

January 2, 2023

Town of Golden Meadow
107 Jervis Drive
Golden Meadow, LA 70357

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Golden Meadow met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, January 2, 2023 at 7:00 P.M., at the Golden Meadow Town Hall, 107 Jervis Drive, Golden Meadow, LA 70357.

Those present were: Mayor Joey Bouziga
Councilman Mike Billiot
Councilman Jody Cheramie
Councilman Kip Plaisance
Councilman Willis Toups

Those absent were: Councilman Laci Latiolais

Others attending were: Bryce Autin, Tracee Cloutier, Wilbur Cloutier, Brooke Dufrene, Nicol Dufrene, Troy Dufrene, Brian Eymard, Stephanie Griffin, Kevin Landry, Andy Nichols, Ashley Nichols, Rachel Robichaux, McNeely Rome, Pam Terrebonne and Kyle Williams.

Mayor Joey Bouziga called this meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Joey Bouziga instructed everyone to refrain from cell phone use until the meeting adjourns.

Councilman Willis Toups led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Jody Cheramie led everyone in prayer.

Councilman Mike Billiot presented a motion and Willis Toups seconded the motion as presented approving the minutes of the Public Hearing held on December 14, 2022. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Councilman Jody Cheramie presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion as presented approving the minutes of the Special Meeting held on December 14, 2022. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Chairman McNeely Rome of the Board of Adjustments advised Mayor Joey Bouziga and the Council that the Board, under the recommendation of John Plaisance, approved the zoning change requested by Harvey Gulf to combine the lots owned by Harvey Gulf, at the end of Ridgewood Blvd and Callais Ln, into 1 lot for record. Councilman Willis Touns presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion as presented approving the zoning change request. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga stated there were no Occupational Licenses submitted for approval.

Councilman Mike Billiot presented a motion and Councilman Willis Touns seconded the motion as presented to defer Town Engineer John Plaisance's project status report to the January 17th meeting. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Town Attorney Bryce Autin had nothing to discuss except for what is on the agenda later in the meeting.

Chief Troy Dufrene's Police Business:

- Police Officer- Chief Dufrene is asking for a proposed budget amendment/special hearing from the Council to increase the Police Officer's Salary to compete with other Police Departments:
 - Police Officer's starting salary, without experience is increased from \$15.00-\$16.00/hour to \$17.00/hour, with a \$0.50/hour raise after a 6-month probation.
 - Post Certified Police Officer's starting salary is increased from \$17.00-\$17.50/hour to \$19.50/hour, with a \$0.50/hour raise after a 6-month probation.
 - A Rate Increase for Current Town of Golden Meadow Police Officers:
 - Officer A Pay Increase from \$17.50/hour to \$20.50/hour
 - Officer B Pay Increase from \$18.75/hour to \$21.25/hour
 - Officer C Pay Increase from \$21.50/hour to \$24.00/hour

Chief Dufrene figured the raises would cost \$17,470/year with retirement contributions increasing from \$5,800 to \$6,000/year totaling \$23,322 before overtime. Mayor Joey Bouziga asked where the money would come from. Chief Dufrene said he knows the budget was already approved and they issued about 3,300 citations last year at around \$200.00/each, which would come out to about \$660,000 and his budget is right at the \$600,000 mark. Also the Executive Secretary (former Clerk of Court), caught an error being made for many years, which saved the town over \$330,000 the last year and a half. Councilman Mike Billiot presented a motion and Councilman Willis Touns seconded the motion as presented to have a Public Hearing to discuss a salary increase for the Town of

Golden Meadow Police Officers. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented. Town Clerk Tracee Cloutier advised Mayor Bouziga, the Council, and Chief Dufrene that she has to see how far in advance we have to advertise for a public hearing for a salary increase/budget amendment. Councilman Willis Toups presented a motion and Councilman Mike Billiot seconded the motion as presented to have a Public Hearing, when we verify how many days we have to advertise, to discuss a salary increase for the Town of Golden Meadow Police Officers. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

- Officer 90 Day Clause-Chief Dufrene is asking for the 90 Day Clause to be amended for potential employees who don't pass the physical, drug screen, and psychiatric evaluation, that they only have to pay if they quit within the 90 days. Mayor Bouziga asked that Chief Dufrene put in writing what he thinks the clause should say and send to Town Attorney Bryce Autin to check it. Chief Dufrene asked if the Council can make a decision for the employee that was recently fired due to failing the psychiatric evaluation. Councilman Willis Toups presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion as presented to not make the former employee pay for his physical, drug screen, and psychiatric evaluation. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented. Councilman Kip Plaisance presented a motion and Councilman Jody Cheramie seconded the motion as presented to have Town Attorney Bryce Autin work with Chief Dufrene to amend the 90 Day clause. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that John Plaisance is working on fence bids to submit to the Council for approval, that we requested a structural analysis, and Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau is trying to contact John Parker. Town Attorney Bryce Autin received an update from Assistant Town Attorney Jarreau today. Assistant Town Attorney Jarreau provided Mr. Parker contact information for a contractor who can cut the grass. Town Attorney Autin advised the Mayor and the Council that the structural analysis failed and we need to schedule a condemnation hearing. Councilman Jody Cheramie presented a motion and Councilman Willis Toups seconded the motion as presented to have the condemnation hearing at the February 6, 2023 meeting. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that he had nothing new to report on Hurricane Ida.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that homeowner Florinda Verdin was a given new deadline of 1/2/2023 for 132 Doucet Dr. Councilman Mike Billiot presented a motion and Councilman Willis Toups seconded the motion as presented to remove this item from

the agenda, since the improvements asked by the Council were made. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that 2 dozen citizens were issued summons for grass cutting. Chief Troy Dufrene advised the Mayor and the Council that the citizens on the list have completed their grass cutting. Councilman Mike Billiot presented a motion and Councilman Jody Cheramie seconded the motion as presented to remove this item from the agenda, since the grass has been cut. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that the condemnation hearing for Gage Gisclair, 114 Palmetto Lane, was 11/07/2022, and his neighbor wants to purchase the property to tear the house down. Councilman Mike Billiot presented a motion and Councilman Jody Cheramie seconded the motion as presented to have a discussion on 114 Palmetto Lane. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented. Councilman Willis Touns advised the Mayor and the Council that Mr. Gisclair's neighbor purchased the property. Councilman Mike Billiot presented a motion and Councilman Jody Cheramie seconded the motion as presented to remove this item from the agenda, since Mr. Gisclair's neighbor purchased the property. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Chief Troy Dufrene advised Mayor Joey Bouziga and the Council that we have a correct phone number and address for Huey Cressionie, but we are still unable to contact him. Town Attorney Bryce Autin advised the Council that we have 3 options under the Ordinance: mail a certified letter to where he receives the taxes at the property address, hand deliver a letter, and advertise twice in our official journal-and after 5 days to cut and clean it up. Councilman Jody Cheramie presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion as presented to advertise for cleanup and grass cutting in our official journal. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that we do not have any new information from the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office on the speed bump project for Cheramie Ln., Washington St., and Dursette St.

Stephanie Griffin appeared before Mayor Joey Bouziga and the Council for the Jazlyn Geneve Lafont permit and variance, for the building built at 2213 North Bayou Dr. Chief Troy Dufrene advised Mayor Bouziga and the Council that the letter to appear and the misdemeanor summons was issued today. Town Attorney Bryce Autin advised the Mayor and the Council that at the 12/5/2022 meeting, that the Council motioned to issue a letter

for the building not to be occupied or used until everything was cleared up and to issue a misdemeanor summons for not complying with the building code. Councilman Jody Cheramie presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion as presented to recall the misdemeanor summons, since Ms. Griffin appeared before the Council, and will appear at the January 17th Meeting for her variance. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that the Senior Citizen Building Community Cleanup Day is scheduled for 2/4/2023.

Town Attorney Bryce Autin advised Mayor Joey Bouziga and the Council that Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau spoke with United Community Bank regarding Scott A. St. Pierre at 104 Theriot St. United Community Bank has not begun the foreclosing procedures, so it is still owned by Scott A. St. Pierre's estate. Town Attorney Autin recommended that we advertise twice in our official journal, and after 5 days to cut and clean it up. Councilman Willis Toups presented a motion and Councilman Jody Cheramie seconded the motion as presented to advertise for cleanup and grass cutting in our official journal. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that Sheila Picou and Others' property at 104 Pierce St. condemnation hearing is set for 1/17/2023. Town Attorney Bryce Autin advised the Mayor and the Council that there are 4 owners for this property and we are not able to locate 1 of them, and for cases like this, the Ordinance states the Mayor will appoint an attorney to represent their interests. This Attorney Ad Hoc will do their due diligence to try and locate the owners of the property. Town Attorney Autin stated that Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau spoke with Assistant District Attorney Shaun George, who has served as an Attorney Ad Hoc with the District Court many times when needed, and she recommends hiring him. Town Attorney Autin recommends moving the condemnation hearing to 3/6/2023 to give him time to run his advertisements and anything else he needs to do. Councilman Jody Cheramie presented a motion and Councilman Willis Toups seconded the motion as presented to move the condemnation hearing to 3/6/2023. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that Samuel and Allison Rankin's property at 162 Washington St. condemnation hearing is set for 1/17/2023. Town Attorney Bryce Autin advised the Mayor and the Council that both of these owners are deceased and no succession has been started, and for cases like this, the Ordinance states the Mayor will appoint an attorney to represent their interests. This Attorney Ad Hoc will do their due diligence to try and locate the owners of the property. Town Attorney Autin stated that

Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau spoke with Assistant District Attorney Shaun George, who has served as an Attorney Ad Hoc with the District Court many times when needed, and she recommends hiring him. Town Attorney Autin recommends moving the condemnation hearing to 3/6/2023 to give him time to run his advertisements and anything else he needs to do. Councilman Willis Toups presented a motion and Councilman Jody Cheramie seconded the motion as presented to move the condemnation hearing to 3/6/2023. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Councilman Kip Plaisance presented a motion and Councilman Willis Toups seconded the motion as presented to approve a repair bill from Scott's Auto Repair for the 2016 Chevy Tahoe for the Police Department totaling \$5069.74. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Councilman Jody Cheramie presented a motion and Councilman Willis Toups seconded the motion as presented to approve an amendment to the budget for the S&L Enterprises contract to increase the scope of service and payment from \$6,000 to \$10,000, due to more homes needing work than what was originally proposed. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Councilman Kip Plaisance presented a motion and Councilman Willis Toups seconded the motion as presented to approve the declaration of surplus junk for a Stihl HT101 12" Extendable Polesaw which costs more to repair than to replace. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga asked if there was any other business that needed to be brought up to the Council.

Councilman Jody Cheramie advised Mayor Joey Bouziga and the Council that the River Birch driver was in an accident and can't pick up trash until 1/9/2023. Councilman Willis Toups asked if Councilman Cheramie can talk to River Birch about putting the trash cans back on the curb instead of the road.

There were no audience comments.

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Willis Toups presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion as presented adjourning this meeting at 7:40 P.M. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

MAYOR JOEY BOUZIGA

ATTESTED:

**RACHEL ROBICHAUX
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK**