

**MINUTES OF TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY February 13, 2024
TOWN HALL MEETING
ROOM 205 WEST
PALMETTO AVE
6:00
P.M.
LEON SANDERS JR., MUNICIPAL
COMPLEX**

1. **Call meeting to order-** Mayor Shavonda Gay called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
 2. **Invocation*** Town Attorney, Douglas C Dominick, led all present in the prayer.
 3. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Alderman Cook led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
 4. **Roll Call** - Town Clerk Rolandria McCauley, performed a roll call and verified that all of the five members were present. The following Board of Aldermen were present: Shanithia Gay, James Cook, Jeff Benson and Emily Jennings and Judith McGuffey.
 5. **Approve Agenda** - Mayor Gay asked for a motion to approve the of agenda. A motion was made by Emily Jennings and seconded by Shanithia Gay. There was no public comment. All members voted in favor of the approved agenda.
 6. **Approve Minutes-** Mayor Shavonda Gay asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January, 2024 minutes. A motion was made by James Cook and seconded by Emily Jennings. There was no public comment. All of the members voted in favor of the approval of the minutes.
 7. **Approve the Expense Report-Mayor** Gay asked for an approval for the expense report for January 2024. A motion was made by Shanithia Gay and seconded by Emily James Cook to approve the expense report. There was no public comment. Four of the members of the council voted in favor of the reports. Judith McGuffey voted nay. This motion carried.
- 8. Department reports:**
- Police Department - The Chief of Police reported that there were 186 civil and criminal calls in January 2024. There were 92 traffic stops.
- Public Works Department- Kevin Whitton gave us an update for the street department. Water meters are expected to be in place in March. Gates for the clarifier are in the process of being built for the sewer plant. A suggestion to ask the residents to bring trash cans to the end of the road and place a no truck sign there in order to eliminate the damaging effects caused but the trash truck to the road.

OLD BUSINESS: THERE IS NONE

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE #11 OF 2024- AN ORDINANCE FOR THW CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING, TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPET 20 OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE ARTICLE VI-STATE CRIMINAL CODE, Section 20-85 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

Mayor Gay opened the floor for public hearing. No one spoke in favor or against this ordinance. The public hearing was declared closed.

Mayor Gay requested a motion and seconded to approve ORDINANCE 1 OF 2024. James Cook gave a motion and was seconded by Emily Jennings. All members voted in favor of the ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE #2 OF 2024- AN ORDINANCE FOR THECODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING, TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 20 OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIINS TO INCLUDE ARTICLE VII- TRAFFIC OFFENSES, section 20-91 Louisiana Highway Regulatory Act Adopted, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

Mayor Gay opened the floor for public hearing. There were no comments. The public hearing was declared closed.

Mayor Gay asked for a motion and a seconded to approve ORDINANCE #2 OF 2024. A motion was given by James Cook and seconded by Shanithia Gay. All member were in favor of the vote.

The board of aldermen will discuss charging everyone for the Community Center regardless of 501c3 status. After a brief discussion, no motion was made, so the board of councilmen decided to leave the Community Center as is.

The board of aldermen will consider the hiring of Robert "Cody" Coleman as a full-time officer and the hiring of Bridget Bochman as a part-time officer. The officers will start with a pay rate of \$13.00 per hour. A motion was made by Judith McGuffey and seconded by Shanithia Gay to hire Robert "Cody" Coleman as a full-time officer. All of the member voted in favor of the decision.

The board of aldermen considered the hiring of Bridget Bochman as part-time police officer. A motion was made by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings to hire Bridget Bochman as a part-time police officer. All members were in favor thereof.

The board of aldermen will consider allowing reserve officers to assist the towns police department. These are citizens who have a previous law background or are retired. A motion was mad by Judith McGuffey and seconded by Emily Jennings to approve this decision.

FY 2024-FY2025 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) program- The Board of alderman will consider the adoption of the Citizens Participation Plan/ Citizens Complaint Procedure and the appointment of Mayor Shavonda Gay as the Citizens Compliant Officer for compliance with the LCDBG program. A motion was made by Judith McGuffey to approve the adoption of the Citizens Participation Plan/ Citizens Complaint Procedure and the appointment of Mayor Shavonda Gay as the Citizens Compliant Officer for compliance with the LCDBG program and seconded by Emily Jennings. This motion carried, with all members voted in favor thereof.

COMMUNITY CENTER:

The board of aldermen will consider the approval of the use of the community center for Sonya Green-Birthday party February 17, 2024. A Motion was made by James Cook to approve the application and seconded by Shanithia Gay. All members voted in favor thereof.

COUNCIL REMARKS:

Emily Jenning asked about the status of the carp in the lake. Ronnie Murray responded that we are waiting on a meeting with wildlife and fishery.

Shanitha Gay asked when the Christmas flags will be removed. Mayor Gay gave a response stating that we are waiting on the sky track to arrive.

The Mayor will be participating in the Black History parade in Vivian on Saturday February 17, 2024.

Jeff Benson will be contacting Adam Bass regarding the LCDBG

Benita Rawls stated she will be hosting an event at the library in Plain Dealing on February 29, 2024 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. There will be testing for Alzheimer's /Dementia that day.

Lenora Green-Myers a member of the North Bossier Civics Club, ask for volunteers to help clean to newly acquired Carrie Martin Elementary School on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 8:00am to 10:00am.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Food Bank will be held at the community center on February 26, 2024 at the community center starting at 11:00 AM.

Bossier Council on Aging will be at Carrie Martin Elementary School. Applicant must have an application of file for assistance

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by James Cook and seconded by Emily Jennings to adjourn the meeting. All members voted in favor thereof. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM