

**MINUTES OF THE
TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING REGULAR MEETING
LEON SANDERS JR., MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
205 WEST PALMETTO AVENUE, PLAIN DEALING, LOUISIANA
Tuesday January 7, 2025 - 6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER – James Cook, Mayor

INVOCATION -Mr. Douglas Dominick, Town Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Shavonda Gay, Alderman

ROLL CALL- Ms. Rolandria McCauley, Town Clerk

1. APPROVE AGENDA:

Mayor Cook asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Shanithia Gay to approve the agenda and seconded by Emily Jennings. All member voted in favor of the agenda being approved. There was no public comment.

2. APPROVE MINUTES:

A. Mayor Cook asked for a motion and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024 regular meeting, and dispense with the reading. A motion was given by Emily Jennings and seconded by Shanithia Gay to approve minutes of the December 10, 2024 regular meeting, and dispense with the reading. All members voted in favor of the approval of the minutes. There were no public comments.

B. Mayor Cook asked for a motion and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2024 special meeting, and dispense with the reading. A motion was given by Emily Jennings and seconded by Shanithia Gay to approve minutes of the December 23, 2024 special meeting, and dispense with the reading. All members voted in favor of the approval of the minutes. There were no public comments.

3. APPROVE EXPENSES:

Mayor Cook asked for a motion and a seconded to approve expenses for the month of December 2024. Jeff Benson gave a motion to approve the expense report for December 2024 and seconded by Emily Jennings. All member voted in favor of the approval. There were no public comments.

4. **DEPARTMENT REPORT:**
Police Department- Chief Ronnie Murray submitted a report that stated that for the month of December 2024 there were 271 calls. There were 130 civil and criminal calls. Total traffic Were 141 calls. From January 2024 until December 2024 there were 4,260 calls which is an increase of 907 calls from 2023.

Street Report-NONE

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Council will discuss the status of Ronnie Murray's request to remove employee insurance For pay. As of now, the council is waiting to hear from the Attorney General's office. No other information can be provided at this time.
- B. Council will discuss the status of insurance bids for the Town of Plain Dealing. Currently Insured with Parnell Robinson. There are currently three insurance quotes out for bid. Adams Insurance has been contacted as well as Fourth Insurance and Risk Management. The council is waiting for responses from these companies.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. The board of aldermen will consider resolution #1 of 2025 a **RESOLUTION TO APPOINT AN INDIVIDUAL TO FILL THE POSITION OF ALDERMEN, DISTRICT 1, UNTIL AN ELECTION CAN BE HELD.** The Mayor opened the floor up for nominations. Jeff Benson nominated Sheila Player and Shanithia Gay nominated Shovanda Gay. There were no more nominations by any members of the board. Three members voted in favor of Sheila Player. Ms. Player had the majority of votes; therefore, there was no need for any other consideration. A motion was then made by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings to approve resolution #1 appointing Sheila Player to fill the position of Alderman of District 1 until an election can be held. This motion passed with all members voting in favor of thereof. There were no public comments.

B. The board of Aldermen will consider resolution #2 of 2025 A **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT ROLANDRIA**

MCCAULEY, AS THE TOWN CLERK. A motion was given by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings. All members voted in favor of resolution #2 to appoint Rolandria McCauley as a town clerk. There were no public comments.

- C. The board of Aldermen will consider resolution #3 of 2025 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT ROLANDRIA MCCAULEY, AS THE TAX COLLECTOR FOR THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING. A motion was given by Emily Jennings and seconded by Shanithia Gay. All members voted in favor of resolution #3 to appoint Rolandria McCauley AS THE TAX COLLECTOR FOR THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING. All members voted in favor of resolution #3. There were no public comments.
- D. The board of Aldermen will consider resolution #4 of 2025 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT DOUGLAS C. DOMINICK, AS THE TOWN ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING. A Motion was given by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings TO APPOINT DOUGLAS C. DOMINICK, AS THE TOWN ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING. All members voted in favor of resolution #4. There were no public comments.
- E. The board of Aldermen will consider resolution #5 of 2025 - A RESOLUTION TO REMOVE THE FORMER MAYOR, SHAVONDA GAY, AS A SIGNATURE AND/OR AUTHORIZED SIGNER ON ALL BANK ACCOUNTS, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS, CREDIT CARD(S), DEBIT CARDS OR ANY OTHER ACCOUNTS IN THE NAME OF THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING. A motion was given by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings to REMOVE THE FORMER MAYOR, SHAVONDA GAY, AS A SIGNATURE AND/OR AUTHORIZED SIGNER ON ALL BANK ACCOUNTS, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS, CREDIT CARD(S), DEBIT CARDS OR ANY OTHER ACCOUNTS IN THE NAME OF THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING. All members voted in favor of resolution #5 to There were no public comments.

- F. The board of Aldermen will consider resolution #6 of 2025 **A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE MAYOR JAMES COOK, AS A SIGNATURE AND/OR AUTHORIZED SIGNER ON ALL BANK ACCOUNTS, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS, CREDIT CARD(S), DEBIT CARDS OR ANY OTHER ACCOUNTS IN THE NAME OF THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING.** A Motion was given by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings to **AUTHORIZE MAYOR JAMES COOK, AS A SIGNATURE AND/OR AUTHORIZED SIGNER ON ALL BANK ACCOUNTS, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS, CREDIT CARD(S), DEBIT CARDS OR ANY OTHER ACCOUNTS IN THE NAME OF THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING.** All Members voted in favor of resolution #6 to authorize James Cook as a signer on the all-town accounts. There were no public comments.
- G. The board of Aldermen will consider resolution #7 of 2025. **A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN CLERK, ROLANDRIA MCCAULEY, AS A SIGNATURE AND/OR AUTHORIZED SIGNER ON ALL BANK ACCOUNTS, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS, CREDIT CARD(S), DEBIT CARDS OR ANY OTHER ACCOUNTS IN THE NAME OF THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING.** A motion was given by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings. **TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN CLERK, ROLANDRIA MCCAULEY, AS A SIGNATURE AND/OR AUTHORIZED SIGNER ON ALL BANK ACCOUNTS, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS, CREDIT CARD(S), DEBIT CARDS OR ANY OTHER ACCOUNTS IN THE NAME OF THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING.** All members voted in favor of resolution #7 to authorize Rolandria McCauley as a signer on the all-town accounts. There were no public comments.
- H. The board of Aldermen will consider resolution #8 of 2025 **A RESOLUTION TO MAKE AND APPOINTMENT OF WHICH ALDERMAN SHALL SERVE AS THE MAYOR PRO TEM.** Due to a new administration, a new Pro Tem has to be appointed. Mayor Cook ask the council for a motion on who they would like to appoint. The council selected Jeff Benson for the appointment of mayor pro Tem Emily Jennings made a motion to approve resolution #8 to appoint

Jeff Benson as mayor pro Tem, A second motion was given by Lous welch. All members voted in favor on the resolution. There were no public comments.

- I. - The board of Aldermen will consider resolution #9 of 2025 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR PRO TEM, AS A SIGNATURE AND/OR AUTHORIZED SIGNER ON ALL BANK ACCOUNTS, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS, CREDIT CARD(S), DEBIT CARDS OR ANY OTHER ACCOUNTS IN THE NAME OF THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING. TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR PRO TEM, AS A SIGNATURE AND/OR AUTHORIZED SIGNER ON ALL BANK ACCOUNTS, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS, CREDIT CARD(S), DEBIT CARDS OR ANY OTHER ACCOUNTS IN THE NAME OF THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING. A motion was made by Emily Jennings and seconded by Shanithia Gay to approve resolution 9 of 2025. There were no public comments.
- J. The board of Aldermen will consider the chief of Police's request to hire Jeremy Carter As a full-time police office with the starting pay of \$13.00 per hour. He will be the replacement for Megan Thomas. A motion was given by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings to approve the chief's recommendation to hire Jeremy Carter as a full-time officer. There was no public comment. All members voted in favor of the chief's recommendation.
- K. The board of Aldermen will consider resolution #10 of 2025 a resolution to approve and authorize the CPA firm Cook and Morehart to conduct the town audit and perform a statewide agreed upon procedure for the fiscal year December 31" of 2024. to approve and authorize the CPA firm Cook and Morehart to conduct the town audit and perform a statewide agreed upon procedure for the fiscal year December 31" of 2024. A motion was given by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings. All members voted in favor of resolution # 10 to use Cook and Morehart as our Auditor. There was no public comment.
- L. The board of aldermen will consider the resolution #11 of 2025, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FINAL PAYMENT UNTO TEAL JONES-PLAIN DEALING LLC REGARDING THE WATER AND/OR

SEWER AGREEMENT AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANT PREVIOUSLY EXECUTED AND FILED IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA UNDER INSTRUMENT # 1311731 ON MAY 5, 2023. A motion was made by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings TO APPROVE FINAL PAYMENT UNTO TEAL JONES-PLAIN DEALING LLC REGARDING THE WATER AND/OR SEWER AGREEMENT AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANT PREVIOUSLY EXECUTED AND FILED IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA UNDER INSTRUMENT # 1311731 ON MAY 5, 2023. All members voted in favor of resolution. There was no public comment.

M. The Board of Aldermen will consider Resolution # 12 of 2025 a resolution to authorize certain individuals to sign for Request for Payment for LCDBG funds, designate an official depository to hold LCDBG funds, and authorize certain individuals to sign checks on the official depository; and to authorize certain individuals to sign for the Request for Payments for LCDBG funds and authorize certain individuals to sign checks on the official depository. A motion was made by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings to authorize certain individuals to sign for Request for Payment for LCDBG funds, designate an official depository to hold LCDBG funds, and authorize certain individuals to sign checks on the official depository; and to authorize certain individuals to sign for the Request for Payments for LCDBG funds and authorize certain individuals to sign checks on the official depository. All members voted in favor of resolution. There was no public comment.

N. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE # 1 OF 2025 - An Ordinance to adopt 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. (This will be an increase in the rates pursuant to rate study by the Louisiana Rural Water Association). A motion was made by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings to introduce Ordinance #1 of All members voted in favor of resolution. There was

no public comment.

7. **COMMUNITY CENTER APPLICATIONS:**

A motion was made by Shanithia Gay and seconded by Sheila Player to approve the rental of the community center for the month of January 2025. All member voted in favor of the rentals and there were no public comments.

8. **Council Remarks**

Sheila Player stated that she was glad to be on board and will do her best to serve The community.

Shanithia Gay asked for prayer for her daughter who was recently shot.

Emily Jennings mention the clean-up of the town.

9. **Mayors Comments- none**

10. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM. A motion was made by Jeff Benson and seconded by Emily Jennings. All member voted in favor of the meeting being adjourned. There were no public comments.

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