

**MINUTES OF TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY January 9, 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 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.
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 to amend the agenda. Under New business Item 2 that talks about a resolution authorizing the mayor to submit an application for the local government assistance program to the office of community development being amended to read resolution #1 of 2024 a resolution authorizing Mayor Gay to submit a loan application form 100A and accompanying documents to the Department of Health on behalf of the Town of Plain Dealing for the purpose of placing this project on the comprehensive priority list for funding through the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Program: and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

A motion and a 2nd to approved the agenda the amended agenda was made by Emily Jennings and seconded by James Cook. The Mayor called for a public comment. There was none. The motion passed unanimously.

A request for a motion and a 2nd to approve the agenda as amended was made by Shanithia Gay and seconded by Emily Jennings. All members voted in favor and this motion carried. There was no public comment.

- 5a. **Approve Minutes-** Mayor Shavonda Gay asked for a motion and a second approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023 regular meeting and dispense with the reading. A motion was made by James Cook and seconded by Emily Jennings. There was no public comment. 4 members voted in favor with Judith McGuffey voted against. This motion carried. There was not public comment.

Approve the Expense Report-Mayor Gay asked for an approval for the expense report for December 2023. A motion was made by James Cook and seconded by Shanithia Gay 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. There were no public comments.

6. Department reports:

Police Department - The Chief of Police reported that there were 196 civil and criminal calls in December 2023. There were 128 traffic stops. From January 2023 through December 2023 there were 3353 calls.

Public Works Department- Kevin Whitton gave us an update on water system. He informed us that the divers will be here on Sunday to clean the water tank on Dodson hill. The pump on the lift station will has gone out on Shelton St. and is scheduled to be replaced on Thursday January 11, 2024.

Kevin also asked the council to consider giving Colby Swain a raise in pay since he has had an increase in responsibility.

New water meter will most likely be installed in March 2024.

7. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

8. NEW BUSINESS:

Tamara Crane, Executive Director of the Bossier Council on Aging spoke to the council to announce the permanent closing of the Plain Dealing Senior Center. The site is closing because of staffing issues and the company has been advertising since October of 2022. Services are still being provided to the area such as grocery transportation, medical transportation, homemaker and caregiver services, foodbank and meal delivery. Ms. Crane ask the council if they would consider allowing them to use the parking lot of the Community center if the school requires them to move.

8A. The board of aldermen will consider Chief of Police recommendation to hire Jeremy Carter as a full-time police officer. Chief Murray approached the council to explain that Jeremy has been employed with the Town since May of 2022 as part-time police officer and would like to fill the full-time position previously held by Dale Sindle. A motion was made by Judith McGuffey and seconded by Jeff Benson to consider the Chief's recommendation to hire Jeremy Carter as a full-time officer. All members voted in favor of the recommendation to hire Jeremy Carter as a full-time officer. There was no public comment.

B. The board of aldermen will consider: Resolution #1 of 2024- resolution number #1 of 2024 a resolution authorizing Mayor Shavonda Gay to submit a loan application form 100 A and accompanying documents to the Department of Health on behalf of the Town of Plain Dealing for the purpose of placing this project on the comprehensive priority list for funding through the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Program: and to otherwise provide with respect thereto.

Due to lack of information, the board of aldermen decided to table this item until next month. A motion was made by Judith McGuffey and seconded by Shanithia Gay to revisit this resolution next month. All member voted in favor of thereof.

- C. THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONSIDER THE INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #1 OF 2024 - AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING, TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 20 OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE ARTICLE VI - STATE CRIMINAL CODE, Section 20-85 and to otherwise provide with respect thereto. There will be a public hearing prior to the adoption of Ordinance #1 of 2024 at the regular town council meeting to be held at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at the Town Hall Meeting Room located at 205 West Palmetto Ave, Plain Dealing, Louisiana. After a brief explanation from the police chief and the attorney a motion was made by James Cook and seconded by Emily Jennings to adopt ordinance #1 of 2024. All members voted in favor of the ordinance. There was no public comment.
- D. THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONSIDER THE INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE #2 OF 2024 - AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING, TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 20 OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS TO INCLUDE ARTICLE VII - TRAFFIC OFFENSES, Section 20-91 Louisiana Highway Regulatory Act Adopted, and to otherwise provide with respect thereto. There will be a public hearing prior to the adoption of Ordinance #2 of 2024 at the regular town council meeting to be held at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at the Town Hall Meeting Room located at 205 West Palmetto Ave, Plain Dealing, Louisiana. A motion was made by Emily Jennings and seconded by Shanithia Gay to introduce ordinance #2 of 2024. There was no public comment. All member voted in favor of introducing ordinance #2 of 2024.
9. Mayor Gay asked for a motion and a second to approve the community center applications. Shanithia Gay made the motion and Emily Jennings seconded the motion to approve the community center applications. There were no public comments. All member voted in favor thereof.

Council Remarks-

NONE

Mayor's Comments-

Food bank will be held on January 22, 2024 at the community center. The start time will be 11:00 AM.

The Bossier Council on Aging food bank will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at Carrie Martin Elementary School. Applicant must have current assessment on file and be 60 years of age to receive the goods.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Judith McGuffey and seconded by Shanithia Gay to adjourn the meeting. This motion passed with all members voting in favor thereof. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM

Approved by:

Rolandria McCauley

Shavonda Gay