

**MINUTES OF TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY APRIL 8, 2025
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
205 WEST PALMETTO AVE
6:00 P.M.
LEON SANDERS JR., MUNICIPAL COMPLEX**

- 1.Call meeting to order-** Mayor Cook called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2.Invocation** Alderman Jeff Benson, led all present in the prayer.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance** - Alderman Louis Welch led all present with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4.Roll Call** -Town Clerk Rolandria McCauley, performed a roll call and verified that four of members were present. Shanithia Gay was absent.
- 5. Approve Agenda** -Mayor Cook for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Emily Jennings and seconded by Shavonda Gay. There was no public comment. Four of the members voted in favor of the agenda.
- 6. Approve Minutes-** Mayor Cook asked for a motion and a second approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025 regular meeting and dispense with the reading. A motion was made by Emily Jennings and Seconded Jeff Benson. There was no public comment. All of the members voted in favor of the approval of the minutes.
 - 6a. Approve Minutes-** Mayor James Cook asked for a motion and a second approve the minutes of the March 13, 2025 special meeting and dispense with the reading. A motion was made by Jeff Benson and seconded Shavonda Gay. There was no public comment. All of the members voted in favor of the approval of the minutes.
 - 6b. Approve Minutes-** Mayor James Cook asked for a motion and a second approve the minutes of the March 20, 2025 special meeting and dispense with the reading. A motion was made by Jeff Benson and seconded Louis Welch. There was no public comment. All of the members voted in favor of the approval of the minutes.
- 7. Approve the Expense Report-**Mayor Cook asked for an approval for the expense report for the month of March 2025. A motion was made by Shavonda Gay and seconded by Emily Jennings to approve the expense reports. There was no public comment. Four of the members of the council voted in favor of the reports. There were no public comments.
- 8. Department reports:**

Police Department - The Chief of Police reported that there were 280 calls in March of 2025. There were 147 traffic stops and 133 criminal and civil calls.

Public Works Department- There are repair being done to Palmetto Ave. The estimated cost to repair the road will be \$19100.00. ARPA funds are requested to fix the repairs.

The backhoe was involved in an accident on Saturday night. The backhoe was parked in the road to cover a hole. Person went around the barricades and landed in the hole and hit the backhoe. The backhoe has been fixed. There was an accident report written and no one was hurt.
- 9. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. The board of aldermen will discuss Ronnie Murray's request to remove employee insurance for pay. Ronnie has requested to be added back to the Town's health insurance. There is still no word from the Attorney General's Office.
- B. The council will discuss insurance bids for the town. There hasn't been any calls from the suggested insurance companies.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- A The council will discuss and vote on how to disperse payment received from the Teal Jones water bill. On a motion given by Louis Welch and seconded by Jeff Benson, it was decided by the board of Council to open a separate savings account to put one half of the payment \$6200.00 into the savings account and the other half will be placed into the water account minus the \$1900.00 that is required to be put aside per the stipulations of the sewer grant. There were no public comments. All members voted in favor thereof.
- B. The Board of Aldermen will consider the selection of Bossier Press Tribune as its official journal (newspaper) pursuant to L.A.R.S 42:141. This is a requirement of Louisiana Law to choose an official journal each and every year by July. On a motion given by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings, it was suggested that the Bossier Press Tribune remain the official journal (newspaper) for the town of Plain Dealing. All members voted in favor thereof.
- C Mayor Cook opened the floor for a public hearing on ORDINANCE 13 OF 2024- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #3 OF 2024- THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024. The mayor asked for public comments. There was no public comment. The public hearing was declared closed.
- D The BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #13 OF 2024-AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 3 OF 2024- THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024. Jeff Benson gave a motion to CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #13 OF 2024-AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 3 OF 2024- THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024. A second motion was given by Louis Welch. There was no public comment. All members voted in favor thereof.
- E. Mayor Cook opened the floor for a public hearing on ORDINANCE 2 OF 2025- AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025. Jeff Benson gave a motion To ADOPT OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025. A second motion was given by Louis Welch. The mayor asked for public comments. There was no public comment. The public hearing was declared closed.
- F The BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #2 OF 2025-AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025. Jeff Benson gave a motion to CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #13 OF 2025 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 3 OF 2025- THE OPERATING BUDGET OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025. A second motion was given by Louis Welch. All members voted in favor thereof.
- G Mayor Cook opened the floor for a public hearing on ORDINANCE #3 OF 2025- AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CODE OF ORDINANCE, TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING, LOUISIANA TO

AMEND CHAPTER 30-UTILITIES TO ADOPT ARTICLE IV- METERS SECTION 30-180- New meters sets; Section 30-181 Fees and cost to install a new meter as follows; Section 30-182 maintenance, replacement and relocation of meter boxes and vaults; Sections 30-183-Interference with meter reading; Section 30-184-Submetering or re-selling of water; Section 30-185- Meters to be approved by the department; and Section 30-186. The mayor asked for public comments. There was no public comment. The public hearing was declared closed.

- H The board of Aldermen will consider the adoption of – ORDINANCE #3 of 2025 AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CODE OF ORDINANCE, TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING, LOUISIANA TO AMEND CHAPTER 30-UTILITIES TO ADOPT ARTICLE IV- METERS SECTION 30-180- New meters sets; Section 30-181 Fees and cost to install a new meter as follows; Section 30-182 maintenance, replacement and relocation of meter boxes and vaults; Sections 30-183-Interference with meter reading; Section 30-184-Submetering or re-selling of water; Section 30-185- Meters to be approved by the department; and Section 30-186. The mayor asked for a motion and a second to adopt ordinance #3 of 2025. Jeff Benson gave a motion to adopt the ordinance and Louis Welch seconded the motion. There was one public comment. Alderman Shavonda Gay asked to clarify reselling of water? Attorney Dominick gave the example of running a hose from one place to another to obtain water use. All members voted in favor thereof.
- I PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE #4 OF 2025- An ordinance for the code of ordinance, Town of Plain Dealing, Louisiana to amend Chapter 20-OFFENSES IN MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, ARTICLE 1- IN GENERAL TO INCLUDE Section 20.5 theft of utility service, inference commission of theft. Mayor Cook opened the floor for a public hearing on ORDINANCE #4 OF 2025 - An ordinance for the code of ordinance, Town of Plain Dealing, Louisiana to amend Chapter 20-OFFENSES IN MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, ARTICLE 1- IN GENERAL TO INCLUDE Section 20.5 theft of utility service, inference commission of theft. The mayor asked for public comments. There was no public comment. The public hearing was declared closed.
- J. The Board of Alderman will consider the adoption ORDINANCE #4 OF 2025- An ordinance for the code of ordinance, Town of Plain Dealing, Louisiana to amend Chapter 20-OFFENSES IN MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, ARTICLE 1- IN GENERAL TO INCLUDE Section 20.5 theft of utility service, inference commission of theft. On a motion given by Jeff Benson and seconded by Louis Welch, it was considered to accept the adoption of ORDINANCE 4 OF 2025, An ordinance for the code of ordinance, Town of Plain Dealing, Louisiana to amend Chapter 20-OFFENSES IN MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, ARTICLE 1- IN GENERAL TO INCLUDE Section 20.5 theft of utility service, inference commission of theft. All members voted in favor thereof.
- K The Board of Aldermen will consider the introduction of Ordinance # 6 of 2025- An ordinance to amend Ordinance #5 of 2025 Water and Sewer Rates (inside and outside the Town limits) of Article I-IN GENERAL OF CHAPTER 30 UTILITIES OF THE CODE OF Ordinances of the Town of Plain Dealing and otherwise provide with respect thereto. (There will be a public hearing prior to the adoption of this ordinance at a special meeting of the Town of Plain Dealing to be held on Thursday April 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall meeting room located at 205 West Palmetto Ave, Plain Dealing, LA). Jeff Benson gave a motion to introduce Ordinance #6 of 2025- An ordinance to amend Ordinance #5 of 2025 Water and Sewer Rates (inside and outside the Town limits) of Article I-IN GENERAL OF CHAPTER 30 UTILITIES OF THE CODE OF Ordinances of the Town of Plain Dealing and otherwise provide with respect thereto. (There will be a public hearing prior to the adoption of this ordinance at a special meeting of the Town of Plain Dealing to be held on Thursday April 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall meeting room located at 205 West Palmetto Ave, Plain Dealing, LA. Emily Jennings seconded. There were no public comments. All members vote in favor thereof.
- L. The board of aldermen will have a discussion and consider property standard options. After a discussion of the council, it was determined that their property standard court conducted through mayor's court and amend the ordinance to set finds and fees.
- M. COMMUNITY CENTER APPLICATIONS: There were no community center applications to approve.
- N. COUNCIL REMARKS: Former councilwoman Linda Hamiter passed away. Alderman Jeff Benson stated that if anyone wants to use the cemetery pavilion for funeral services is welcome to do so.

O. MAYORS COMMENTS: NONE

P. ADJOURN: On a motion given by Emily Jennings and seconded by Shavonda Gay, April 8, 2025 meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM. All members voted in favor thereof.