

TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
LEON SANDERS JR., MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
205 WEST PALMETTO AVENUE, PLAIN DEALING, LOUISIANA
Tuesday April 14, 2026 - 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER – James Cook, Mayor

INVOCATION – Attorney Doug Dominick

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Alderman Shanithia Gay

ROLL CALL - Ms. Rolandria McCauley, Town Clerk

The roll call was conducted at 6:02 P.M. Alder lady Shanithia Gay, Alder lady Emily Jennings, and Alderman Jeff Benson were present. Alderman Louis Welch and Shavonda Gay were absent. At 6:10 P.M. Alder lady Shavonda Gay joined the town meeting. Let the record reflect that there is a Quorum.

1. APPROVE AGENDA: Mayor Cook asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Shavonda Gay to approve the. A second motion was given by Shanithia Gay. There was no public comment. Four of the members voted in favor of the agenda. Louis Welch was absent.
2. APPROVE MINUTES: APPROVE MINUTES: Mayor Cook asked for a motion and a second to approve the minutes of The **March 10, 2026** meeting and dispense with the reading. A motion was made by Emily Jennings to and seconded by Shanithia Gay.
3. APPROVE EXPENSES: Mayor Cook asked for an approval for the expense report for the month of March 2026. A motion was made by Shanithia Gay and seconded by Emily Jennings to approve the expense reports. Four of the members of the council voted in favor of the reports. There were no public comments.
4. DEPARTMENT REPORT: The chief of Police reported that there were 232 calls to the Police Department in March of 2026. There were 99 traffic stops and 133 criminal and civil calls. He urges citizen to call if there are any questions.

Water Superintendent Kevin Whitton stated that cold mix has been delivered to fix the potholes in town. The crew will start with Palmetto Ave first. He also stated that we are still waiting for parts to fix the issues at the sewer plant.

5. OLD BUSINESS:
 - A. NONE

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Mayor Cook opened the floor for A PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE # 1 OF 2026-, AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY, LLC, D/B/A FOUR STATES FIBER, TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN FACILITIES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND SALE OF INTERNET SERVICES AND VOICE PHONE SERVICES; AUTHORIZING USE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY; IMPOSING A FRANCHISE (PRIVILEGE) TAX; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. There were no public comments. The public hearing was declared closed.
- B. Emily Jennings made a motion amend ordinance 1 of 2026, paragraph 11 to state the affective date will be May 1, 2026. Shanithia Gay Seconded the motion. Jeff Benson seconded the motion. All member voted in favor thereof. There were no public comments.
- C. THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONSIDER THE ADPOTION OF ORDINANCE # 1 OF 2026-, AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY, LLC, D/B/A FOUR STATES FIBER, TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN FACILITIES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND SALE OF INTERNET SERVICES AND VOICE PHONE SERVICES; AUTHORIZING USE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY; IMPOSING A FRANCHISE (PRIVILEGE) TAX; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. A motion was made to adopt the Emily Jennings and seconded by Jeff Benson. There were no public comments. All members voted in favor of the ordinance.
- D. THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION #6 OF 2026 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF PLAIN DEALING TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT WITH FREEDOM ENTERPRISE, LLC, FOR THE CUTTING AND REMOVAL OF TREE LIMBS AT THE PLAIN DEALING CEMETERY TO PROMOTE SAFETY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND UPKEEP; ACKNOWLEDGING THE PUBLIC BENEFIT; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS. Amotion was given by Shavonda Gay and seconded by Shanithia Gay. There were no public comments. All members voted in favor of the resolution.

- E. Mayor Cook informed the aldermen that they will be a management training class offered in Oil City Louisiana by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). This class focuses on water/wastewater system training from an administrative perspective and it provides bonus points for the letter grade for our system.
 - F. The board of aldermen will consider the hiring of Justin Micken as a full-time Officer with a starting rate of \$13.00. He will replace Cody Clifford who resigned in December 2025. Shavonda Gay gave a motion to hire Justin Micken and Shanithia Gay the motion. All members voted in for of the hiring. There were no public comments.
 - G. Chief Ronnie Murray appeared before the of aldermen to request a \$2.00 raise for the officers. Shavonda Gay made a motion to provide the officers with a \$2.00 raise. Jeff Benson Seconded the motion. There were no public comments. All members voted in favor of the raise.
- 8. COMMUNITY CENTER APPLICATIONS:
Cedrick Mitchell- Birthday Party- June 20, 2026
 - 9. COUNCIL REMARKS:
Aldermwomen Shanithia Gay mentioned that there will be an athletic banquet on May 1, 2026 at the Plain Dealing High School.
 - 10. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:
Mayor Gay reminded the citizens that there will be a Town clean-up on April 18, 2026. The meeting location will be at the Plain Dealing Baptist Church 101 N Perrin St. Plain Dealing, Louisiana.
 - 11. ADJOURN: Aldermwomen Shanithia Gay gave a motion to adjourn the meeting. Aldermwomen Shavonda Gay seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.

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