Woman gives antebellum home to Historic Village in Zachary

By JAMES MINTON

ZACHARY — The City Council during what is expected to be the last meeting of Mayor John Womack’s 22 years in office, voted Thursday to accept the donation of an antebellum home to the city’s Historic Village.

Historic Village Director Lois Hastings said experts have estimated that the home, on La. 964 north of La. 64, was built around 1813. It sits on property that was part of a 1799 Spanish land grant, she said.

The owner, Zachary native and resident Ethel Brabham Annison, offered the house and seven-tenths of an acre of property to the city for use in its historical education programs.

The act of donation requires that the site be known as “Annison Plantation” and be dedicated to the memory of Annison’s late husband, Willie Eugene Annison Sr.

With one exception, the layout of the house is a duplicate of Magnolia Mound Plantation in Baton Rouge, Hastings said.

Hastings said the addition of the Annison house and the Waddell house in The Plains will enable the city’s museums to offer students a look at 200 years of local history, including the development of the area and significant events before Zachary’s founding as a railroad station town in 1889.

The city, which bought the Waddell property several years ago, plans to use a portion of it for a fire station. The 1863 Civil War Battle of The Plains Store was fought in the vicinity of the Waddell home.

Womack officially leaves office when his successor, Charlene Smith, is sworn in on Jan. 13. Veteran Councilman David Horton and interim Councilwoman Jeannie C. Latil also are leaving office with Womack.

Councilmen David Amrhein, Calvin Boudreaux and Dan Wallis were re-elected to four-year terms in the fall elections.