

## **September 22, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Madison was held Monday, September 22, 2008, at 5:30 PM at the former Senior Center, located at 434 Hancock Street. Present were the following: Mayor DuPree; Council Members Perriman, Blanton, Hunt, Naples, and Booth; City Manager Nunn; City Clerk Thomas; Planner Callahan; Project Coordinator Huff; and City Attorney Abney. Attorney Reitman was absent.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor DuPree.

Council Member Hunt conducted the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Council Member Perriman motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2008, as presented. Naples second. Opportunity for discussion. Vote unanimous. The motion carries.

**Approval of Order of Agenda Items** – Mayor DuPree said Item X-B (Convention & Visitors Bureau Report) will be moved after Item VIII-B. He reviewed the items requiring votes and those items available for public comment.

### **Legal Matters**

**Beer & Wine – Retail License – Applicant, Golden Pantry #85, Calvin T. Griffith** – City Clerk Thomas explained this is a request for an extension of the license for 60 days pending receipt of FBI fingerprint results. Council Member Booth motion to approve temporary 60-day beer & wine retail license for Golden Pantry #85 which will convert to a permanent license upon receipt of satisfactory fingerprint reports. Naples second. Opportunity for discussion. Vote 4:1. Council Member Perriman opposed. The motion carries.

**Natural Gas Operation & Maintenance Procedures** – City Manager Nunn reported that the City's Gas Superintendent, Ronnie Stovall, had approved the second of three sets of procedures for the gas department (Priority 2) on July 10, 2008. Nunn said no action of the Mayor and Council is required.

**Convention & Visitors Bureau Report – M. Copelan** – Copelan paid tribute to Ms. Annie Lee Small (Ms. Small recently passed away). She said Ms. Small was the first person to tell her that tourism was economic development. She said Ms. Small was a lady of vision. Copelan said Ms. Small had reported on the City Council for many years on WYTH, the local radio station. Copelan reviewed the calendar of events. Copelan reported the visitor count was up 31% in August. She said the new kitchen tour had about 500 attendees and the feedback on how they had found out about the tour was from the website and the billboard on Highway 441. Copelan said the quarterly CVB Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, at 11:30 AM. A staff member from the

Georgia Hotel Association has been invited to attend to discuss hotel/motel taxes. She said an invitation had been extended to the hotel/motels.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Madison Square Committee Report** – City Manager Nunn reported the committee had met on Wednesday, September 17. He said another meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 1. Chief Stapp said they had varied the time of patrols, foot patrols have been put in place, and road checks have been conducted. He said calls have gone down and there have not been any break-ins. Nunn said police activity has been increased in other neighborhoods as well. After further discussion, Mayor DuPree offered an opportunity for public comments.

Bill Doyle, a co-owner of Madison Square Duplexes, said the police patrols have been noticed and are effective. He said the speed bumps have also helped. Doyle discussed other issues such as the excessive noise and the congregating teenagers.

Louise Hensler, a resident of the Beacon Heights subdivision, said the problem extends over onto the Commerce Street area. She has had to install a fence in order to prevent people from coming onto their property and causing problems.

Mayor DuPree said progress is being made. Council Member Naples said the people in Beacon Heights may want to consider the neighborhood watch program and the Sheriff's department has offered to help with these programs.

After further discussion, Tony Hensler, a resident of Beacon Heights, said they are coming from the apartments through the passages in the woods onto their property and neighborhood. He said they are gone by the time the police arrive. He said the apartment owners should install a fence. Hensler discussed other issues and concerns.

Council Member Booth asked Chief Stapp about a citizen's right to swear out a warrant for an arrest. Stapp explained the process.

After discussion, Jenny Blanton, another resident of Beacon Heights, said there are problems with foot traffic from Micha Way. She also said there are problems with rental property in the area. Many of these properties need to be cleaned up. She cited items such as broken down campers, furniture, etc. She said the City Code Enforcement Officer, Julee Wagner, has sent letters to the property owners. She said her property values are going down.

Mayor DuPree said the City does not have an ordinance for junk in yards. He said this is an enforcement issue.

Mary Sauls, a Beacon Heights resident, said junk needs to be kept out of sight.

Council Member Booth asked legal to research ordinances about junk in the yard. Legal will circulate copies of the noise and nuisance ordinance.

City Code Enforcement Officer, Julee Wagner, said she had sent a letter in February to the owner of the property at 1117 Larkmartin Street, advising them to clean up his property. She said the only thing he did was to move some things around. Nunn said a minimum maintenance ordinance has been avoided for some time, but now may be the time to pursue this. He said there are different standards and this will need to be considered.

### **New Business**

**Encroachment on City Right-of-Way – Madison Contemporary** – Planner Callahan said staff will be meeting with property owner and a final draft should be ready for the Mayor and Council's review at the next meeting. Council Member Naples motion to table until the next meeting. Booth second. Opportunity for discussion. Vote unanimous.

**City Manager's Report** – City Manager Nunn said calls and complaints are taken very seriously.

Nunn said he needs the Mayor and Council's approval for an engagement letter with Grant Thornton to perform the arbitrage calculation on the previous bond issue for \$3500. Council Member Naples motion to approve the engagement letter with Grant Thornton for \$3500 and authorize the City Manager to sign. Booth second. Opportunity for discussion. Vote unanimous. The motion carries.

Nunn said the Madison Municipal Complex is 98% complete. Staff should begin moving into the complex at the end of the month.

Nunn said the open house and lunch at the Indian Creek WRF has been rescheduled for October 9.

Nunn reported eight streets have been submitted for LARP (Local Assistance Road Program). He will send the Mayor and Council a list of these streets.

Nunn said the brick sidewalks are being installed on the Thomason Street end of the park. He said the fountain area should begin soon and the contract for the pavilion has been signed.

**Main Street's Report** – Project Coordinator Huff introduced Lori Stapp, the new Administrative Clerk. Huff said the Country Road Cruiser Car Show was on Sunday and a great success. She said the merchants had reported a good weekend. She said the filming crew was present on Sunday and they are working on a tourism video. Huff said the Chili Cook-off is October 4. The

Firefighters Fall 5K is scheduled for October 11. The last concert of the season is on Thursday night. Huff said a Peer-to-Peer Bus Tour will be in Madison on October 29. Approximately 45 different officials will be on the tour. She will provide the Mayor and Council with additional information.

**Planner's Report** – Planner Callahan said the open house for the statuary unveiling that the Stefan Thomas family donated to the park is scheduled for October 9, at 5:00 PM, at the Morgan County Farm Bureau Building. Callahan said J J & G had been contacted about providing a scope of service and an evaluation of the improvements needed for the triangle on South Main Street. The real estate boxes are being picked up at the realtors' offices. The Bicentennial book was scoping sights that may be included in the book during the last weekend. The Corridor Design Commission will be reviewing plans for the shopping facility on the south side at the meeting tomorrow evening. Another potential development is being considered behind Wendy's. This is a John Deere landscaping facility. Mayor DuPree asked about issues concerning this property. Callahan said the moratorium on this property extends until 2/15/09. She said this does not prevent plan review, but no permits can be issued until after 2/15/09. Callahan said the buffer must be kept at the tree density or installed if it doesn't exist. The buffer will have to be reinstalled.

Planner Callahan said a Bicentennial kick-off event is scheduled for December 9. She said elected officials Johnny Grant, Doug Holt, and Bob Smith have been invited to attend. She asked the Mayor and Council to host a lunch for the invited officials.

**Other Business of Council** – Mayor DuPree reported that a location change will be required for the Mayor and Council meetings in October due to election conflicts. City Manager Nunn said the lower courtroom has been scheduled as an alternative site.

**Public Comments**

Louise Hensler and Tony Hensler again expressed their concerns about neighborhood issues.

**Adjournment**

Council Member Booth motion to adjourn. Hunt second. Vote unanimous.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom E. DuPree, Jr., Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mellie A. Thomas, City Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_