**Minutes of the Town of Dubach Board of Alderman**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Monday, August 21, 2023**

**Regular Monthly Meeting** was called to order by Mayor Mona Wilson at 6:30 pm. Present were the following council members: Dunn, Roberts, Moerbe, and Graham. A quorum was present.

**Invocation** was led by Graham.

**Pledge of Allegiance** was conducted in unison.

**Adoption of Agenda** Moerbe suggested 7A. Hazard Mitigation and 7B. Ballpark account be added to the agenda. Graham suggest 12A Mr. Scott from the governor’s office be added to the agenda. Motion was made by Roberts and seconded by Dunn to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

**Adoption of the Previous Minutes** Dunn motioned to accept previous minutes from 7/17/2023. Roberts seconded. Motion passed.

**Adoption of the July 2023 Financials** Graham asked about the ARPA Fund ending balance and expressed concern on whether it would be enough to cover expenses for the repairs of the water system. Mayor assured Graham that the amount would be enough because $58,000 will remain in the fund after half of the payment is made. Graham also inquired about the purpose of the EFTPS payments. The town clerk informed her that the payments are payroll taxes. Moerbe motioned to accept July 2023 Financials. Graham seconded.

**Beautification Grant** Mayor informed the council that none of the information for the application has been completed. However, she encouraged the council to read over the guidelines so that we could move forward.

**Hazard Mitigation** Kip Franklin informed the town that the Lincoln Parish Mitigation Plan is something that has to be done every 5 years. We were already 5 years behind, but due to COVID we are now 7 years behind. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is put into place to allow the town to receive grant funding from FEMA during and after disasters. Graham motioned to adopt the resolution. Roberts seconded. Four of the members voted yay with one absent. Motion passed.

**Ballpark Account** Mayor Wilson informed the council that a vote was needed to open a separate bank account for the ballpark. She stated that any funds raised for the ballpark project will go directly to that account instead of the donations fund. Mayor Wilson let the council know that the account will have $2,500 from a community grant that was previously received. Graham motioned to that we set up an account for the ballpark at First Guaranty Bank. Dunn seconded. Motion passed.

**Sign Budget** Mayor Wilson informed the council that there are grants that we can apply for that will cover the cost of the signs, but she needs the council to reach out with sign ideas and a budget to move forward.

**Vote on Engagement Letter** the Town received an engagement letter from Don McGehee’s office, our CPA. The engagement letter is an annual letter to hire his office as our official fiscal year CPA. Moerbe inquired about the amount of $4,000 that was quoted in the packet and whether this amount was for a special project due to the previous year’s amount being $30,000 for the audit. Mayor Wilson informed the council that we will revisit this letter at next month’s meeting.

**Randy Rogers** Mr. Rogers gave the council members a packet informing them of the work that has been done so far. However, no comments were made about the progress since the packets were received right before the meeting. Mayor inquired about the number of members in the Dubach Legends organization. Rogers stated that there is a total of 5 including him and his wife. He also stated that they will be having a meeting on September 12th in Ruston to discuss more projects for the town. Roger’s and his wife have spent about $30,000 for the improvements of the park.

**David Powell - Ballpark** Mr. Powell was not present, but Graham informed the council that he was able to go to the ballpark and spray under the bleachers. She also informed the council of the ballpark clean up day on August 26th starting at 7:30.

**Mr. Scott – Governor’s Office** Graham informed the council that she showed him the drainage problem areas, as well as, the mobile home park. Mr. Scott informed the council that he is the director of intergovernmental affairs in Baton Rouge and that his area focuses in on the water system. Mayor Wilson gave him some questions to take back with him to answer later.

**Mayor’s Update on Smith property** Mayor Wilson told the council that Mr. Smith is making progress with the mobile homes. He has skirted 4 of the mobile homes on main street and the decks are installed. She also informed the council that he has started renovating the interior of some of the properties. He is awaiting approval to have the water and sewer lines installed. As soon as it is approved more progress will be made. He is also completing the paperwork to have another property torn down.

**Public Comments** Many of the townspeople expressed concern about the water color and smell. Shelby Kelley, the town’s water technician informed the town that the water is passing all inspections and the issue is the sewer system. He told everyone that the water system has been worked on and that they should see progress within a couple of days. Some of the townspeople inquired about vacant buildings and future plans for them. Mayor told the council that she is unable to have them torn down herself and that legal actions involving the property owners would be necessary.

**Mayor Comments** the town was notified that last year the town dropped to village status due to paperwork not being submitted in a timely manner. At this time all information has been submitted and the Town of Dubach is back to town status.

**Adjournment** was made by Roberts and seconded by Moerbe. Motioned carried at 8:08 pm.

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**Mona Wilson, Mayor** **Shekenna Nathan, Town Clerk**