

**MINUTES OF TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2022
TOWN HALL MEETING
ROOM 205 WEST
PALMETTON 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 p.m.
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.

Roll Call - Town Clerk Rolandria McCauley, performed a roll call and verified that four members were present. The following Board of Aldermen were present: Jeff Benson, Shanithia Gay, James Cook, Judith McGuffey and Emily Jennings.

4. **Approve Agenda** -Mayor Shavonda Gay asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Shanithia Gay and seconded by Emily Jennings. There was no public comment. All members voted in favor of the approved agenda.
 - a. **Approve Minutes-** Mayor Shavonda Gay asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2022 minutes. A motion was made by James Cook and seconded by Shanithia Gay. There was no public comment. All members voted in favor of the approval of the minutes.
 - b. **Approve the Expense Report-Mayor** Gay asked for an approval for the expense report for August 9, 2022. A motion was made by James Cook and seconded by Shanithia Gay to approve the expense report. There was no public comment. All members of the council voted in favor of the reports.

5. Department reports:

Police Department - Mayor Gay reported that the Chief of Police had provided a written report activity of the Plain Dealing Police Department. In August there were 265 total calls, 54 traffic stops and 14 violations. In July there were 228 total calls, 55 traffic stops and 12 violations.

Public Works Department- Kevin Whitton gave an update regarding the water. He stated That the water main at Palmetto had been fix and the boil advisory has been lifted as of Tuesday September 12, 2022.

6. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

7. **NEW BUSINESS** – A. THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN WILL CONSIDER THE HIRING OF JASON BROWN AS A PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER. Judith McGuffey made a motion to consider the hiring of Jason Brown as a part-time police officer and seconded by Shanithia Gay. There was no public comment. All members were in favor of Jason Brown becoming a police officer for the town of Plain Dealing.

B. THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN WILL CONSIDER RAISES FOR THE POLICE OFFICERS. The board of alderman agreed to raise the rate of pay by two dollars per hour for existing officers and one dollar per hour for the newly hired officers. James Cook made the motion to consider raises for the officers and seconded by Emily Jennings. There was no public comment. All members were in favor of the officers having a raise.

C. Kim Allums had questions regarding the property standards and codes. Kim asked if the council could review the municode and enforce the laws that are there regarding decapitated buildings, overgrown grass and trash. Kim was informed that the mayor has already started this process and is working with the Town Attorney to get letters to citizens in violation of the property standard code.

D. PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE #3 OF 2022-being an ordinance to adopt Water and Sewer rates (inside and outside the Towns limits) of article I- IN GENERAL OF CHAPTER 30 UTILITIES OF THE Code of Ordinances of the Town of Plain Dealing. This will be an ordinance to increase the water and sewer rates).

The Mayor opened the floor for public comments. Brenda Mason said that she was against the increase in rates and she could not drink the water

Jeana Williams also spoke against the increase in water and sewer.

The Mayor then closed the public hearing.

E. THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN WILL CONSIDER THE FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #3 OF 2022- being an ordinance to adopt Water and Sewer rates (inside and outside of the Town of Plain Dealing).

A motion was made by James Cook and seconded by Judith McGuffey to approve Ordinance # 3 of 2022. This motion carried as all members voted in favor of this Ordinance.

F. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #4 OF 2022- BEING AN Ordinance to adopt to Amend Ordinance No 2 of 2022 - Section 30-3 - Industrial Water Rates and Sewer Rates (outside the Town limits) of ARTICLE I - IN GENERAL OF CHAPTER 30 UTILITIES of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Plain Dealing.

The Town Attorney advised the Board of Aldermen that he had received additional information from Teal Jones after the last meeting that their needs for water and sewer had change; therefore, it was necessary to amend this Ordinance. A Motion was made by James Cook and seconded by Judith McGuffey to introduce Ordinance # 4 of 2002. There was no public comment. This motion carried as all members voted in favor of the Introduction of Ordinance #4 of 2022.

G. DISCUSSION ON PROCEDURES TO SALE THE TOWN'S FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT.

Wayne Weeks with the Bossier Parish Fire District # 7 addressed the Board of Aldermen. After discussion on this matter and determining that the Fire District needed the vehicles and equipment to maintain the current fire insurance rating, a motion was made by James Cook and seconded by Judith McGuffey to table this issue. This motion carried as all members voted in favor thereof. The Town Attorney will stare the process to prepare the legal documents to see if the Town can donate the vehicles and equipment to the Fire District.

H. THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL DISCUSS AND APPOINT A CPA FIRM TO PERFORM THE ANNUAL AUDIT. The Mayor had indicated that she had received a letter from the Town's current audit firm of Marsha Millican that she was resigning as the Town's CPA auditor. The Mayor is in discussion with another firm to provide the services and will update the Board of Aldermen as soon as she finds out further information.

8. Community Center applications-

Kenneth Gay requested use of the Community Center for a class reunion. The date of the reunion is September 3, 2022. A motion was made by Judith McGuffey and seconded by Emily Jennings to approve this use. All members voted favor of the rentals.

Council Remarks- James Cook stated that Emily wanted to thank the fire department for putting the grass out at her home. Jeff Benson stated that he had been working on tree removal at the cemetery. He also mentioned that there was a person interested in donation one half acre to the cemetery. Jeff wants to build a pavilion on the cemetery premises from his personal funds and dedicate it to his wife.

Mayor's Comments- Mayor Gay informed members that there will be a Homecoming Parade on September 23, 2022 at 5:00 PM. There will also be some temporary road closers during that time.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Judith McGuffey and seconded by James Cook to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed with all members voting in favor thereof. Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM

Approved by:

Rolandria McCauley

Shavonda Gay