

Village of Elizabeth

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SPECIAL CALLED PUBLIC MEETING

Public Council meeting was held 8/18/25 at 6:00pm at the Elizabeth Village Hall, 230 Poplar Street, Elizabeth, LA. The notice of meeting having been duly posted in accordance with requirements, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Mandy Green at 6:00pm. Opening prayer led by Ken Kelly, then Pledge of Allegiance and roll call by Mayor Green.

Mayor, Council and Staff Present

Mandy Green, Mayor
Mea Dillehay, Council
Stacy Weldon, Council
Ken Kelly, Council
Denise Lee, Clerk
Crystal Hunt, Code Compliance
Heather Sutton, Attorney
Lorrie Odom, Fire Dept Treasurer

Council and Staff Absent

Shane Ware, Police Chief
Steven Self, Fire Dept Asst Chief
Brandon Sweat, Fire Chief

1. No comments from the public on any agenda item.

2. Stacy Weldon made a motion to approve the agenda. Ken Kelly seconded. All in favor.

3. *Old Business

A. None

***New Business**

B. Glenn Turner, MMLH Engineer came forth and stated he forgot at the last meeting to place on the agenda, the Agreement for Delta Regional Application and the Resolution for the Earl Davis Sewer Extension Grant. He proceeded forth to explain the grant. He explained where a new lift station would be placed for this project. Mayor Green questioned if this would be a forced main and Glenn stated yes it would come from a new lift station to the manhole in front of the carwash. Glenn stated that the businesses would be served by gravity. The residential would be gravity fed as well. She said there are residential customers in this area-total of about 7 customers. She asked if they were notified of the rule about anyone within 300' of the installed sewer line would require them to connect to the new system. She expressed her concern for the force of connection to the new system even though they already have their own sewer systems. Glenn stated that he had clients that called the state on this rule, and they said it would be up to the towns to enforce this rule or not. He stated the LA Revised Statute had been changed on this and it says, "can be served..." Mayor Green noted that the customer that owns the residential property behind the Corner Store expressed that they do not want the extension project going across their yard. Glenn stated that the village already has easement there for existing gas lines, but more surveying would take place, but he feels that a gravity line could be placed there.

Mayor Green reaffirmed that the total cost of the project is estimated at \$450,000. Mayor Green expressed concerns of how the participation agreement is worded. It states that the village "The Company" would provide jobs for the project. Glenn stated that the jobs are being provided by the project. Heather Sutton read the agreement, and it stated- "The Company will create, at a minimum, ____ New Jobs in addition to the Current Employment of _____. The company will maintain, at a minimum, ____ Full-Time, Year-Round Employees at this location for a period of five years from the completion of the project. Glenn stated that government jobs don't count. Heather asked if they should reword this agreement. He stated that the wording could be changed to state the Subrecipient would be creating the jobs. Mayor Green asked

about the agreement stating how much money the village would have to pay for this project. Glenn stated that there would be an agreement between the Earl Davis Development. Glenn stated the grant required some matching funds which is anyone besides their funds and he would send in that the village does not have the matching funds. Mr. Ken Kelly asked if there was a certain match needed such as a percentage. Glenn said the higher the match the better the score. The council and the public discussed the Delta Regional Authority Application for the Earl Davis Sewer Extension further. Heather asked if Number 5 of the agreement would need to be amended as well, stating that the village would be providing funds. Glenn stated that this would be whatever the customers paid to the village for the project then the village would pay this amount towards the cost of the project. Glenn stated we would not reward this, but have an agreement in place with the customers. Glenn stated that if the agreement fell through with customers, then the village would pull the application. Mea Dillehay asked if we pursued, would the current sewer rates go up to cover costs that will accrue to the Village and Mayor Green said yes, they would. There would need to be a rate study done and this would determine how much the sewer rates would need to be raised. A rate study was done, and 160 sewer customers are paying for these costs. She stated that currently the sewer bills are higher than the water bills and would increase again if the village proceeds forth. Mayor Green stated that anyone could submit the application, not necessarily MMLH. She stated her concern at this point because we will have received 2.4 million dollars in grant funding, not including what the village has paid out over \$187,000 and the projects are still not complete, nor fixed, in working conditions. Some were ARPA funds, but those could have been used on other projects. The village spent over \$87,000 on the previous Water Well project that is still having problems. Mayor Green stated that we should not proceed with this grant application at this time. There are lots of filtration areas that still need to be fixed. She stated that the 2 current grant projects in place will not even cover fixing these problems and with all these issues, we should not put more stress on the new system recently installed that is still not able to work properly. Stacy Weldon reiterated that the village has paid out these funds and still doesn't have a properly working sewer system and the water well still not working as it should. Mayor Green has studied the CCtving Tests that was done, and she stated that 7 manholes was missing on the maps that they were given to the contractors and they still have not been inspected by CCtvd. She stated she prepared a binder of all the manholes and problem areas, and it shows the areas that will still not be fixed in these projects allowing lots of infiltration. Tyler LaFauci-Water/Sewer Operator and Jerry Strother-assistant attended the meeting as well. Tyler stated that every time we get rain, we have problems and the 2 pumps at the sewer system do not work. We have overflow and are getting cited. Chris Chapman, C3 Environmental was notified and he came and assisted them. They were checking the sludge at the sewer plant with 3' foot of water in the wet well and with both pumps at the rehabbed wet well were turned on, it took 15minutes just to pump the water out. He stated they were running at full speed. Mayor Green stated there is a lot of sludge that still needs to be removed. We have a quote for \$85,000 for it to be removed. She said that Glenn said the contractor was notified to come remove the sludge and no response. She stated that when it rains, there are problem areas of sewer in customers' yards, and the village gets cited for this. She stated that Glenn and Brad have helped prepare responses to this. Mayor Green stated she is working with Tyler and Jerry to prepare a plan to start fixing some of these problems themselves. Heather reiterated that the agreement would need to be revised prior to the village moving forward with the agreement. Tyler stated that he felt that with the problems in the village including lift stations and the sewer plant, we should not proceed forth with the grant. Stacy Weldon asked Evan Earl from Earl Davis, LLC if they had a contingency plan if the village was unable to do this. He said yes and that he had consulted with the businesses also about the costs. Stacy Weldon said she felt at this time we needed to get these issues fixed before proceeding forth. Council and the public continued to voice concerns that this is not a

good idea at this time, but when these problems are fixed, we would explore other grant options. Everyone agreed that this was nothing personal towards the Earl Davis Project and are very excited this project will be taking place in our village.

- C. Ken Kelly made a motion to not proceed forth signing the Participation Agreement of the Town of Elizabeth and Delta Regional Authority. Mea Dillehay seconded. All in favor.
- D. Council did not adopt **Resolution 144-2025** which proposes to apply for an award with DRA for the FY 2025 federal award program cycle and designates and appoints the Mayor to perform all duties and administration of said award on behalf of Awardee (Town of Elizabeth) and states that awardee agrees to provide additional funds to said award.

4. Ken Kelly made a motion to adjourn. Mea Dillehay seconded. All in favor.

Approved by:/s/Mandy L Green, Mayor 8.25.25 Attest by:/s/Denise Lee, LCMClerk 8.25.25