

Council (Persons to address the Council), P + R (Dept) (Des Allemands Park Site)

PETITION TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

2005-0156

St. Charles Parish Council Chairman
P. O. Box 302
Hahnville, LA 70057
(985) 783-5000

Today's Date: 5/29/05

Dear Chairman:

Please place my name to address the Council on:

DATE: JUNE 6, 2005

SPECIFIC TOPIC: DES ALLEMAND RECREATION

EXPANSION

(*see specific guidelines on reverse and refer to Parish Charter- Article VII., Sec. I.)

DOCUMENTS, IF ANY: YES / NO

NAME: PAUL HOGAN

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 250

DES ALLEMANDS, LA 70030

PHONE: 504-615-4862

SIGNATURE: Paul J. Hogan

Dear Constituent:

Thank you for your active participation. Your views and comments will be considered by the Council in making our decisions. The Council has a considerable amount of business to conduct in a limited amount of time, therefore, please note the following items that are expected of you:

- > The Home Rule Charter provides for citizens to address the Council. It makes no provision for initiating debate, discussion, or question and answer sessions with Councilmembers or Administration Officials. Your right is also guaranteed to examine public documents as you prepare your presentation. Should you have any questions for Councilmembers and/or Department Heads as you prepare, please forward such inquiries to the Council Office to insure a timely response. Should you wish to speak to any Official or Department personally, a complete list of contact information will be furnished at your request.
- > Please be brief and limit your comments to the specific subject matter on which you have requested to address the Council.
- > Please forward supporting documents to the Council Secretary for distribution to the Parish Council before your scheduled appearance in order for the Council to prepare themselves, if necessary.
- > Upon completion of your allotted time to address the Council, please respect the time given to Councilmembers to respond to your comments by not interrupting or interjecting remarks.
- > Slanderous remarks and comments will not be tolerated. If slanderous remarks or comments are made, your opportunity to address the Council will end, regardless of the remaining time left to address the Council.
- > Repetitious comments and subject matter will be strictly limited.

A confirmation letter will follow when your name is placed on the agenda.

Sincerely,

Desmond J. Hilaire

DESMOND J. HILAIRE
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

(OVER)

Good evening Council and Parish President,

I come to you tonight in the spirit of cooperation / to work with you / to hopefully bring this ballpark issue to a successful conclusion for the benefit of the children ~~of the community.~~ Summer is here once again. This will make the 5th summer in a row that the children in this area will be without a place for its children to play. ~~if the Council doesn't act soon.~~

You and I have the power and the ability to change that. The children of the community deserves this from both of us.

As you are aware, the local community has once again spoken through a petition with 87 signatures submitted to the Council last week. The petitioners, as with the first petition with 71 signatures from May of last year, are opposed to the Parish's efforts to acquire the proposed J.B. Green Road site due to safety concerns.

It speaks volumes when not a single person who lives on J.B. Green wants the park to be located on that street known as a drug thoroughfare.

It speaks volumes and should tell you something when Domino's Pizza refuses to deliver to J.B. Green Road!

J.B. Green Road is not the place to put this park, especially when no one wants it there. The only one wanting it there is this Council with the exception of Councilman Ram and Hilaire who opposed the ordinance due to opposition they heard from the community.

The community has now asked 3 times that you don't do this to them and their community.

The petitioners requests that the Parish secures the established Old Spanish Trail Ballpark. The petition reinforces what was learned with the first petition and confirms what was learned at the town hall meeting held on this subject. That being that the community wants the Old Spanish Trail Ballpark and not the J.B. Green Road site. ~~That was overwhelmingly evidenced by the majority at the town hall meeting as you saw in the video of the meeting I forwarded to each of you.~~ It was reported to you first hand / by one of the Council representatives at the town hall meeting / that the community overwhelmingly supported the Old Spanish Trail site. The passionate desire of the community was also learned by each of you first hand / in these chambers / from several members of the community / as I'm sure you all remember. ~~That passionate desire expressed at the December 6, 2004 Council meeting~~ was the reason the town hall meeting was held.

The minority at the town hall meeting, that being 4 out of 60 as you saw in the video, wanted any site since their children have been without a place to play for so long. The voices of the minority instead of the majority was heard and acted upon by the Council.

The voices of the overwhelming majority at the town hall meeting / as with those who signed the first petition / were ignored. ~~That is not the way a democracy is supposed to work.~~

The community is frustrated. They are upset that their voices are not being heard by the Council. ~~They feel that this second petition will be ignored just like the first petition. Just as what was learned at the town hall meeting was ignored.~~

On January 10th, with the urging of the minority at the town hall meeting that wanted anything, the Council authorized the purchase of the J.B. Green Road site since it was felt that its purchase was the quickest way to get them a site at the time.

As things turned out however, it has not been as was expected. Over 5 months have passed and the property still cannot be purchased due to the legal issues associated with the property. This 2 year old legal issue is at a stalemate with nothing pending in the courts. Once something is pending, it's safe to say that it will not be considered by the courts for at least 6 months. Then you can expect another 6-12 month delay with an appeal by the losing party.

Summer is here, school is out, and the children of the community have no place to play but on the streets! Even if the site could be miraculously purchased tomorrow, it still needs to be cleared, filled, and prepared, ~~and that would take many months of preparation to get it to the condition of the site I previously offered.~~

Along with the petition, I submitted to the Council / an offer / that I hope you each of you has found to be acceptable. In a nut shell, the offer goes like this:

- 1) I agree to sell the Old Spanish Trail Ballpark for its current fair market value.
- 2) In order to keep its value to a minimum, I agree to have it valued as one large lot instead of its current configuration of 5 lots and a portion of another.
- 3) With Parish concurrence, I agree to be bound to the sale with the current fair market value.
- 4) Should an appraisal or appraisals be required by the Parish, I agree to pay for the Parish's appraisals in order to minimize the Parish's expenses.
- 5) So as not to hurt the J.B. Green property owner since he has expended some money on surveys and so as not to affect his donation of the property that the water tower is located on, I agree to enter into a purchase agreement to buy his property for \$10,000 more than what he offered it to the Parish contingent upon his success with the litigation.
- 6) Upon the purchase of the property making up the Old Spanish Trail Ballpark by the Parish, I agree to resubdivide the property into one large lot at my expense so as to minimize the Parish's expenses.

As each of you have learned by reading the proposal, this proposal is weighted in the Parish's favor and against my best interest.

This offer is a win, win for the Council, the taxpayers, and especially for the children of the community.

Its all about doing something good for the children of this community, as I know is the desire of each of you.

I hope this Council, in its wisdom, finds this offer to be extremely reasonable and acceptable for the benefit of the children of the community. It's past time to give the children a place to play other than on the streets. Right now the streets are all they have. Take a ride and see for yourself. Its just a matter of time before one of these kids are injured or killed. Its time to give these kids something to occupy their time. Together, you and I can do something positive for the benefit of this Parish's greatest asset, that being its children.

In conclusion, I would like to restate that the Old Spanish Trail Ballpark is ready for use and can be used the day after it would be purchased. No clearing or filling is needed for its immediate use. The park is ready for use just has it had been used by the community and its children for over 50 years.

Before leaving, I would like to know what is the game plan regarding this issue and I would like to get the Council's feedback and thoughts on the proposal you received a week ago.