FEBRUARY 2, 2012

GAUTIER, MISSISSIPPI

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT a regular meeting of the Gautier Planning Commission of the City of Gautier, Mississippi, was held on February 2, 2012, at 6:00 P.M. in the Council chambers of the Gautier Municipal Building at 3330 Highway 90, Gautier, Mississippi.

Commission members present: David Wooten, Chairman, Jerry Akins, Larry Dailey, Richard Johnson and Greg Spanier. Absent were James Torrey and Marilyn Minor. Also present were Samantha Abell, Economic Development Director and Bob Ramsay, City Attorney.

David Wooten, Chairman, called the meeting to order and presented the minutes from the January 5, 2012 meeting for approval. The minutes were approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

AGENDA

GAUTIER PLANNING COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 2, 2012

6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (VOLUNTEER)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – (JANUARY 5, 2012)

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS (MATTERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA)

VI. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION

1. GAUTIER TOWN CENTER

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

IX. ADJOURN

PUBLIC COMMENTS (MATTERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION NOT LISTED ON AGENDA)

There were no public comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION

1. GAUTIER TOWN CENTER

Ms. Abell gave a presentation on the City's Town Center and other community development in the City within the last year and a half. She began by discussing Gautier's Comprehensive Plan which was adopted in June, 2009 and how it emphasized making Gautier a business friendly community with a central business district and developing its interstate corridors. She also stated that Gautier is known as a "drive-thru" community and that the Comprehensive Plan stated that the City lacks an identity or a "special sense of place". Ms. Abell went on to explain how the City has adopted the slogan "Nature's Playground" and will be inserting the idea into City projects.

Ms. Abell reminded the Commissioners how they had begun implementing the Comprehensive Plan within the last year by rezoning approximately twelve hundred (1,200) acres. These comprehensive rezonings have established a town center and central business district, created a special planning area for the Mary Walker Bayou area and made the City's interstate corridor viable for development. She also explained how the Corridor Overlay the City had adopted

would allow the City to work with businesses that needed variances by allowing them to provide public amenities.

The rezoning of the interstate corridor has allowed expansion of B and D Plastics which is one of two companies in the world that produce a specialized product, construction of a new medical complex, and additional areas for commercial development that will also provide jobs and revenue.

Ms. Abell showed plans for the new six (6) million dollar streetscape project which includes pedestrian islands, public art, landscaping, sidewalks, benches, a thirty-two (32) acre town green with boardwalks, a festival lawn and an outdoor amphitheatre and a thirty-five (35) foot copper sculpture, all of which have been designed with the theme "Nature's Playground" in mind. Most of the streetscape project is being paid for by grants and local contractors have been used whenever possible.

After Ms. Abell's presentation, Commissioner Spanier asked if the City has plans for hiring a Recreation Director to develop more recreation programs for the citizens of Gautier. Ms. Abell stated that she saw no other option than to initiate a one (1) percent sales tax on prepared foods to obtain funds to pledge for better recreation programs, because current revenue was already needed for loans, staffing the new fire station, and other "growing pains" of the City. She went on to explain the process to obtain the tax. Ms. Abell also advised the Commissioners that Ocean Springs and Moss Point already have a two (2) percent tax on prepared foods and that Pascagoula is currently seeking a two (2) percent tax.

Ms. Abell shared the City of Gautier's 2012 Legislative priorities with the Commissioners and they are as follows:

1. Gautier opposes any new mandates that draw on city resources and opposes any further shifting of costs or services from Federal and State government to cities.

2. Gautier supports legislation enabling Gautier to bring a referendum to voters for the 1% sales tax or special tax on restaurant meals.

3. Gautier supports legislation that modifies the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Utility Act to endure reasonable rates and fees.

4. Gautier supports legislation to increase the maximum cost allowed by State law from $20,000 to $75,000 or more to clean derelict property in Gautier.

5. Gautier supports legislation that would result in lower property insurance.

6. Gautier supports all efforts on behalf of Gulf Coast Community College, Jackson County Campus.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was no additional report from the Director.

SUBMITTED BY:

Samantha Abell
Samantha Abell
Economic Development Director

DATE: 4/16/12

APPROVED:

David Wooten
David Wooten, Chairman
Gautier Planning Commission

DATE: 5/3/12