

TOWN OF GOLDEN MEADOW REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, January 22, 2024
Golden Meadow Town Hall
107 Jervis Dr.
Golden Meadow, LA 70357**

Mayor Joey Bouziga was present for the regular town meeting and called it to order on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 7:00 PM. He instructed everyone to refrain from cell phone use until the meeting adjourns.

Council Member Willis Toups led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Town Engineer John Plaisance led everyone in prayer.

Town of Golden Meadow Council Members Present: Mike Billiot, Laci Latiolais, Kip Plaisance, and Willis Toups

Town of Golden Meadow Council Members Absent: Jody Cheramie

Others attending were: Stacey Adams, Ben Autin, Natalie Autin, Stephanie Bollinger, Mike Callais, Joseph Cehan, Marc Charpentier, Tracee Cloutier, Wilbur Cloutier, Keith Detweiler, Troy Dufrene, Travis Harris, Jeray Jarreau, Uriah Lasseigne, Peter Pitre, Billy Plaisance, Johnny Plaisance, Johnine Rebstock, Rosalus Rebstock, Rachel Robichaux, McNeely Rome, Carroll Terrebonne, Tom Watkins, and Kyle Williams.

A motion to approve the Town's Public Hearing #1 minutes from January 2, 2024, as presented, was made by Council Member Billiot; seconded by Council Member Plaisance. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cheramie.

A motion to approve the Town's Public Hearing #2 minutes from January 2, 2024, as presented, was made by Council Member Toups; seconded by Council Member Billiot. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cheramie.

A motion to approve the Town's regular meeting minutes from January 2, 2024, as presented, was made by Council Member Billiot; seconded by Council Member Toups. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cheramie.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bouziga advised the Council that we are having issues with Entergy's service and we are trying to work on them with Entergy.

Mayor Bouziga advised the Council that there is sludge in our fuel tanks that ends up clogging the fuel pumps in the town vehicles. As a temporary fix, we have fuel cards from Breaux Petroleum to fill the vehicles up at T-Pops in Golden Meadow. He spoke to Mr. Breaux to make arrangements to pump out, clean the fuel tanks and do a survey on them.

Town Clerk Tracee Cloutier attended the Millage Tax Summit on 1/10/2024 and met with the Assessor. This year is a reassessment year and the Assessor let Town Clerk Cloutier know that she has concerns about the property values and that there may be a decline in revenues this year.

Building Permits:

Board of Adjustments Chairman McNeely Rome presented the variance request for Billy Plaisance's carport extension at Nichols Street and North First Street. Chairman Rome stated that after discussion, the Board of Adjustments recommends approving the request from 5 feet to 3 feet on Nichols Street, and tied into his existing carport facing south; and approving the request from 5 feet to 3 feet on North First Street, and tied into his existing carport facing west. A motion to go with the Board of Adjustments recommendation, as presented, was made by Council Member Billiot; seconded by Council Member Toups. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: Plaisance; ABSENT: Cherie

Town Engineer John Plaisance presented the Project Status Report:

- North Sewer Treatment Plant Upgrades-Work in progress and the deadline to complete is 5/31/2024.
- Sewer Phase VII LCDBG-Town Engineer Plaisance advised that Leanne Rucker stated that we have all of the servitudes and she asked that we start advertising next week. A motion to add to begin advertising for Sewer Phase VII to the agenda, as presented, was made by Council Member Billiot; seconded by Council Member Plaisance. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cherie. A motion to begin advertising for Sewer Phase VII next week, as presented, was made by Council Member Billiot; seconded by Council Member Toups. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cherie.
- Mitigation Project (Seawall)-received GOHSEP approval and is under review by FEMA.
- Infrastructure Grant applications (FMA)-GIS is working on the next step.
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (Sewer Phase VIII)-GIS Engineering is putting together a servitude map for this project and should have it to the town by 1/29/2024.
- Capital Outlay-Replacement of Sewer Lift Station behind Williams Road-GIS Engineering will send the plans to the Town by 1/25/2024, so advertising can begin. A motion to begin advertising for Replacement of Sewer Lift Station next week, as presented, was made by Council Member Billiot; seconded by Council Member Toups. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cherie.
- Capital Outlay-Armand/Alcide Area Drainage-the survey is complete. GIS Engineering is putting the process together and should be able to present it at the 2/5/2024 meeting.
- Drainage Canal Survey/Recon and Permitting-Waiting on FEMA to complete a site inspection scheduled for 1/30/2024.
- Town Engineer Plaisance advised that 9 Capital Outlay requests for the fiscal year 2024-2025 were submitted on 10/31/2023 and we are waiting for them to go through the legislative process which will be in June 2024.

- Interior Door in Town Hall-awaiting commencement of work from Picciola Construction.
- Replacement of Chlorine Contact Chamber at the South Plant-A motion to authorize Town Engineer Plaisance to get 3 quotes to replace the chlorine contact chamber at the South Plant, as presented, was made by Council Member Toups; seconded by Council Member Plaisance. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cherie.
- Chief of Police Troy Dufrene asked Mayor Bouziga why the interior door was being installed. The discussion got heated.

Town Attorney Jeray Jarreau presented the Attorney's Report:

- 1504 S. Bayou Dr. (Walter Guidry and Martin Perkins)-Town Attorney Jarreau stated they are trying to get them served to appear at the 2/5/2024 meeting, but the paperwork is also tailored for them to appear at the 2/20/2024 meeting if needed.
- The Council discussed the upcoming request from Harvey Gulf to revoke and set aside the dedication of Avenue H.
- The Council discussed the possibility of Tamplain Lane being turned back over to the town. Town Attorney Jarreau will have Town Foreman Salvador Gonzalez, Jr. prepare a report so the Council can make an informed decision.
- A motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Lexipol Master Service Agreement for the Police Policy Manual on behalf of the Town of Golden Meadow, as presented, was made by Council Member Billiot; seconded by Council Member Toups. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cherie.
- At 7:38 PM, a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss EEOC Charge of Jamie A. Liner (Charge No. 461-2023-01259), as presented, was made by Council Member Plaisance; seconded by Council Member Toups. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cherie.
- At 7:50 PM, a motion to get out of Executive Session discussing EEOC Charge of Jamie A. Liner (Charge No. 461-2023-01259), as presented, was made by Council Member Latiolais; seconded by Council Member Plaisance. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cherie.
- A motion to have the Town Attorneys modify the Policies and Procedures Manual for the 2/20/2024 Meeting, as discussed in the Executive Session, as presented, was made by Council Member Latiolais; seconded by Council Member Plaisance. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cherie.

Chief Troy Dufrene presented the Police Business:

- Update on Speed Humps-On 1/26/2024, they should start reassessing Washington Street. Once Washington Street is done, they will reassess Pershing Street.
- Police Department Equipment-Chief Dufrene advised the dash cameras are on order and they are expected in May.
- LPSO to put speed reader on North Bayou Drive-Chief Dufrene advised that we are still waiting on an available reader.

- Hire a New Police Officer-Council Member Plaisance asked that the minutes reflect that Chief Dufrene stated “I have been filling gaps. I worked Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, day after Christmas. I pulled those 3 days. I pulled 2 days the week before. I’m pulling this Thursday for Kevin. I got other days scheduled to pull as they take their vacation and they go out. And with Cameron leaving that leaves gaps, so I’m filling in there as well. I pulled more shifts this past year in 2023, then I have the years before because we had staff. We were full staffed.” After a heated discussion with the Council and Town Citizens, a motion to authorize Chief Dufrene to hire a new officer subject to them passing all required tests, as presented, was made by Council Member Billiot; seconded by Council Member Toups. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cheramie.
- December 2023 Stats:
 - 634 calls for service
 - 107 citations
 - 95 cases
 - 3 arrests

Old Business

Hurricane Ida Repairs:

- Project 673219-Pump Station Building-tank installation to take place within the next couple of months.
- The following projects have been obligated and received funding with a work completion deadline of February 2024; an extension has been requested:
 - Project 673191 (2371)-Pump behind Little Eagle and Flood Gate at Park
 - Project 673198 (2408)-Big Electrical Box at Pump Station
 - Project 673187 (2454)-Street and Caution Signs
 - Project 679655 (2523)-Lift Stations and Sewer Plants
 - Project 673210 (2472)-Town Hall and Fuel Canopies
 - Project 724905 (2520)-Pump Station Equipment Shed
 - Project 673226 (2753)-Basketball Pavilion and Canopy Next to Senior Citizens
 - Project 724904-Christmas Lights Inventory
- Project 706063-Senior Citizens Craft Building-50% rule request. Pending PDMG Scope and Cost Routing.
- Project 715033-Le Petit Caporal Boat-Pending CRC Project Development.
- Project 731342-Swimming Pool, Swimming Pool Pump Building, Swimming Pool Bath House Building (combined into one project for possible alternate project)-50% rule request. Pending Initial Development.
- Project 663139-Drainage Canal Debris Removal-Site Inspection is scheduled for 1/30/2024.

Mayor Bouziga advised the Council that we are resubmitting new paperwork for the Lafourche Parish Hurricane Ida Recovery Grant when available and the deadline is 6/30/2024.

Mayor Bouziga advised the Council that work on the security lights and ceiling fans at the park pavilion began on 1/18/2024 and is complete except for one fan that they are waiting on. A motion to remove security lights and ceiling fans at the park pavilion from the agenda, as presented, was made by Council Member Plaisance; seconded by Council Member Latiolais. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cheramie.

Mayor Bouziga advised the Council that he was supposed to meet with Barriere Contractors on 1/16/2024 to get prices to repair Ridgewood Boulevard, Doucet Drive and Norman Street, but they called to reschedule.

Mayor Bouziga advised the Council that we are waiting on possible Recreation District funding to purchase Uline trash cans for the park.

Mayor Bouziga advised the Council that the LGAP application was submitted on 11/13/2023 and the results are expected July/August 2024.

South Central Planning and Development Commission's (SCPDC) Tom Watkins presented the updates on the Condemnation Proceedings:

- BC 1022-513 North Bayou Drive-Ad Hoc Attorney (Eugene Gouaux III) appointed for Mae Malcomb Guilbeau, Malcom James Guilbeau, and Connie Elizabeth Guilbeau-The Town Attorneys filed the lien and the property has been repaired by the contractor. A motion to remove BC 1022 from the agenda, as presented, was made by Council Member Latiolais; seconded by Council Member Plaisance. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cheramie.
- BC 1023-135 Pierce St.-Charles and Christina Battles-Condemnation Order was issued for 2/8/2024.
- BC 1024-2124 South Bayou Drive-Noel Camardelle and Sidney C. Kelley-Condemnation Order was issued for 3/1/2024.
- BC 1026-2216 South Bayou Drive-Francis Plaisance (Plaisance Dragline & Dredging)-SCPDC Building Inspector Joseph Cehan advised that the big building is torn down. They are still cleaning up the debris from that. A motion to give the property owner 30 more days, with an update at the 2/20/2024 meeting, as presented, was made by Council Member Latiolais; seconded by Council Member Toups. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: Plaisance; ABSENT: Cheramie.
- BC 1029-Corner of South Bayou Drive-AMC Liftboats-On 1/2/2024, the Council requested to go out for demolition bids due by 2/5/2024.
- BC 1030-Tamplain Lane-Allen and Polly Cheramie-On 1/2/2024, the Council requested to go out for demolition bids due by 2/5/2024.
- BC 1031-South Bayou Drive (corner of Chouest Lane and LA 1)-Total Wireline Services-Christine Ford and Perry Perrin-Condemnation Hearing is scheduled for 2/5/2024.
- BC 1032-118 Cliff Lane-Land-Glo, LLC (Charles Michael Callais, agent). Condemnation Order was issued for 2/8/2024. Charles Callais is present to give the Council an update. He advised that they are having a contractor look at the building to get an estimate on repairing the roof or demolishing it.

- BC 1033-2303 North Bayou Drive-Genevieve Dantin-Condemnation Order was issued for 2/5/2024, however no service has been made and an Ad Hoc Attorney to be appointed for Steven Dantin. Council Member Toups advised that Steven Dantin signed the paperwork, so there is no need for an Ad Hoc Attorney.
- BC 1036-129 Summers Street-Warren and Robbi Michel-Condemnation Hearing is scheduled for 2/5/2024.
- BC 1037-170 Pierce Street-Joycelyn Callais-On 1/2/2024, the Council requested to go out for demolition bids due by 2/5/2024. Town Citizen Stacey Adams advised the Council that her son is interested in buying that property from Ms. Callais and would like to have the property demolished if they can have more time on that. Council Member Latiolais advised Ms. Adams the either her or her son would need to come to the 2/5/2024 meeting because no action is being taken tonight.
- BC 1038-1841 South Alex Plaisance Boulevard-Thomassie Commercial Properties (Faith Filce, Agent)-Condemnation Hearing is scheduled for 2/5/2024.
- BC 1039-114 St. Mary Street-Richard and Kiesha Plaisance-Condemnation Order issued for 30 days and the deadline is 1/4/2024. SCPDC Building Inspector Cehan advised the Council that some demolition has been started on the house and he is reusing some of the material to do the renovations on the house next door. Mr. Plaisance advised the Council that he is working on the main house and reusing some material from the second house to do those renovations. He is in the process of getting the condemned house torn down and cleaned up. A motion to give the property owner 30 more days, with an update at the 2/20/2024 meeting, as presented, was made by Council Member Billiot; seconded by Council Member Latiolais. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: Plaisance; ABSENT: Cheramie.
- BC 1040-113 North Bayou Drive-Brian Eymard- Condemnation Order was issued for 2/5/2024.
- BC 1041-137 Washington Street-Wilbert Collins Jr.-Condemnation Order was issued for 2/5/2024.
- BC 1042-106 Alario Lane-Alan and Evelyn France-Condemnation Order was issued for 2/5/2024.
- BC 1045-1812 South Bayou Drive-P.J. and Beverly St. Pierre-Condemnation Hearing was scheduled for 1/16/2024, but it is postponed to the 2/20/2024 meeting. SCPDC Building Inspector Cehan advised the Council that the building is torn down and they are working on hauling off the materials.

New Business

A motion to approve the December 2023 Budgets to Actuals Financial Reports, as presented, was made by Council Member Toups; seconded by Council Member Plaisance. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cheramie.

A motion to approve adopting the 2023 LA Compliance Questionnaire, as presented, was made by Council Member Toups; seconded by Council Member Latiolais. A roll call vote took place as follows: YEAS: Plaisance, Toups, Latiolais, Billiot; NAYS: NONE; ABSTAINED: NONE; ABSENT: Cheramie.

South Central Planning and Development Commission's (SCPDC) Tom Watkins advised the Council that the following Condemnation Proceedings are postponed until the 2/20/2024 Meeting:

- BC 1046-904 North Alex Plaisance Boulevard-Jeremiah St. Pierre
- BC 1047-135 Fred Street-Monica and Jon Yoss
- BC 1050-160 Jefferson Street-Rosalus and Edith Rebstock. Homeowners Rosalus and Johnine Rebstock are present to address the Council. They have someone who is supposed to demolish the house to use the materials. If that falls through, they either want to repair the house or demolish it and build another one. Mr. Watkins advised them that this would be continued at the 2/20/2024 meeting, so the homeowners should have more information then.

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

Town Attorney Jarreau advised the Council that Town Clerk Cloutier and she came up with a schedule of the Condemnation Proceedings so far and that it will be in their binders for the next meeting.

Mayor Bouziga asked for audience comments.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:47 PM, as presented, was made by Council Member Plaisance; seconded by Council Member Billiot. The Council unanimously approved the motion as presented.

MAYOR JOEY BOUZIGA

ATTESTED:

**RACHEL ROBICHAUX
ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK**