

TOWN OF ARCADIA

COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2007

The Mayor and the Town Council of the Town of Arcadia met in regular session on February 12, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Bill Cook, E.J. Ratcliff, Mattie Lou Harris, Jerry Nelson and Maggie Roberson. Also present was Town Attorney Patrick O. Jefferson and Town Clerk Nanette Jordan

Town Attorney Patrick O. Jefferson gave the invocation; Council member E.J. Ratcliff led the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Smith recognized Gibsland Mayor White and his wife and welcomed all others.

Dean Hart met before the Council and informed the Council of a complaint that had been filed with HUD concerning the Arcadia Village. The project was to close on February 14, 2007. The previous Town Council approved an application to build 28 single family homes off Daniel Street. The complaint filed stated the project would stymie the economic growth of the City of Arcadia. Mr. Hart advised that the property in question is private property located in a residential area, not bound by a commercial area. Mr. Hart stated that there are 78 interested applicants on the waiting list for this property. Applicants must pass a background check along with rental history. Mr. Hart advised the project would bring in as much as \$20,000.00 in property tax alone for the Town of Arcadia-not to mention utilities or money spent at local businesses. Mr. Hart stated his company plans to spend an estimated 4.7 million dollars in projects for the town.

Town Clerk Nanette Jordan read the Resolution which was passed by the council in support of Mr. Hart's project, the Arcadia Village. Council member Maggie Roberson made a motion to adopt the Resolution for Arcadia Village. Council member E. J. Ratcliff seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: All Nays: None

Mayor appointed Council member Maggie Roberson to head a committee for upgrading the window treatments for the council room.

The Mayor addressed with the Council the need for a Community Center. The Mayor asked the Council to provide him with names for the committee.

The Mayor addressed the issue of reimbursing E. J. Ratcliff the portion he pays for his state insurance. It would be a considerable savings for the town to reimburse E. J. Ratcliff instead of adding him to the town's insurance policy. A motion was made by Bill Cook to reimburse Council member E. J. Ratcliff for his state medical insurance, retroactive to the first of the year. Council member Jerry Nelson seconded the motion.

Yeas: Four Nays: None Motion carried

The Mayor presented an open discussion to call a Public Hearing on an Ordinance to increase the Council's monthly pay to \$600.00 and the Mayor Pro Tem to \$650.00. The Council was advised that there has not been a pay increase for the Town Council since 1978. Council member Jerry Nelson made a motion for a Public Hearing. Council member Maggie Roberson seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: E. J. Ratcliff, Mattie Lou Harris, Maggie Roberson and Jerry Nelson. Nays: Bill Cook.

The Mayor presented to the Council the need to form a committee for Economic Development of Arcadia. Council member Bill Cook introduced the need to hire an engineering firm to do a study to build a service road around Arcadia. Council member Bill Cook was appointed by Mayor Smith to serve on the committee. Town Attorney Patrick O. Jefferson addressed the importance of strategic planning for Arcadia. The Mayor requested one more council member to volunteer for the committee. It was decided to revisit this matter at a later date.

Council member Bill Cook made a motion to make the Bienville Democrat the official journal for the town. Council member Jerry Nelson seconded the motion.

Yeas: All Nays: None Motion carried

Council member Bill Cook made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Council member Mattie Lou Harris seconded the motion.

Yeas: All Nays: None Motion carried

There being no other business the council adjourned.

Nanette Jordan, Town Clerk

Eugene Smith, Mayor