

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 Tuesday, January 17, 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 Laci Latiolais  
Councilman Kip Plaisance  
Councilman Willis Toups

Those absent were: Councilman Jody Cheramie

Others attending were: Tracee Cloutier, Wilbur Cloutier, Michael Davis, Connie Demere, Nicol Dufrene, Troy Dufrene, Conner Felarise, Stephanie Griffin, Morris Hunter, Jeray Jarreau, Daniel Lorraine, Edward Louviere, Patricia Louviere, Andy Nichols, Ashley Nichols, Janet Rhodus, Rachel Robichaux, McNeely Rome, and Dean Savoie.

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 Edward Louviere led everyone in prayer.

Councilman Mike Billiot presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion approving the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 2, 2023 as presented. 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 recommends that Jazlyn Lafont resurvey her 4 corners before making a final determination on giving a variance. Councilman Kip Plaisance presented a

motion and Councilman Willis Toups seconded the motion to go with the recommendation of the Board of Adjustments as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga presented the following Occupational Licenses submitted for approval:

- Councilman Mike Billiot presented a motion and Councilman Laci Latiolais seconded the motion to approve the Occupational License for Mason and Sawyer's Lemonade (lemonade stand) located at 131 Alcide St as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.
- Councilman Laci Latiolais presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion as to approve the Occupational License for Esthetics by Taylor (esthetics) located at 1803 N Bayou Dr as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga presented Town Engineer John Plaisance's Project Status Report:

- North Sewer Plant Upgrades-State is reviewing plans.
- Sewer Phase VII LCDBG- awaiting servitude acquisition and subsequent advertising
- Mitigation Project – will meet with Lafourche Parish Government on January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- LGAP Grant application – submitted on November 21
- Infrastructure Grant application – submitted on December 19
- Resolution for the upgrade to North Sewer Treatment Plant to certify that “the Town has sufficient funds above the currently available unobligated State cash, amount of \$159,875.00 to cover all costs of planning, testing, miscellaneous construction costs, etc., to ensure a complete functional project upon completion, for a construction project in the amount that was estimated by GIS Engineering, LLC to cost \$158,000 under the Base Bid and \$261,000 under the Base Bid plus Alternates 1 and 2. The total project amount, including contingencies, engineering and FP&C administration costs for the project would be \$306,100.” Councilman Willis Toups presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion for a resolution that we have the funds to match the costs as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jambon's Attorney Report:

- Recommendation for 90 Day Clause-Town Attorney Bryce Autin and Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau researched the issue about paying for certain testing and equipment in the Police Department and soon after, they would go to another

agency. Assistant Town Attorney Jarreau drafted a promissory note for employees to have their training and equipment paid for if they stay a certain amount of time. Assistant Town Attorney Jarreau and Town Attorney Autin are asking for a motion to appoint a special committee consisting of Town Clerk Tracee Cloutier, Police Chief Troy Dufrene, Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau, and 2 council members, who can work on developing a contract for administration, but have the one she developed specific to the police officers, but have it available in case it has to be done for another employee. Mayor Joey Bouziga's recommendation to the Council is for Willis Toups and Kip Plaisance be a part of the committee. Councilman Willis Toups presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion to form the committee to develop the contracts for new hires as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

- Amending the 2023 Budget for Police Salaries-Town Attorney Bryce Autin and Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau researched and Title 39 doesn't require that they necessarily amend the 2023 budget at this point. If the Council approves the Police salary increases today, that's fine, and if at the end of the year, the Police Department is over 5% of their projected budget, then we would amend the budget at that time. Councilman Mike Billiot presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion that we accept the Chief's proposal for a salary increase for the Police Officers as presented. Chief Troy Dufrene explained the salary increases:
  - 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

Mayor Joey Bouziga asked if the Council wanted to wait until Councilman Jody Cheramie was present to vote. Councilman Mike Billiot advised the Mayor and the Council that he spoke with Councilman Cheramie and he is for the Police Department salary increase, so it would be fine to go ahead and vote without him. During voting, Councilman Laci Latiolais asked Chief Dufrene about him thinking people left our Police Department to go to others for more money, but he said he wasn't asking for raises. Chief Dufrene said the last conversation he had with the Mayor said it wouldn't be fair for Chief Dufrene to give raises if Mayor Bouziga wasn't giving his people raises and the Mayor would let him know. Chief Dufrene stated that he never heard back from Mayor Bouziga and he learned at the budget

meeting that the Mayor's staff were getting raises. Councilman Laci Latiolais stated that the Mayor didn't say he was giving his people raises for sure, but it was written in the budget if he wanted to give raises, and if the Police Department is getting raises, then everyone should get raises. Mayor Joey Bouziga stated on the record "We didn't have that discussion." The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented. Voting took place as follows: YEAS: Councilman Kip Plaisance, Councilman Willis Toups, Councilman Laci Latiolais, Councilman Mike Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Councilman Jody Cheramie.

- Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau asked if we can add Berwick Cheramie to the agenda. Councilman Willis Toups presented a motion and Councilman Laci Latiolais seconded the motion to add Berwick Cheramie to the agenda as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.
- Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau explained that in 2019, Berwick Cheramie's property on Terrebonne Ln was torn down via the condemnation rules, where the town expended around \$5,500.00 in tearing down and grass cutting of the property. Assistant Town Attorney Jarreau drafted a petition to get a judgement against the estate of the succession of Berwick Cheramie so that we can seize and sell the property. Assistant Attorney Jarreau is asking if Mayor Bouziga can sign the affidavit verification, verifying that the town expended money on tearing down the structure and cutting the grass and we are looking to get a judgement in the favor of The Town of Golden Meadow. Councilman Laci Latiolais presented a motion and Councilman Willis Toups seconded the motion to allow Mayor Joey Bouziga to sign the affidavit as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Chief Troy Dufrene's Police Business:

- Police Stats for December 2022:
  - 561 calls for service
  - 226 violations
  - 151 cases
  - 1 arrest
- Chief Troy Dufrene asked if we can add a Police Promotion to the agenda. Councilman Willis Toups presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion to add a Police Promotion to the agenda as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.
- Chief Troy Dufrene asked the Council to promote Sergeant Kevin Landry to Assistant Police Chief. Councilman Willis Toups presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion to promote Sergeant Landry from Sergeant to Assistant Police Chief as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion

as presented. Voting took place as follows: YEAS: Councilman Kip Plaisance, Councilman Willis Toups, Councilman Laci Latiolais, Councilman Mike Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Councilman Jody Cheramie.

Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau advised Mayor Joey Bouziga and the Council that they sent notice to John Parker for his February 6<sup>th</sup> Condemnation Hearing to his Houston address and they are waiting on the signed certified card back.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that they sent a list of 15 houses to South Central Planning to be torn down. We also received an updated list from Fema with 3 houses for their first round tear down: Rodney Ledet on Rue Pouche Vide, Dollie Duet next to the old Town Hall, and Trevor Sandras on Terrebonne Ln.

Chief Troy Dufrene advised Mayor Joey Bouziga and the Council that we still haven't been able to locate Huey Cressionie, but we also have the Sherriff's Office looking for him as well. Town Clerk Tracee Cloutier advised Mayor Joey Bouziga and the Council that we proceeded with the advertising requested at the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, so we are now in a position to get bids or cut the grass. Councilman Laci Latiolais presented a motion and Councilman Willis Toups seconded the motion to advertise for bids once the deadline has passed as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga asked Chief Troy Dufrene if he could handle the speed hump project since it's a traffic issue for Cheramie Ln., Washington St., and Dursette St. Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau was given the name Andrew Labat to contact about the speed humps. Assistant Attorney Jarreau's contact asked if we were paying for the speed humps or did we want the parish to pay for them, because if we wanted the parish to pay for them, it would be futile because they have a very long list. Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau told her contact she thought that the Town would be paying for them, but she would double check. Town Clerk Tracee Cloutier said we would be paying for the speed humps. Chief Dufrene asked if we still needed to do the study if we were paying for the speed humps. Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau stated she thought the Council would want to justify the cost by doing the studies.

2213 North Bayou (Jazlyn Geneve Lafont)-We already voted on at the beginning of the meeting and will leave on the agenda.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that the Senior Citizen Building Community Cleanup Day is scheduled for 2/4/2023. Councilman Laci Latiolais said the building may not be ready yet, but she will keep everyone updated.

Councilman Laci Latiolais presented a motion and Councilman Willis Toups seconded the motion to move forward with bids for 104 Theriot St, once the deadline has passed if no progress is made as presented. 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 3/6/2023. Town Clerk Tracee Cloutier advised Mayor Bouziga and the Council that Attorney Ad Hoc Shaun George has been sent notice.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that Samuel and Allison Rankin's property at 162 Washington St. condemnation hearing is set 3/6/2023. Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau advised Mayor Bouziga and the Council that Attorney Ad Hoc Shaun George has been sent notice.

Councilman Willis Toups presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion to approve the December 2022 budget to actuals finance report as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Councilman Laci Latiolais presented a motion and Councilman Mike Billiot seconded the motion to close the following bank accounts due to no activity as presented:

- Sewer Project Fund MIP
- Sewer Project Fund EPA
- Seawall Project Fund

The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Town Clerk Tracee Cloutier advised Mayor Joey Bouziga and the Council that Dorsey Development, LLC reached back out to us because DOTD was requesting some additional revocations of the right of way in order to retain a drainage servitude, so Town Attorney Bryce Autin thought we should state everything again and redo a new revocation outlined on the plat dated October 10, 2022. Councilman Laci Latiolais presented a motion and Councilman Willis Toups seconded the motion to create an ordinance revoking all 3 in accordance with their plat as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that he would like to appoint a committee consisting of Councilman Mike Billiot, Councilman Kip Plaisance, and Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau to adopt a remote work policy (for remote working during office

hours). Town Clerk Tracee Cloutier advised Mayor Bouziga and the Council that the Remote Work Policy would establish ground rules:

- if the Council would even allow working remotely
- when it's allowed
- under what circumstances
- who's eligible
- a work schedule
- if there's a time limitation on how long you can work remotely
- if sick leave, vacation, and comp time should be used up first
- if Dr.'s excuses should be provided
- if the timesheet should provide an explanation of the work being done since there is no scanning in or scanning out.

Assistant Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau spoke with the Parish to see if they had a remote work policy. Parish President Archie Chiasson said they didn't have one in place, but most businesses and government agencies were working towards establishing a remote working policy just because of COVID. Chief Troy Dufrene stated that if the town comes up with a remote work policy, he will be requesting an opinion from the Attorney General if it interferes with the inherent duties with him as the Chief of Police, which his Police Department or his workers might not have to follow the policy. Mayor Joey Bouziga asked that he have one of our attorneys ask for the opinion. Assistant Town Attorney Jarreau asked that the Chief hold off on requesting an opinion until the committee comes up with the proposed policy to see if the Attorney General policy would even be necessary. The discussion got heated. Councilman Mike Billiot presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion to go forward with the committee to develop a remote work policy as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

Mayor Joey Bouziga advised the Council that he needs to hire an administrative office clerk to keep up with the work. Town Clerk Tracee Cloutier listed some reasons that we needed to hire another clerk:

- We originally had 4 people, but have gone down to 3.
- Tracee has taken over the cash deposits which means she cannot collect money at the window because of the Legislative Auditor's best practices and internal controls.
- The ticket calls are now being diverted to Administration. Chief Troy Dufrene stated that his Executive Assistant has been forwarded the Police Line calls and approximately 2 calls a day are for the Police Department and that the other 20-25 calls are for the Clerk of Court. His Executive Assistant answers all the questions she possibly can and if she can't answer them, she tells them the numbers they need to

call. Town Clerk Tracee Cloutier stated that the police voicemail states that if you have questions regarding a ticket, to call 985-475-5212, which is the Administration line. The back of the tickets has a big pink sticker on the back that used to have the Police Department phone number now has 475-5212, which is the administration line. We received a call from someone today who said they called the police department line and they were told you need to call 475-5212 for the price of your ticket.

The discussion got very heated.

Mayor Joey Bouziga asked for audience comments.

Janet Rhodus, head of nonprofit Launch Leeville, talked about hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana Boulettes and Balloons Festival March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> to raise funds for a low cost spay neuter clinic for the community and to replace some firetruck hoses.

Dean Savoie asked for the community's support for the Greater Lafourche Port Commission's Seat E.

Patricia Louviere reminded Mayor Joey Bouziga and the Council that State Bank will be opening at the end of Washington St and the traffic is unbelievable and the bank isn't even open yet.

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

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Mike Billiot presented a motion and Councilman Kip Plaisance seconded the motion adjourning this meeting at 8:01 P.M as presented. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

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**MAYOR JOEY BOUZIGA**

**ATTESTED:**

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**RACHEL ROBICHAUX  
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK**