

**MUNICIPAL MINUTES, TOWN OF CHURCH POINT, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
PUBLIC HEARING JULY 22, 2005**

ATTENDANCE

MAYOR: Roger Boudreaux

ALDERMEN: Errol Comeaux – (Ward 5), Theresa Cary (Ward 4), Gary Duplechin (Ward 3), Alexis Jagneaux (Ward 2), Melchisadeck Green (Ward 1)

ABSENT: Errol Comeaux, Gary Duplechin, Melchisadeck Green

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Charles A. Labbe (Assistant Municipal Clerk)

COMMENCEMENT

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Mayor Boudreaux called the Public Hearing of July 22, 2005 to order.

It was announced by the Mayor, that notice had been given that the Town of Church Point would hold a public Hearing on July 22, 2005, at 10:30 A.M., Church Point City Hall Meeting Room, Church Point, Louisiana, to solicit public comment regarding the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program.

Mayor Roger Boudreaux called the public hearing to order and informed those present that the purpose of the public hearing was to obtain citizen's input into what the priorities are, and what type of project should be considered for an application for funding for under the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Program. Mayor Boudreaux then requested that Mr. Richard Minvielle with the firm of Minvielle & Associates, Inc., make a few opening remarks.

Mr. Minvielle first stated that if there were any non-English speaking citizens who would prefer to converse in French, French speakers were available. Mr. Minvielle stated that a Citizen Participation Plan for these types of grants had previously been adopted and this public hearing is being held in accordance with that Plan. He also stated that the Division of Administration will be accepting grant applications later this year for housing, water projects, sewer projects, street improvement projects and multi-purpose community center projects. He indicated that this application will be used to fund FY 2006 grants and also FY 2007 grants. He said the State anticipates announcing the FY 2006 grant recipients somewhere around June, 2006 and the FY 2007 grant recipients around June, 2007.

It is anticipated that the State will be allocated approximately \$32,500,000 for FY 2006 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development which is the same as the previous year of which the State sets aside \$1,070,000 for their administration funds, \$2,000,000 for demonstrated needs projects, \$2,500,000 for housing projects, \$500,000 in a LaSTEP fund, \$3,500,000 for economic development projects and \$1,600,000 for

multi-purpose community centers. That leaves approximately \$21,300,000 available for public facility projects such as sewer, water and streets projects.

He explained that only single purpose grants will be awarded, saying the State will only allow an application for one particular project. He said the State has established a funding ceiling of \$600,000 for housing grants, \$800,000 for potable water projects, \$500,000 for fire protection projects, \$800,000 for sewer treatment projects, \$600,000 for new sewer collection projects, \$500,000 for existing sewer collection system rehabilitation projects, \$225,000 for demonstrated needs projects, \$500,000 for street projects with a minimum of \$150,000 and \$800,000 for the multi-purpose community center projects. All projects must at a minimum benefit 51% low-to-moderate income persons as defined by the Division of Administration.

He said even though he has not been associated with a project that required the displacement of families, he needed to say that should this occur under a LCDBG project, the grantee would need to provide counseling and referral services, assisting the displaced in obtaining suitable living quarters or business quarters, and assisting in the moving expenses.

He then stated that the funds for this years LCDBG program for public facilities projects are to be subdivided into seven categories as follows:

- a) water systems addressing potable water; and
- b) water systems primarily for fire protection; and
- c) sewer treatment facilities; and
- d) new sewer collection systems; and
- e) existing sewer collection system rehabilitation; and
- f) street improvements; and
- g) multi-purpose community facilities.

He then discussed the rating system which has changed from previous years. For this funding cycle, one point will be awarded for applications/projects benefitting 60% or more low-to-moderate income persons. In addition, 50 points will be assigned for the project severity (need), except for street projects and 10 points assigned for cost effectiveness. Four (4) bonus points can be awarded. One (1) each if the applicant (a) pays all engineering fees if the project is funded; (b) pays all the applications fees and if the project is funded, the program administration fees; (c) pays 10% of the project construction costs; and (d) one point will be assigned if the target area is located within a federally designated renewal community (which he stated are all located in north Louisiana).

Mr. Minvielle then discussed the FY '05 Sewer System Improvements project (\$602,153), the FY '03 LCDBG Water System Improvements (\$241,000), the FY '01 LCDBG Water Treatment Upgrade project (\$148,964) and the FY '00 LCDBG-Economic Development Grant for the Sewer & Water Extension project to serve

Louisiana Steel Frame Homes (\$137,500) and then said it was now in order to open the discussion up to potential projects to be considered.

The first project discussed was the need to demolish a vacant substandard home near Mr. Ronald Coleman's house. There was some discussion that the only way that could be accomplished through this program was if the Town applied for and received a housing grant to rehabilitate/replace substandard units and this house was in that target area.

The next project discussed was the need to replace Water Well No. 1 that began producing sand in the Fall of 2003. Since that time, the Town has provided the water needed to meet the demand basically with only Water Well No. 4. It was stated that the Town's water system does not meet the requirements of having a backup water well to equal or meet the maximum day demand.

There was also some discussion for the need for a sewer rehabilitation project to reduce the high inflow/infiltration that currently exists with the Town's sewer collection system.

After the discussion Mayor Boudreaux asked if there were any other projects or questions from anyone.

There were no written comments submitted to the Clerk.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS TO COME BEFORE THE BODY,
THE MAYOR ADJOURNED THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

Roger Boudreaux, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amber Higginbotham, Clerk