

PUBLIC MEETING

Public Council meeting was held 1/8/24 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
Shane Ware, Police Chief
Crystal Hunt, Code Compliance
Heather Sutton, Attorney
Brad Rachel, Village Engineer
Steven Self, Asst Fire Chief

Council and Staff Absent

Brandon Sweat, Fire Chief
Mea Dillehay, Council

1. Mayor Green requested for any public comments on agenda items. No comments.
2. Mayor Green noted some items that needed to be removed from the agenda. Item 3.A. council to adopt Resolution 106-2024 will be moved to February 12, 2024 meeting. Move Item 11.A. New Business- Annual Financial Report to February 12, 2024 meeting. Also to remove Item 12.B. Public hearing on ordinance 45-2023 from the agenda due to unnecessary ordinance.
3. Mayor Green requested for any public comments on the changes. No comments.
4. Ken Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda with all changes. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor. Ken Kelly -yea, Stacy Weldon- yea for a unanimous vote, Mea Dillehay- absent
5. Ken Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes from the 12/11/23 meeting. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.
6. **ENGINEER'S REPORT**
 - A. **Resolution 106-2024** will be adopted at the February 12, 2023 meeting to award Water Well bid.
 - B. Mr. Brad Rachal gave the updates on the grants still in progress.
7. **SEWER PROJECT**
 - A. Public hearing opened on **Ordinance 46-2023** which authorizes the incurring of debt and issuance of Taxable Excess Revenue bond not to exceed \$663,200. No comments. Hearing closed.
 - B. Ken Kelly made a motion to adopt **Ordinance 46-2023**. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor. Ken Kelly- yea; Stacy Weldon- yea; Mea Dillehay- absent
8. **CODE COMPLIANCE**
 - A. Crystal Hunt- Code Compliance reported the status of demolition of 511 Pine Street, Parcel No.0550000707, D.Deshotel. Owner has not responded to the notices that has been sent to him pertaining to the condemnation of this property. The property was condemned at the December 11, 2023 meeting. A Condemnation notice was sent to owner on December 12, 2023 and also filed at the Allen Parish Courthouse. Stacy Weldon made a motion to proceed forth with the demolition process which requires bids to be obtained for demolition and cleanup. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.
 - B. Mary Strother and husband Brian Strother attended and stated that they have begun tearing the home down to get property into compliance for 509 Pine Street, Parcel 0550015450. Mr. Strother reported that they had not received notices that was sent to the address on the tax roll, but have since changed

the address to their address and Mrs. Mary received the notice about the recommendations for compliance. Mayor Green and Crystal- Code compliance stated to them that the home had not been condemned, but only needed repairs. Mr. Strother stated they do not want the house and will be selling the property. He asked if the home could be burned by the Fire Department for practice. Steven Self- Asst Fire Chief stated they could look at the situation and let him know. Ken Kelly made a motion to table any further discussion on the property until the February 12, 2024 meeting to allow more time to sell the property. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.

- C. In reference to the status of property compliance 907 Magnolia Street, Parcel No.0550002200,Carter, a notice was sent to Billy Clark and Stacy Freeman that the structure could be burned by the Fire Department for training purposes. Asst Fire Chief Self stated that one power line would have to be let down prior to burning. Crystal stated that the camper was removed from the property and placed at Mrs. Freeman's. Crystal stated that a Succession had not been done on the property and there is approximately 10 heirs to give permission to proceed forth. Attorney will investigate this situation further prior to further progress. Stacy Weldon made a motion to table proceeding forth until further information gathered. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.
- D. Ken Kelly made a motion to proceed with getting bids from contractors to finish cleaning the condemned property being demolished at 517 Pine Street, Parcel No.05500006540, C.Gordey. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.

9. POLICE CHIEF

- A. Chief Ware gave monthly report. Ken Kelly made a motion to terminate Luke Parker as an officer per Chief Ware's recommendation. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.

10. FIRE CHIEF

- A. Asst Fire Chief Self gave monthly fire report.
- B. Council discussed the digital radios requested by Fire Department. Asst Chief Self stated that the Parish would be transitioning to digital radios over time. He said that officers and entry level fire fighters would receive the radios first. They would sign them out and be responsible for them. After further discussion, Mayor Green looked at roster and then recommended getting 13 radios and a base unit and discuss again before next year's budget. Ken Kelly made a motion to purchase the 13 radios and base unit. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.
- C. Ken Kelly made a motion to pass **Resolution 107-2024** which states that council will amend budget to reflect the purchase of the radios. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.

11. MAYOR'S REPORT

*Old Business

- A. Mayor Green opened one bid received on 2012 Dodge Charger movable surplus property with minimum bid of \$2500.00. The Village of Elizabeth reserved the right to reject any and all bids and remove the item of movable property from sale prior to opening of bids. The bid was for \$2,777.77 from J.J. Merchant. Ken Kelly made a motion to pass **Resolution 108-2024** to award the highest bid of \$2,777.77 to J.J. Merchant. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.

*New Business

- A. Ken Kelly made a motion to unappoint Mr. Mike Holmes as Mayor's Court Magistrate. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.
- B. Ken Kelly made a motion to appoint Mayor Mandy Green as Mayor's Court Magistrate. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.
- C. Stacy Weldon made a motion to appoint Meredith Guillory as Mayor's Court Prosecutor. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.
- D. Ken Kelly made a motion to appoint Denise Lee as Clerk. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.
- E. Stacy Weldon made a motion to appoint Ken Kelly as the Mayor Pro-Tem. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.
- F. Ken Kelly made a motion to appoint Brandon Sweat as Fire Chief. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.
- G. Stacy Weldon made a motion to appoint Steven Self as Assistant Fire Chief. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.

- H. Reminder that bids to be opened for movable surplus AC units and Gas heaters at February 12, 2024 meeting with minimum bid of \$75 each. The Village of Elizabeth reserved the right to reject any and all bids and remove the item of movable property from sale prior to opening of bids.

12. COUNCIL

- A. Ken Kelly introduced amendment to **Ordinance 10-18-A1** which requires anyone tearing down structures that have or once had utilities with the Village due to possible water, gas or sewer connections may need to be marked prior to tearing down of structures to avoid causing possible leaks in the lines of the systems. To become Ordinance 10-18-A2.
- B. Ken Kelly made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Mike Holmes, attorney for the village. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.
- C. Stacy Weldon made a motion to appoint Heather Sutton as new attorney for the village of Elizabeth. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.

13. VILLAGE ATTORNEY REPORT

- A. Update on Elizabeth Clinic – Mr. Mike Holmes prepared the addendum to the Clinic Lease. Ken Kelly made a motion for Heather Sutton, Attorney to issue to the Clinic counsel. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.
- B. Ms. Sutton spoke in terms of the exterior paint job on the city hall. No further action will be taken at this time. Mayor Green will proceed forth with getting new bids on the correction and paint job for the City Hall.

- 14.** Ken Kelly made a motion for Council to approve expenses for December 2023 and comparison of actual expenses to budget. Stacy Weldon seconded. All in favor.

- 15.** Stacy Weldon made a motion to adjourn. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.

APPROVED BY:/S/Mandy L Green

ATTEST BY:/S/Denise Lee, LCMClerk

*Public hearing prior to adoption of **Ordinance 10-18-A2 PERMIT** required for anyone tearing down structures with previous or current Water, Sewer and/or Gas Services to allow for marking of utility lines.