

VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

February 16, 2015

Mr. Shelton called the meeting to order. Fiscal Officer Hastings took roll call with the following members present: Ms. Evans, Mr. Sadler, Mr. Laxton, Mr. Geiger and Mr. Shelton. Mayor Hammond and Solicitor Hess were also present. Chief Jordan, Engineer Grosse and Mr. Wissinger were absent.

Mr. Laxton made a motion seconded by Mr. Geiger to approve the January 19, 2015 COW Minutes. All members were in favor. The motion passed.

Solicitor Hess had no report this evening.

Mayor Hammond had no report this evening.

At this time, Mr. Geiger asked if Third Street was a one-way street. Mayor Hammond said it was and a one-way sign will be installed. He said it will be one way going south on Third Street.

Ms. Evans said there will be a Public Service Committee meeting the first Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2015. Ms. Hastings asked if the Public Hearing was going to start early on March 2, 2015. Solicitor Hess said it will start at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Sadler asked Solicitor Hess if he would be presenting facts at this meeting. Solicitor Hess said he will be presenting legislation on closing Oak Alley. He said the meeting is for the citizens to come and voice their comments and/or concerns to Council regarding these closings. Mr. Sadler asked if Council was able to respond to the citizens comments. Solicitor Hess said they should listen and absorb what is being said and then if someone has an objection then it could be discussed.

Mayor Hammond asked if the Mayor was responsible for setting the agenda for the Regular Council Meetings. Solicitor Hess said the Mayor sets the agenda, however Council can vote to amend the agenda. Mayor Hammond asked Council to consider a change to the wording in the Council Rules for the agenda to include "Residents and Elected Officials Comments" instead of "Citizens Comments". He said the reasoning behind this is because we have had a lot of non-residents over the last three years with a lot to say, even though they don't live here or pay taxes here. Solicitor Hess said he would like to research the legality of this. Mr. Sadler said we represent not only the residents, but the employees of the businesses in the Village and the utility customers at Southern Point and are their sounding board. Mayor Hammond said he felt it was better for the whole dialogue. He said anyone can call and be put on the agenda if it is not full already. He said Southern Point was a good example. He said if 10 people from Southern Point were unhappy and come in to vent to Council, he doesn't think it is proper and makes our meetings look like something we are ashamed of. He said they could request to be put on the agenda and send a spokesman to state their case and move on. Mayor Hammond said he has seen some very embarrassing meetings and thinks we need to clean it up and act professional. Mr. Shelton said Solicitor Hess needs to check the legality of the proposed change. He also said if something should happen in a water line and the customers received bad water, what other opportunity would someone have to come and speak to Council if they weren't a resident of the Village. Mayor Hammond said that is when they would need to call and be put on the agenda and send a representative that could come

and conduct themselves in a proper manner using proper language and attitude. He said it was just a thought due to having embarrassing meetings that he felt could have been prevented if the outside folks didn't put their two cents in. Mayor Hammond agreed that we do service a lot of people, however they do have the right to call and get put on the agenda. He used the JEDD discussions as an example. Mr. Shelton said there were some heated conversations and bad things said however when they came to the Public Hearings they were able to say what they wanted to say and let us know how it was going to affect them. Mayor Hammond said it was just a thought and he was asking Council to just think about it. He said when he read it, the Mayor was responsible for the agenda and if someone wanted to speak to Council, they could call and be placed on the agenda if it wasn't full already. He said he would like to see the meetings be more gentle and polite, which they have been of late.

Mr. Shelton reminded everyone that we are in the extreme part of winter with elderly people that are shut in. He suggested that everyone check in on their neighbors and make sure everyone is ok.

Mr. Struckman asked what the meeting was about on March 2, 2015. Mr. Shelton said it was a public hearing regarding the closing of Oak Alley between Hickory Street and Congress Street and between North Street and Brown Street.

Mr. Shelton said the third reading and passing of the budget was done tonight. He said it is a living document that can be reviewed and changed when necessary. He told Council to not feel as if it is chiseled out in stone. It can be voted on to be amended at any time with a resolution.

Ms. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laxton to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor. The meeting adjourned.

---

Randy Shelton, President of Council

---

Wendy Hastings, Fiscal Officer