mayor announced that beginning Monday, March 1st; City buildings will once again be open to the public....no appointment needed. Masks are required for entry and entrance to the Planning Department will be via eastern side door rather than the front doors of the City Hall building. Mr. Danielson stated the next City Council meeting will be held at the Community Center March 11, 2021 at 6pm. Mr. Wollenweber asked if the meeting will still be available via zoom. Mr. Danielson explained once we go to an in-person meeting format, zoom is no longer available. However the meeting will be broadcast via Facebook live. Mr. Zuckerman thanked the mayor and Mr. Danielson for looking out for the best interest of the city, and he looks forward to getting back to live meetings. Mrs. Bush agreed and feels that they did the right thing.

**FINANCE REPORT:**

Mrs. Sides stated the FY revenue is $10.9 million which represents 49% of the budget. The enterprise fund is at 45% of budgeted revenue. Since covid, the city has suspended late charges and cut offs for utility services. This represents about 40 cut offs per month. However, cut offs and late charges will resume this month. Sales tax income is 54% YTD, $8.1 million and is up $140K from this same month last year. Reason being, the parish has started collecting on-line sales taxes. The city has received a draft of the audit and it shows no weaknesses, deficiencies or non-compliance. The city has a new health insurance company starting March 1st, Humana. This has come in under budget by $80K and offers 3 policy choices for employees. The mayor also paid all employees an additional $7/hr. for hours worked during 3/16-4/30. This is based upon the newly adopted pay policy for health emergencies. The new policy will only pay additional monies for hours worked in the office – not remotely.

Ms. Ginny Saxton wanted to discuss the noise ordinance with the council. Mr. Danielson asked if the council has any objections to reopening public comment for this discussion. A hand vote was taken and there were no objections. Ms. Saxton lives in Forrest Brook subdivision and has complaints regarding the noise from the St. Ann Wine Bar. Mr. Danielson explained he believes the bar has bands which play outside due to covid restrictions twice a week. To his knowledge, they have been incompliance with the noise regulations. If there is a complaint, the police will go to the bar and address the issue. Chief Sticker explained he tries to work with the establishment and encourages residents to call is they have an issue; however, each call is on a case by case issue.

**PROJECTS IN PROGRESS**

**1. 2018 Roadway Maintenance Contract**

a. T.O. 3; 95% Complete

1. Drainage improvements in Shadows – work is 95% complete, sod installation to begin next week. b. T.O. 4; 50% Complete

1. Miscellaneous pavement work replacing failed concrete road panels in Old Golden Shores is ongoing,

70% complete.

2. Miscellaneous drainage and pavement work ongoing.

3. Additional brick paver crossings on Girod & Lafitte, contractor started crossing on Woodrow and Girod.

c. T.O. 5; Approved by the City Council on 12-17-2020

1. Modifications to ditch between Woodstone and Pontchartrain Elementary School began February 23.

2. 48” pipe extension of Jefferson St. complete.

**2. 2016 Sewer and Water Maintenance Contract**

1. Awaiting certificate of clear lean.

**3. Bayou Castine Seawall Repair** - Awarded.

a. Gill’s Crane Services @ $922,224.00

b. Decking complete North side of the gazebo.

c. Contractor to begin installation of skirting on the North side.

**4. FD4 Station 42 Warning Signs -** Awarded

a. Subterranean Construction LLC @ $28,400.00.

b. Control panel installed, lights operational, City and Principal Engineering to issue substantial completion.

**5. Lift Stations 12 & 24 -** Awarded.

a. Subterranean Construction, LLC @ $588,230.00 b. Notice to Proceed, 10/01/20.

c. LS 24 (Starbucks) has been energized by Cleco, demolition of old wet well to begin. d. Contractor has begun rehab of LS 12 (Shell Station).

**6. Effluent Pump Modifications**

a. Contracts routed for signature.

b. We will be requesting approval to enter into a contact at the next Council meeting.

**7. Sunset Point Restrooms**

a. Plans complete.

b. Proposals to go out for bid.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mrs. Bush made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Zuckerman. Mr. Danielson adjourned the meeting at 7:35p.m.

/s/ /s/

Kristine Scherer Rick Danielson

Council Clerk Council Chairman