

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

Public Council meeting was held 3/11/24 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  
Mea Dillehay, Council  
Denise Lee, Clerk  
Crystal Hunt, Code Compliance  
Heather Sutton, Attorney  
Brad Rachel, Village Engineer  
Brandon Sweat, Fire Chief

### **Council and Staff Absent**

Shane Ware, Police Chief  
Steven Self, Asst Fire Chief  
Stacy Weldon, Council

1. Mayor Green requested for any public comments on agenda items. No comments.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. Ken Kelly made a motion to approve minutes from 2/12/24 meeting. Mea Dillehay seconded. All in favor.
  - B. Ken Kelly made a motion to approve the agenda. Mea Dillehay seconded. All in favor.
3. **ENGINEER'S REPORT**
  - A. Brad Rachel, from M,M,L & H, gave update on current grants.
  - B. Ken Kelly made a motion to adopt **Resolution 113-2024** to publicly advertise for bids on the Sewer Improvements project upon receipt of the LDH permit and funding agency approval. Bids to be opened at the office of M,M,L & H. Mea Dillehay seconded. All in favor.
4. **CODE COMPLIANCE**
  - A. Noted that 509 Main St., permit has been obtained by mobile home purchaser to remove the structure.
  - B. 200 Poplar St, Parcel No.0550003100, certified notice sent, no response on property maintenance. Code Compliance will proceed with a courtesy phone call to inform owner of parcel that the village will proceed with cleaning the property and owner will be responsible for paying invoice or will be applied to property taxes. Ken Kelly made a motion to proceed as stated. Mea Dillehay seconded. All in favor.
  - C. Discussion of 1020 Beech, M.Willis, Parcel No.0450001500 6 month extension for property compliance was issued August 14, 2023 due to occupant having health issues. This was discussed and council decided for Crystal- Code Compliance to reach out to volunteers to assist in cleaning the property. Also, to reissue notice and remind occupant and owner of the code compliance violations.
5. **POLICE CHIEF**
  - A. Monthly report- Chief not present.
  - B. Ken Kelly motioned to table discussion of probation period of Officer Jeb Moore. Mea Dillehay seconded. All in favor.
6. **FIRE CHIEF**
  - A. Brandon Sweat gave monthly report. Chief Sweat mentioned that he and Matt Townson would be attending PIAL class. He requested a water wrench so when they go to fires and need to turn off the water at the residence. The Fire Department is selling tickets for a gun raffle to be able to give

scholarships for the graduates that are on the fire department. Mayor Green stated that a Capital Improvement Grant will be coming up and asked if there was items the Fire Department could request. Chief Sweat did list some gear and items. They will discuss later.

## 7. MAYOR'S REPORT

**\*Old Business-none**

**\*New Business**

- A. No bids for movable surplus AC units and Gas heaters with minimum bid of \$75 each was received. 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. Ken Kelly motioned to lower the minimum bid to \$60 each and readvertise and open bids at the April 8, 2024 council meeting. Mea Dillehay seconded. All in favor.
- B. Discussed closing of the dog holding facility due to the new Sewer System improvements being done at the sewer plant in which the dog holding facility is located near. Will at a later date discuss what will be done about this situation.

## 8. VILLAGE ATTORNEY

- A. Heather Sutton briefed the council on amount for MPERS settlement. We will be advertising this settlement in the Oakdale Journal prior to signing settlement documents.

## 9. COUNCIL

- A. Public hearing opened on amendment to **Ordinance 21 Building Codes**- amend to require permits prior to demolition. To become Ordinance 21.1. Ken Kelly reiterated that a \$25 fee will be required for the issuance of required permits. No further comments, public hearing closed.
  - B. Ken Kelly made a motion to adopt amendment to **Ordinance 21.1 Building Codes**. Mea Dillehay seconded. Ken Kelly-yea, Mea Dillehay-yea, Stacy Weldon- absent
  - C. Ken Kelly introduced **amendment to Ordinance 14-18G 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. Public hearing to be held at April 8, 2024 council meeting.
  - D. Ken Kelly made a motion to pass **Resolution 114-2024 Mutual Aid Agreement with Forest Hill Gas System and JPC Energy, LLC** that allows Van Earl, Gas Maintenance Operator to sign on behalf of Village of Elizabeth with addition that it will be in effect until January 31, 2029. Mea Dillehay seconded. All in favor.
10. Ken Kelly made a motion for Council to approve expenses for February 2024 and comparison of actual expenses to budget. Mea Dillehay seconded. All in favor.
11. Mea Dillehay 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 April 8, 2024 council meeting at 6:30pm, on amendment to Ordinance 14-18G to become Ordinance 14-18H which amends Section 3 and Section 4 for Variable and Fixed Water and Sewer Rates to increase at a minimum of 3% each year. In the event the CPI is larger than 3%, the rate will be increased to correspond to the CPI rate. Hearing location at 210 Main Street, Elizabeth, LA at Community Center.