

From: Tiffany K. Clark
Sent: Friday, August 08, 2014 11:32 AM
To: ParishCouncilMembers; Wendy Benedetto (wbenedetto@latterblum.com)
Cc: Valarie Berthelot; Sandra Miguez; Nicole Breaux
Subject: FW: Airboat Ordinance 2013-0312

Email received from Constituent in regards to airboat

Tiffany K. Clark
Council Secretary, St. Charles Parish
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"A moment of gratitude makes a difference in your attitude." – Bruce Wilkinson.

From: Morris Hymel, Sr. [<mailto:rooster1946@cox.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 1:19 PM
To: Carolyn Schexnaydre; Jarvis Lewis; Terrell Wilson; William Billy Woodruff; Wendy Benedetto; Paul Hogan; Larry Cochran; Traci Fletcher; Julia Perrier
Cc: T.BOYLE@CHARTER.NET; "Bert"
Subject: Airboat Ordinance 2013-0312

St. Charles Parish Members:

I am presently president of the Flat Ridge Hunting Club and have been for a number of years {36 plus years to be exact}. We currently have 6 active members. We lease the Thomas Boyle property along the 80 Arpent Canal, Hahnville Canal and a portion of Providence Canal. Our group have read the Airboat Ordinance and feel this should be passed. Our group being labeled as the bad guys in this situation here are our concerns.

I have been a lifelong resident St. Charles Parish for 68 years. My dad was a farmer and grandfather was a blacksmith, carpenter and farmer. All lived in St. Charles Parish all their lives along with many uncles, aunts and cousins. We came from a very large family and quite a few still live in this parish. All were educated either at Hahnville or Destrehan. Quite a few are still working or retired from the plants in St. Charles Parish. I have been hunting and fishing these canals, swamp and marshes ever since I could follow my dad and grandfather. So has the majority of the youngsters that grew up in Hahnville or Luling area. It has become a way of life and part of our Heritage. That doesn't seem to mean very much to some people especially the ones that are running these airboat tours. I said it before these boats are far to big to be running these canals. This is not the Florida Everglades where there are 100's of square miles for these people to operate. These air boats have chased off 90% of the wildlife in the area. At one time there was a tour company that ran pontoon boats. From what we saw they had no shortage of tourist. Everybody got along. In fact the tourist would take pictures of our club members with deer, ducks or whatever else was harvested. A few years back someone decided to bring an airboat into this area to run tours. There is a wooden bridge crossing the 80 Arpent Canal built by an oil company to perform exploration. The pontoon boats could pass under this bridge but airboats could not. These guys started running these airboats on private duck ponds and got caught. All of a sudden the wooden bridge was set fire and burnt. Well this group moved out and couple years later these people who are here now showed up. Three hunting seasons ago Thanksgiving week these guys started running these airboats 7 days a week, all day long and have not stopped since.

We are not about putting anyone out of business but what we are about is preserving our recreation area for future generations or does that not matter to anyone. Don't let Hollywood and TV ruin what is near and dear to the sportsmen in St. Parish. Being strapped in an airboat going 50 MPH down canals with numerous curves and endangering people's live is not what south Louisiana is about. These people are leasing property and we feel they should be limited to that area. Besides these are private canals according to all the info from the State Land Office. When these canals were dug in the 1920's they were DRAINAGE canals only. They were dug on private land agreed to by the land owners that the landowners pay taxes on each year. I'm quite sure the landowners who allowed these canals to be dug did not intend for a couple people to ruin this area for everyone for their own personal gain. They were never intended for commerce. Therefore they are not navigable waterways. Navigable waterways are defined as natural waterways made by nature or canals dug for commerce and state or government owned. If I were a landowner I would surely be concerned with these airboats bringing tourist on my property.

SAFETY:

Safety has been a big concern for everyone who use these canals. There have been countless "NEAR-MISSES" between these airboats and boaters and every time the airboat operators say "I sorry" . As predicted at the meeting we had last year there has been an accident with these airboats. Three tourist were injured and from all the info I could get this was a "MINOR ACCIDENT". Worked all my life in construction and there is no such thing as a minor accident. Probably this wasn't made public since St. Charles Parish Water Patrol and Wildlife and Fisheries wasn't allowed to go out and investigate. What about the next time, what will be the re-action time for rescue or recovery? Has anyone given that any thought?

IMPACT ON WILDLIFE:

As mentioned before the wildlife in this area has 90% vanished. The noise created by these airboats is unbelievable. I have invited everyone I've talked to or wrote to these past couple of years to come out and see what we are complaining about. Nobody has ever taken up our offer. I have club records to prove our deer harvest before and after these airboats started running everyday. I don't know how many of you or your spouse's hunt and fish but ask them what noise will do to wildlife. We lease 1192 acres and have managed this property since 1982 so we know what had. Now nothing. We have spent thousands of \$\$\$\$ over the last 36 + years for lease, insurance, fertilizer, boats, vehicles, seeds, feed and whatever else it takes to run a successful hunting club. Again ask yourself or spouse what it cost to belong to a hunting club.

Also there was some confusion about not allowing airboats at all. It was and is clearly stated that power companies, pipeline maintenance, oil companies, emergency etc. would not be effected by this ordinance.

Hope this gives the council a clear idea of what we are facing and ask for your support.

Thanks;

Morris "Rooster" Hymel

From: Tiffany K. Clark
Sent: Friday, August 08, 2014 11:31 AM
To: ParishCouncilMembers; Wendy Benedetto (wbenedetto@latterblum.com)
Cc: Valarie Berthelot; Sandra Miguez
Subject: FW: airboat ordinance

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"A moment of gratitude makes a difference in your attitude." – Bruce Wilkinson.

From: Cortez, George (MPC) [<mailto:gcortez@marathonpetroleum.com>]
Sent: Friday, August 08, 2014 11:18 AM
To: Carolyn Schexnaydre; Jarvis Lewis; Terrell Wilson; William Billy Woodruff; Wendy Benedetto; Paul Hogan; Larry Cochran; Traci Fletcher
Subject: airboat ordinance

Dear Council Members,

I would like to thank you in advance for taking part in voting on the ordinance at hand. As a long time avid hunter and fisherman of the area of concern associated in this ordinance, I have noticed a drastic decline of our wildlife and fisheries that storms we had in the past that didn't have as much of an effect, until these tours started. Last year alone, my boat was swamped and nearly sunken by these tour boats not slowing down numerous times; this is a total disregard for people's property. I waited for the tour guide as he came back and asked why he didn't slow down, he told me that they have a business to run and that they had another tour to run and that he didn't have time for this. Sorry would have been a better answer! I can go on and on about the things that I've gone through with the guys I share a hunting lease with in that area. Please consider that there is not only a total disregard for property, but that there is a huge safety factor and a threat to the areas hunters and fisherman of all ages.

In closing, I ask of you, please pass this ordinance? It means so much too so many people today and for many years to come.

Thanks,

George "Cipy" Cortez
QA/QC TA Planning
Universal Personnel
CWI# 05050171
API 510# 49781
Marathon Petroleum Company - Garyville

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"A moment of gratitude makes a difference in your attitude." – Bruce Wilkinson.

From: Doug Hymel [<mailto:dhymel@smith-tank.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 07, 2014 1:49 PM
To: Carolyn Schexnaydre; Jarvis Lewis; Terrell Wilson; William Billy Woodruff; Wendy Benedetto; Paul Hogan; Larry Cochran; Traci Fletcher; Jarvis Lewis; Tiffany K. Clark
Subject: Airboat Ordinance

All,

I have read the ordinance that is to be voted on. I am hoping this will be voted as a yes and passed. We have been fighting this battle way too long on this. I just don't understand how some people can think they can do anything they want on other people's property. I really hope the parish takes in consideration the citizens of the parish that these air boat tour people are affecting by what they are doing to our land and way of life. We as the lease holders of some of this property has spent years of time and money trying to preserve what we have back there. When I was a teenager I use to spend days and nights back there hunting, fishing, frogging, etc. and no one had to worry about you getting run over by airboats. Every young boy in St. Charles Parish who hunted and fished in that area started off rite there in those same canals as described. In the past years that these airboats has been running back there we have watched everything we have worked for over the years go down to nothing. The fishing is gone, the hunting is gone, and the bald eagles that has been there year after year are gone. There is no doubt in my mind that the noise from those airboats is what affected this area. Not even the noise it is the fact of these animals have no way of resting during the day because there is a constant traffic up and down these canals from the tour boats. Some of the land that we personally caught them on used to be a sanctuary for wildlife. We set aside about 400 acres of good swamp land for our deer and ducks to be able to breed and have a safe haven to go to. Now that has been destroyed. We have brought all this up already in the past, but the safety issue on these airboats is ridiculous. I have seen them not slow down for other boats, passing other boats (mine also) and just not paying attention. I also know that there was an accident back there last year with the airboats. That should have opened everyone's eyes on this matter. To me this is getting treated like a red light, you can have a thousand wrecks at an intersection but nothing will get done until someone ends up getting crippled or killed because of the ones that keep running that red light. I have many more thoughts on this issue and will be happy to answer any questions you may have for me.

Feel free to call me day or night on this matter.

Thanks

Doug Hymel – Project Manager
Smith Tank & Steel, Inc.