

**Minutes of the Town of Jonesboro
Regular Council Meeting – 6:00 P.M.**

**Jonesboro, Louisiana
January 8th, 2019**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Leslie Thompson. Present were the following Council Members: Nia Evans Johnson, Robbie Siadkek, James Ginn, Aaron Stringer, and Devin Flowers. Council Members Absent: None. A quorum was present.

The **Invocation** was conducted by: Flowers
The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by: Siadek

Additions To Agenda: Stringer motioned for Evans-Johnson to sign checks. Attorney Doug Stokes said that the Mayor is the fiscal administrator of the Town. Mayor stated he would provide Council with all necessary financials. Stringer withdrew his motion. Mayor recommended adding Public Comments as Agenda Item 4A. Evans-Johnson motioned, Stringer seconded. Motion carried.

Opening Remarks: Mayor Thompson welcomed attendees, announced Clerk's position to be phased out as of current meeting, and that his efforts to begin advertising for a Clerk would begin next week. Stated the Town must have a Clerk and announced former Clerk, David J. Dill as Deputy Clerk. Mayor Thompson said he is seeking someone who is strong in audit compliance for the position of Clerk.

ADDITIONAL Additions To Agenda: An Executive Session for the hiring of a public works director (Calvin Wortham) was introduced as Agenda Item 11A. Attorney Stokes outlined the Executive Session procedure for such. Mayor Thompson said, Mr. Wortham agreed to an Executive Session being conducted.

A motion for an Executive Session to discuss the character and professional competency of a potential public works director Mr. Calvin Wortham was made by Stringer, Flowers seconded. Motion carried.

Evans-Johnson motioned for Police Chief's hire list to be added as Item 8A. Stringer seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: Evans-Johnson motioned to approve the Agenda. Stringer seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Recommendation For Mayor Pro Tem: Mayor recommended Flowers. Siadek motioned to recommend Stringer to be Mayor Pro Tem. Ginn seconded. Council Members Evans-Johnson, Siadek, and Ginn affirmed. Flowers opposed. Motion carried.

Sunday Alcohol Sales: Attorney Stokes updated current Council Members on recent history of efforts made to amend current ordinance, said that more work needed to be done to determine which areas of Jonesboro are wet or dry. Stringer motioned to table

the item till next meeting, and for Attorney Stokes to be authorized to research the matter further. Mayor Thompson agreed. Evans-Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Budgetary Status: Mayor Thompson expressed concerns regarding status of the Street and Police Departments, provided budget for 2018 and noted an approximate \$200,000 discrepancy between what Council approved and what the Town might possibly be operating under currently. Mayor noted that no amendment of the current budget could be found, and that his administration needs to research the matter. Mayor requested recommendation from Council.

Council reviewed financial information provided by Mayor and took action in the following Agenda item. Mayor Thompson discussed concern about low revenues and depleted funds in the Street Dept., said he would be seeking potential solutions and that he'd consider recommendations from Council.

Police Chief's Hiring List: Flowers motioned to table the item. Evans-Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Official Journal: Stringer motioned for the Jackson Independent to be the Town's official journal. Evans-Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

State Of The Town: Mayor withdrew this item from the Agenda, said it was already partially dealt with under previous item (Budgetary Status) and he'd offer this Item at a later time.

Fire Department Purchase Lease Agreement: Chief Mark Treadway reintroduced the matter of a need for certain emergency response equipment before newly sworn in Council, requested Council to authorize the newly sworn in Mayor to sign the lease that Council previously authorized by way of Resolution.

Flowers motioned for a new resolution pertaining to same matter be adopted, (Resolution 2019-001). Evans-Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Session: Council interviewed Mr. Calvin Wortham as a candidate for the position of Public Works Director. No action was taken. Stringer motioned to end the session. Ginn seconded. Motion carried.

Council Comments: Council Members thanked attendees for coming out, encouraged all to work together and emphasized need for assessing current financial status of the Town. Flowers recommended all Council Members to review the Lawrason Act.

Mayor Comments: Mayor said it's good to be back, that his administration has begun to find audit issues, and encouraged all to work together.

Adjournment: Flowers motioned to adjourn. Evans-Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Deputy Clerk, David J. Dill

Leslie Thompson, Mayor

“We Are An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.”