

TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM  
205 WEST PALMETTO AVE MINUTES OF TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY AUGUST 12, 2025  
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. **Amend Agenda-** Mayor Cook asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include resolution 19 of 2025, a resolution to award the construction contract for the wastewater treatment facility to AXIS CONSTRUCTIONLLC, Inc in the base bid amount of \$1,858,000.00. This award is contingent upon all LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMRNT BLOCK GRANT (LCDGB) program requirements being met, the Town of Plain Dealing hereby obligating the necessary funds in the amount of \$111,800.00, to cover the overage, and upon execution of said construction contract, simultaneously issuing a change order with said contractor reducing the construction contract within the OCD's construction budget. A motion was made by Emily Jennings and seconded by Jeff Benson to amend the agenda. There was no public comment. Four of the members voted in favor of the agenda. Shanithia Gay was absent.
6. **Approve Agenda** -Mayor Cook asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. A motion was made by Shavonda Gay to approve the agenda as amended. A second motion was given by Emily Jennings. There was no public comment. Four of the members voted in favor of the amended agenda.
6. **Approve Minutes-** Mayor Cook asked for a motion and a second approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025 regular meeting and dispense with the reading. A motion was made by Shavonda Gay and seconded by Emily Jennings. There was no public comment. Four of the Members voted in favor of the approval of the minutes. Shanithia Gay was absent.
7. **Approve the Expense Report-Mayor** Cook asked for an approval for the expense report for the month of July 2025. A motion was made by Shavonda Gay and seconded by Emily Jennings to approve the expense reports. Four of the members of the council voted in favor of the reports. There were no public comments.

## **8. Department reports:**

The chief of Police reported that there were 207 calls to the Police Department in July of 2025. There were 107 traffic stops and 126 criminal and civil calls.

Public Works Department-Kevin Whitton reported that the grant is moving forward. The crew has been working on potholes. Kevin also asked the council if any one of them would be willing to attend the management training for meeting.

## **9. OLD BUSINESS:**

The council will discuss insurance bids for the town. There aren't any updates from insurance companies.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. The council will ratify the hiring Jason Chachere as a full-time police officer with a starting pay of \$13.00 per hour. Mr. Chachere will replace Jeremy Carter who resigned in June of 2025. A motion was made by Jeff Benson and seconded by Louis Welch. There was no public comment. Four of the members voted in favor of the approval of the minutes. Shanithia Gay was absent.
- B. The board will discuss the FY 2024 LCDBG for wastewater Treatment Improvement. Gary Fontana, Chandler Warren and Brian Kauffer appeared before the council to explain the dynamics of the contract.
- C. The board of aldermen will consider resolution 19 of 2025, a resolution to award the construction contract for the wastewater treatment facility to AXIS CONSTRUCTIONLLC, Inc in the base bid amount of \$1,858,000.00. This award is contingent upon all LOUISIANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (LCDBG) program requirements being met, the Town of Plain Dealing hereby obligating the necessary funds in the amount of \$111,800.00, to cover the overage, and upon execution of said construction contract, simultaneously issuing a change order with said contractor reducing the construction contract within the OCD's construction budget. A motion was made by Emily Jennings and seconded by Jeff Benson to amend the agenda. There was no public comment. Four of the members voted in favor of the agenda. Shanithia Gay was absent.
- D. The BOARD OF ALDERMEN AGREED to enter into resolution 20 of 2025 which is a COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH BOSSIER CIVICS CLUB, INC FOR THE USE OF THE CARTERIGHT BUILDING LOCATED AT 305 W PALMETTO AVE, PLAIN DEALING LOUISIANA, AS A MEETING SITE FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS MEMBERS. A motion given by Jeff Benson and second by Emily Jennings to accept resolution 20 of 2025.

- E. Cody Robinson appeared before the council to discuss the spraying the Town's ditch with weed and broad leaf killer. Mr. Robinson states that the job could be done twice per year at about \$2000.00.
- F. THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN discussed bids to replace the air conditioner at the community center. There were two bids given. Bid# one was from Arkla Air in the amount of \$10825.00. The second bid was from Phillip Hartzo Air in the amount of \$9100.00. Motion was made by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings to approve the lowest bid with Phillip Hartzo Air. This motion passed with all 4 members voting in favor thereof.
- G. Mayor Cook gave updates on the exceptions that were received from the audit. Mayor Cook informed the council that we were aware of the exceptions and that the exception was being corrected.
- H. There was a discussion and vote on properties to be targeted under the property standards regulations. It was decided that the property at 620 W Mary Lee will be the first focal point.
- I. Mayor James Cook read a PUBLIC NOTICE- A Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article 7, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(8) that a public hearing of the Town of Plain Dealing, Bossier Parish, Louisiana will be held at its regular meeting place in the Town Hall meeting room located at 205 West Palmetto Avenue, Plain Dealing Louisiana, on September 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. to consider levying additional increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum. The estimated amount of tax revenues to be collected in the next year from the increased millage is \$44,877.65, and the amount of increase in taxes attributable to the millage increase is 5,374.05

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen will be held immediately following the adjournment of the public hearing to adopt the millage rate(s) discussed in the public hearing.

**11. COMMUNITY CENTER APPLICATIONS:**

There were two applications submitted to the council for approval

Sylvia Williams- repast 8/16/25

Gerald Nelson- wedding reception 9/20/25

A motion was made by Shavonda Gay and seconded by Jeff Benson. There was no public comment. All of the members voted in favor of the community center rentals.

- 12. **COUNCIL REMARKS:** Jeff Benson talked to Hershal Malone for help with the removal of a tree. Emily Jennings will contact the forestry department for assistance as well.

13. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** NONE

**ADJOURN:** On a motion given by Louis Welch and seconded by Shavonda Gay,  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. All members voted in favor thereof.