

PUBLIC MEETING

Public Council meeting was held 4/8/24 at 6:30pm at the Elizabeth Community Center, 210 East Main Street, Elizabeth, LA. The notice of Meeting having been duly posted in accordance with requirements, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Green at 6:30pm. Opening prayer led by Ken Kelly, then Pledge of Allegiance and roll call by Mayor Green.

Mayor, Council and Staff Present

Mandy Green, Mayor
Ken Kelly, Council
Stacy Weldon, Council
Denise Lee, Clerk
Crystal Hunt, Code Compliance
Heather Sutton, Attorney
Glenn Turner, Village Engineer
Shane Ware, Police Chief

Council and Staff Absent

Brandon Sweat, Fire Chief
Steven Self, Asst Fire Chief
Mea Dillehay, Council

1. Mayor Green requested for any comments on agenda items. No comments.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. Ken Kelly made a motion to approve minutes from 3/11/24 meeting.
 - B. Mayor Green requested to add a correction to Agenda item 10.D. to add Attorney fees. Also to add to Number 12, item D. Council to introduce amendment to ordinance to change the meeting place of the monthly council meetings. Also, add to Police Handbook that all fulltime officers must enroll in MPERS on the date of hire and all parttime or fulltime officers must have a physical completed within one week of hire. Mayor Green asked for any public comments on these changes. No comments.
 - C. Stacy Weldon made a motion to approve the agenda with the correction and addition to agenda. Ken Kelly seconded. Stacy Weldon- yea, Ken Kelly-yea, Mea Dillehay-absent
3. **ENGINEER'S REPORT**
 - A. Glenn Turner gave update on grants in progress.
 - B. Ken Kelly made a motion to adopt **Resolution 115-2024** proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.
4. **CODE COMPLIANCE**
 - A. Crystal Hunt gave update on status of property maintenance of 200 Poplar St, Parcel No.0550003100. She has been unable to reach the owner. She will try one more time, then a work order will done for the village employees to bring property into compliance and the owner will be invoiced.
 - B. Update of 1020 Beech, M.Willis, Parcel No.0450001500. Crystal was unable to find volunteers to assist in cleaning of property. She stated that she reached out to the fire chief to burn the pile in the yard, but no response. Ken Kelly made a motion to table this discussion until next meeting to allow more time to have a solution to bring property into compliance.
 - C. Chief Ware asked about the status of the condemned properties on Pine Street. Crystal stated she is working on getting quotes to get the houses torn down.
5. **POLICE CHIEF**
 - A. Chief Ware gave monthly report.
 - B. After discussion of probation period of Officer Jeb Moore, Stacy Weldon motioned to remove from probation period. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.

- C. He stated that the radar system is being put into place and will begin the electronic tickets.
- D. Ken Kelly motioned to add to the Police Handbook that all fulltime officers must enroll in MPERS on the date of hire and all parttime or fulltime officers must have a physical completed within one week of hire. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.

6. FIRE CHIEF

- A. Lorrie Odom, Fire Dept Treasurer, gave the monthly report.
- B. She stated that the Fire Dept is selling raffle tickets to raise money to give scholarships for graduates on the Fire Dept.
- C. The Fire Dept will be bringing the Rescue Unit to be checked out due to having problems.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

*Old Business

- A. No bids for movable surplus AC units and Gas heaters with minimum bid of \$60 each were received. Ken Kelly made a motion to remove them from surplus property. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.
- B. After discussion of electing to close the dog pound due to the new sewer construction at sewer plant, Stacy Weldon made a motion to table the discussion until next month. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.

*New Business

- C. Council briefed over the estimated fees and expenses for attorney fees from Armour Law concerning MPERS research and settlement.
- D. Stacy Weldon made a motion to adopt **Resolution 116-2024** which states the Budget will be amended to include payment to Armour Law Firm for the MPERS research and settlement. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.

8. VILLAGE ATTORNEY

- A. Heather Sutton gave update on status of the MPERS Release and Payment of Funds. The Village will process payment as soon as possible to pay MPERS.
- B. She discussed the revocation of any ordinances concerning the dog pound upon the final decision of the dog pound or a holding facility.

9. COUNCIL

- A. Stacy Weldon made a motion to adopt **Resolution 117-2024** which states the Budget will be amended to include payment of funds to MPERS for settlement. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.
- B. Public hearing held on amendment to Ordinance 14-18G to become **14-18H**. Amend Section 3 Variable Water and Sewer rates to increase at a minimum of 3% each year in January to become effective April 9, 2024. Amend Section 4 Fixed Water and Sewer rates to increase at a minimum of 3% each year in January to become effective April 9, 2024. Rates to be increased to an amount over 3% if publication of the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is larger than 3%. In the event that the CPI is larger than 3%, the rate will be increased to correspond to the CPI rate. This increase was discussed due to having to put a definite increase in place to satisfy LDEQ for the bond on the Sewer Improvement Grant. Some were concerned of it being too much of an increase over the years. Glenn Turner stated that the bond will be in place for 20 years. Hearing closed.
- C. Ken Kelly made a motion to adopt **amendment to Ordinance 14-18H Water and Sewer Rates**, Amend Section 3 Variable Water and Sewer rates to increase at a minimum of 3% each year in January to become effective April 9, 2024. Amend Section 4 Fixed Water and Sewer rates to increase at a minimum of 3% each year in January to become effective April 9, 2024. Rates to be increased to an amount over 3% if publication of the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is larger than 3%. In the event that the CPI is larger than 3%, the rate will be increased to correspond to the CPI rate. Stacy Weldon seconded. Ken Kelly-yea, Stacy Weldon-yea, Mea Dillehay- absent. Adopted with unanimous vote.
- D. Ken Kelly introduced an amendment to Ordinance 41-23.1 Council Meeting Date, Time and Place to become Ordinance 41-23.2 and to change the meeting place from the Community Center to the City

Hall at 6:30pm on the second Monday of the month. Public hearing to be held at May 13, 2024 council meeting.

10. Ken Kelly made a motion for Council to approve expenses for March 2024 and comparison of actual expenses to budget. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.

11. Stacy Weldon made a motion to adjourn. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.

Approved by:/S/Mandy L Green, Mayor

Attest by:/S/Denise Lee, LCMClerk

*Public hearing to be held Monday, May 13, 2024 at the Village Hall, 230 Poplar St at 6:30pm for amendment to Ordinance 41-23.1 to change the meeting place of the monthly council meeting.