

***PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF HOMER
STATE OF LOUISIANA***

COUNCIL MEETING FOR APRIL 8, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF HOMER MAYOR AND COUNCIL WAS CALLED TO ORDER WITH MAYOR Dr. Xanthe Seals presiding on the 8th day of April 2024 at 6:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 400 East Main Street, Homer, Louisiana with a quorum present. The invocation was given by Rev. Cleon Warren followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Xanthe Seals

ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following were present:

Mayor Dr. Xanthe Y. Seals
District 1, Councilman Alonzo Mitchell
District 2, Councilwoman Joyce Ivory
District 3, Councilman Jimmy Hand
District 4, Councilwoman Verletha Adams
District 5, Councilman Sammy Kirk

Administrative Staff/Others Present:

Town Attorney, Lori Graham
Police Chief, Van McDaniel
Public Works Superintendent-Street & Sidewalk, Derrick Burns
Guardian Journal, Official Journal

Members Absent:

Town Clerk, Shenika Wright (absent)
Town Treasurer, Shenovia Harris
Public Works Superintendent-Water & Sewer, Vivian Moffett

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING DATED APRIL 8, 2024.

Mayor Dr. Xanthe Seals entertained a motion to approve minutes for regular meeting held April 8, 2024 Motion was made Councilman Jimmy Hand and seconded by Councilwoman Verletha Adams. Minutes from regular meeting April 8, 2024 were unanimously approved by council.

Barbara Morris HPD Dispatcher as well as Dispatcher Tasha Ferrell and Dispatcher Stephanie Ferguson on receiving letters of termination effective in two weeks due to budget cuts. They felt that this action was unfair. The dispatchers felt it was done without the Chiefs knowledge. Brenda Harris spoke concerning what she believed to be a disrespectful level toward the Chief. Patricia Williams spoke concerning that she didn't want to be forced to call the Sheriff's Office in an emergency situation because she was afraid of the Sheriff.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE FOR DOG NOISE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF TOWN OF HOMER.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve Resolution #24-001-Resolution to Amend 2024 Budget.
2. Approve Resolution #24-002-Corrective Action Plan to Address the Fiscal Shortfalls of the Town of Homer.
3. Introduce Ordinance #24-001-An Ordinance to Add Fees for all Violators for Nuisance Dog Barking within the City Limits of Homer, Louisiana, Claiborne Parish.
4. Approve Garbage increase from \$0 to \$8 per Household effective May Billing.
5. Approve Contract with Republic Services.

APPROVE LOW VOLUME ALCOHOL BEVERAGE PERMIT 2024 FOR H&S HOMER STORE LLC AT 215 WEST MAIN STREET.

With no further discussion, Mayor Dr. Xanthe Seals entertained a motion to approve low volume alcohol beverage permit 2024 for H&S Homer Store LLC at 215 West Main Street. Motion was made by Councilman Mitchell and seconded by Councilman Jimmy Hand. 5-Yays (Mitchell, Ivory, Hand, Adams, Kirk), 0-Nays, 0-Abstain, 0-Absent Motion Passes

APPROVE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PERMIT FOR BARBARA WILLIAMS BIRTHDAY PARTY TO BE HELD MARCH 30, 2024.

After discussion, Mayor Dr. Xanthe Seals entertained a motion to approve alcoholic beverage permit for Barabara Williams birthday party to be held March 30, 2024. Motion was made by Councilman Sammy Kirk and seconded by Councilman Alonzo Mitchell. 5-Yays (Mitchell, Ivory, Hand, Adams, Kirk), 0-Nays, 0-Abstain, 0-Absent Motion Passes

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor's Office

Mayor Dr. Xanthe Seals welcomed newly appointed elected official Ms. Joyce Ivory aboard. She also stated that the National Day of Prayer will be held May 2 at noon at the Kinnibrew Park.

Council

Councilman Alonzo Mitchell stated each council member is doing the best job possible and they need the continued from the community. He also stated the trash littering in the Town is becoming a problem again.

Councilwoman Joyce Ivory stated how everything is new to her and asking everyone for their prayers and help.

Councilman Sammy Kirk stated he had concerns about financial institutions, and citizens needed to be aware of economic financial stability.

Airport

Jerry Whitton gave information on the upcoming runway inspection.

Recreation

Terry Willis thanked everyone who had a part in helping and participating with the carnival. He also thanked Sheriff Sam Dowies and the Deputies who helped with security. He stated there will be more information coming forward on the Community Spring Event.

Grants

Nothing new at this moment. Mayor Seals stated she is going to reach out to engineers to meet with the Board of Selectmen.

Financials

Meeting set for Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

Police

Chief Van McDaniel addressed Terry Willis on his comment about problem regarding carnival security. He also stated he had concerns about police department bills not getting paid on time.

ADJOURN

There being no other matters present before the Mayor and Board of Selectmen with a motion made by Councilman Sammy Kirk and seconded by Councilman Alonzo Mitchell. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned. (5) Ayes- (0) Nays- (0) Abstain- (0) Absent

I, SHENIKA WRIGHT, CLERK, TOWN OF HOMER, DO CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE CONSTITUTES A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE MEETING MINUTES HELD BETWEEN THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF HOMER, THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH 2024, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HOMER, LOUISIANA.

TOWN CLERK, TOWN OF HOMER, HOMER, LA

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Barbara Morris HPD Dispatcher as well as Dispatcher Tasha Ferrell and Dispatcher Stephanie Ferguson on receiving letters of termination effective in two weeks due to budget cuts. They felt that this action was unfair. The dispatchers felt it was done without the Chiefs knowledge. Brenda Harris spoke concerning what she believed to be a disrespectful level toward the Chief. Patricia Williams spoke concerning that she didn't want to be forced to call the Sheriff's Office in an emergency situation because she was afraid of the Sheriff. Councilman Jimmy Hand stated that according to the revised statutes that the Chief can hire and fire and we will leave that decision up to him, but he must do so within his budget. Attorney Graham concurred with Councilman Hand that the Dispatchers were considered police personnel and there firing or hiring should be handled by Chief McDaniel. Mayor Seals stated that she didn't think it would be feasible to keep the dispatches but it would not be her call.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVE RESOLUTION #24-001-RESOLUTION TO AMEND 2024 BUDGET

With no further discussion, Mayor Dr. Xanthe Seals entertained a motion to approve Resolution #24-001 Motion was made and seconded Councilman Sammy Kirk by Councilman Mitchell. 5-Yays (Mitchell, Ivory, Hand, Adams, Kirk), 0-Nays, 0-Abstain, 0-Absent Motion Passes

APPROVE RESOLUTION #24-002-CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS THE FISCSL SHORTFALLS OF THE TOWN OF HOMER. *Tabbed*

After discussion, Mayor Dr. Xanthe Seals entertained a motion to approve Resolution #24-001 Motion was made and seconded Councilman Sammy Kirk by Councilman Mitchell.

INTRODUCE ORDINANCE #24-001 – AN FEES FOR ALL VIOLATORS FOR NUSSIANCE DOG BARKING WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF HOMER, LOUISIANA, CLAIBORNE PARISH

The ordinance was introduced by Mayor Dr. Xanthe Seals.

APPROVE INCREASE GARBAGE FROM \$0 TO \$8 PER HOUSEHOLD EFFECTIVE MAY BILLING

After discussion, Mayor Dr. Xanthe Seals entertained a motion to approve Garbage rate increase from \$0 to \$8 Dollars starting in May2024 Billing. Motion was made by Councilman Hand and seconded by Councilman Sammy Kirk. 5-Yays (Mitchell, Ivory, Hand, Adams, Kirk), 0-Nays, 0-Abstain, 0-Absent Motion Passes

APPROVE CONTRACT WITH REPUBLIC SERVICES.

With no further discussion, Mayor Dr. Xanthe Seals entertained a motion to approve contract with Republic Services starting in May2024. Motion was made by Councilman Hand and seconded by Councilman Mitchell. 5-Yays (Mitchell, Ivory, Hand, Adams, Kirk), 0-Nays, 0-Abstain, 0-Absent Motion Passes

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor's Office

Mayor Dr. Xanthe Seals had no comment.

Council

Councilman Alonzo Mitchell had no comment.

Councilwoman Joyce Ivory had no comment.

Councilman Jimmy Hand expressed that he cares about the finances of the town of Homer and appreciation for the concern of the citizens.

Council woman Verletha Adams stated she did understand the level of concern by the citizens, she is also very concerned and would be working toward solutions.

Councilman Sammy Kirk stated he had concerns about our financial commitments, and citizens needed to have transparency.

Airport

Jerry Whitton had no new information to report.

Recreation

Had no report.

Grants

Nothing new at this moment. Mayor Seals stated she is going to reach out to engineers to meet with the Board of Selectmen.

Financials

LaCasha Oyara presented financial statements for review.

Police

Chief Van McDaniel addressed the fact that the Town of Homer has had many problems for along time. And he felt that the police department has been used as a scape goat.

Code Enforcement

Main Street

Ameri Warren gave updates and encouraged all to participate in Love The Boot 2024

ADJOURN

There being no other matters present before the Mayor and Board of Selectmen with a motion made by Councilman Hand and seconded by Councilman Sammy Kirk. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned. (5) Ayes- (0) Nays- (0) Abstain- (0) Absent

I, SHENIKA WRIGHT, CLERK, TOWN OF HOMER, DO CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE CONSTITUTES A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE MEETING MINUTES HELD BETWEEN THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF HOMER, THIS 18th DAY OF MARCH 2024, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, HOMER, LOUISIANA.

TOWN CLERK, TOWN OF HOMER, HOMER, LA