



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS MEETING  
CITY OF THIBODAUX  
CITY HALL  
THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA  
MARCH 28, 2018**

The Board of Adjustments of the City of Thibodaux assembled in regular session at its regular meeting place, City Hall, 310 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Thibodaux, Louisiana, on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 5:30 P.M.

There were present: Marguerite Erwin, Rudy Soignet and Clarence Savoie

Absent: Marlyn Brooks and Jacqueline Beary

The minutes of the February 28, 2018 Board of Adjustments meeting were approved as written.

Roland Soignet, Jr., Zoning Administrator, addressed the Board with a request for Bayou Signs Outdoor to be allowed to have billboard signs at 102 & 108 E. Bayou Road in a C-2 Zoning District. In our Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance when reading the location of off-premise signs it says “Off-premise signs which conform with the provision of this section shall be permitted in all commercial and industrial zones except CBD and B-1.” He noted there is language in Section 907.G.i. that states signs are prohibited on the batture, that has nothing to do with the type of sign, it has to do with location and it is in the wrong place in the ordinance, it should be placed behind Section B.1 and he was going to change that soon.

Mayor Tommy Eschete addressed the Board and noted it was evident that the City made a mistake since it was codified incorrectly even though it should have been noticed but it was an honest mistake, especially since these signs could have been located right across the street from where they are. Due to the fact that the properties in question have been purchased and leases have already been executed it would cost the City quite a bit of money to have the permits revoked. The only way to remedy this situation now is if the Board deems this a hardship upon the City since it would impose an undue financial burden upon the public. Therefore, this variance would allow us to avoid litigation that we would lose according to our counsel.

Mr. John Lafargue, 215 E. Bayou Rd., addressed the Board with his concerns pertaining to Section 308 as well as Article 10 of the zoning ordinance and the specifics of granting a variance. Several sections state specifically under no circumstances shall the BOA grant a variance to allow a use not permissible under the terms of this Ordinance in this district involved. He noted the City needs to rescind the permit and compel Bayou Signs to remove the signs. Also, since the City has an Error and Omissions policy with \$100,000 deductible, the damages couldn't exceed that amount and he urged the Board to dismiss this request.

Mayor Eschete noted that he discussed the issue at length with our counsel and was assured that the Board does have the authority to grant a variance in this particular instance and this was the only way to make it legal.

Mr. Lafargue noted that according to the Ordinance you are required to meet all eight criteria and it is not only a Thibodaux ordinance but it's the revised Statute of the State of Louisiana. Therefore he didn't think they could grant a variance on something that is prohibited and the Board didn't have much of a choice regarding that.

Ms. Marguerite Erwin noted that was considered land use versus sign ordinance, so we may disagree on that.

**Mr. Rudy Soignet noted he would like to table this request to have more time for review since it was such a delicate situation.**

**Mayor Eschete expressed his understanding of the situations the Board members face on a regular basis when denying variance requests for residents and he typically didn't get involved with those matters by design, however this particular situation is a matter of grave importance to the City of Thibodaux.**

**On motion of Marguerite Erwin, seconded by Clarence Savoie, the Board voted on a motion to table the variance request for Bayou Signs Outdoor to be allowed to have billboard signs at 102 & 108 E. Bayou Road in a C-2 Zoning District. Upon roll call the vote was as follows:**

**YEAS: Marguerite Erwin, Rudy Soignet, Clarence Savoie**

**NAYS: None**

**ABSTAINED: None**

**ABSENT: Marlyn Brooks, Jacqueline Beary**

**There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.**

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**Liz Guidry, Secretary**

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**Roland Soignet, Jr., Zoning Administrator**