

PUBLIC HEARING REPORT

JUNE 14, 2021
FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

The St. Mary Parish Council held a Public Hearing on this date with Chairman Dean S. Adams presiding and the following members present: Craig A. Mathews, J Ina, Rodney Olander, Scott Ramsey, Leslie “Les” Rulf, Jr., Patrick J. Hebert, James W. Bennett, Jr., Mark A. Duhon, and Gwendolyn L. Hidalgo. Absent was Kristi Prejeant Rink, M.D.

The purpose of the Public Meeting will be to receive written and/or oral comments and to adopt the following ordinances:

An Ordinance amending and re-enacting Ordinance No. 1051 of the Parish of St. Mary to set speed limits on certain roads in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana on Riverview Drive.

An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2051 regarding permitting, use, and sale of certain fireworks.

There were no written and/or oral comments received regarding the proposed ordinances.

Ernie Voisin appeared before the Council in opposition of An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2051 regarding permitting, use, and sale of certain fireworks.

Mr. Voisin, Patterson, Louisiana, informed that he is the only fireworks seller in St. Mary Parish. He submitted a poll to the Council that he conducted on the 4th of July holiday that had over 800 signatures with their name, age, and location.

Mr. Ramsey stated that he received many calls from citizens in favor of fireworks and that he wanted citizens to be informed of the process to sell fireworks.

Parish President, David Hanagriff stated that the majority of citizens want to celebrate certain holidays with fireworks and that he is in support of fireworks.

Rev. Mathews stated that when the use of fireworks was suspended several years ago, it did not stop citizens from firing fireworks because they would purchase it from other parishes. He also stated that it inhibited revenue in St. Mary Parish.

Mrs. Hidalgo stated that she is in opposition of firing fireworks in the Bayou Vista area because she has received complaints from citizens stating that it is a possible hazard to their property. She explained the effects it has on citizens who may suffer from special needs and the effects on animals.

Mr. Ramsey stated that Sheriff Blaise Smith sends deputies to Bayou Vista to ride down each street with their lights on to notify citizens that it is time to stop firing fireworks.

There being no further business, Mrs. Hidalgo moved for adjournment. Mr. Rulf seconded the motion, which carried.