

**Public Hearing re Ordinances: “Cross Connection Control” and “Police Chief Salary”** began at 5:30 PM. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Leslie Thompson. Present were the following Council Members: Nia Evans Johnson, James Ginn, and Devin Flowers. Absent: Robbie Siadek, and Aaron Stringer. A quorum was present. (Siadek attended 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting)

**Invocation:** Conducted by Alderman Johnson

**Pledge:** Conducted by Alderman

**Public Hearing Discussion:** Mayor Thompson opened the floor for the public to discuss the Board’s consideration of an ordinance concerning Cross Connection Control, and the Police Chief’s Salary. Mayor also discussed the May 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 Sales Tax Renewal election results.

**Proces Verbal:** Ginn motioned to adopt the Proces Verbal pertaining to the May 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 Sales Tax Renewal election. Flowers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Amendments:** Mayor Thompson announced changes in the sequence of agenda items originally posted, and proposed the following additions to Council: 7 (A 1) – Police Chief Recommendations for Termination and Hire, 8 (1) – LCDBG Procurement Motions, 8 (2) – Bottle Club

Siadek motioned to amend the agenda accordingly. Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** Flowers motioned to accept Minutes of the regular meeting held April 9, 2019. Flowers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments:** Chamber of Commerce Director Wilda Smith announced an upcoming Open House for Jr. & Sr. High School Students and Parents pertaining to Industrial Maintenance Technology at the Jonesboro Campus of the Louisiana Delta Community College at 6:00 p.m. on May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019.

**Mayor’s Address:** Mayor Thompson stated his desire to keep meetings shorter, that lengthy department head reports would be removed from future agendas and that department heads would still be permitted to bring specific issues of importance to the council for discussion.

Mayor said that he and Mr. Kenneth Folden agreed to request Council to decide on a date to hold a special meeting pertaining specifically to introduce the 2019-2020 fy budget / ordinance, and emphasized the need to comply with Budget Act Law.

Mayor stated that when this budget process proceeds within the designated time frame, six of seven items that the Louisiana Legislative Auditors are concerned with will have been satisfied, and to satisfy the seventh item he is seeking clarity from the LLA as to which specific internal control issues need to be addressed by City Hall.

**Zoning Board Appointments:** Mayor stated he has one more person he is seeking an agreement with to serve on the board, and asked the item to be tabled and added as an agenda item when the upcoming special called meeting for the budget occurs. Flowers so motioned. Siadek seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**(Amended Agenda Item) FY 2019-2020 Budget Meeting:** Siadek motioned to hold a special meeting concerning the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget, Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 6:00 p.m. (Jonesboro City Hall – Community Room), 128 Allen Ave., Jonesboro LA Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Amended Agenda Item 7 (A-1) Recommendation For Termination & Hire:** Police Chief James Harris recommended the termination of Officer Patrick Cook, and for the hiring (rehiring) of a post certified candidate, Michael Stewart at \$13/hr.

Flowers motioned for the termination of Patrick Cook. Ginn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Siadek motioned for Michael Stewart to be hired. Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

**Agenda Item 7 (B)** – Fire Chief Brandon Brown introduced Mr. Curtis Roller who provided Council with a packet, explained recent changes in the PIAL rating criteria, and detailed how his services can help the Town address compliance issues.

**Agenda Item 7 (C)** – Public Works Director Calvin Wortham informed the Council concerning recent tornado damage repairs to the area, efforts to create an emergency plan, updated the Council on progress with the meter reader software communicating with the billing software, and efforts being made to find all Town water meters.

Flowers motioned to accept dept. head reports. Ginn seconded. (No further action).

**Cross Connection Control Ordinance #2019 – 002:** Ginn motioned to adopt. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Agenda Item 8 (2) – Bottle Club:** Alderman Siadek made suggestions to amend the current alcohol beverage license code. Attorney Stokes discussed the procedure and said research would be required. A question as to whether the Council authorizes issuance of liquor licenses also arose. Mayor Thompson requested this issue to be researched as well.

**Amended Agenda Item 8 (1) – LCDBG Procurement Motions:** Flowers motioned to adopt the Citizen Participation Plan / Citizen Complaint Procedure and for the Chief Administrative Official to be appointed as Citizen Complaint Officer for compliance with the LCDBG program. Ginn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Flowers motioned for the authorization of the Chief Elected Official to proceed with the development of the LCDBG proposal, taking into consideration citizen participation requirements and views of the governing body. Siadek seconded. Motion carried.

Johnson motioned that a Procurement Policy be adopted for compliance with the LCDBG program. Flowers seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Flowers motioned for authorization of the Chief Elected Official to proceed with the procurement and selection of professional services for the purpose of assisting in the development of the LCDBG proposal and implementation of the project, if funded. Ginn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Police Chief Salary Ordinance #2019 – 003:** Siadek motioned to adopt. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Introduction of Ordinance - Levying Continuation of 1% Sales Tax (#2019 – 004):** Attorney Stokes advised that the current sales tax ordinance expires August 1, 2019 and the need to adopt its replacement according to recent election results.

Siadek motioned to adopt and for the public hearing date of said ordinance to be on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of City Hall before the regular meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consider Introduction of Ordinance – 2019-2020 FY Budget:** Mayor Thompson provided Council with 2 different budgets he was first provided with pertaining to the current 2018-2019 fiscal year. Mayor said a \$200,000 discrepancy between the budgets as reflected in the PD budget pertained to dedicated street funds.

Mayor provided Council with expense reports for sewer, water, administrative, Council and fire, said that water and sewer reports pertain to an enterprise budget, and not the main FY budget. Mayor also provided a salary report, discussed a drop in revenues, and coding problems.

Mayor stated that the enterprise funds of water and sewer need to stop depending on the general fund for support. Mayor expressed his need to balance the budget, that the police department salary line item has exceeded \$250,000 with only \$200,000 to spend.

Johnson sought clarity as to how PD revenues of tickets and fines are spent. Mayor explained that PD revenues go to general fund which is composite money helping to run the fire department, recreation and the Town as a whole, and that the Council should decide how to budget for the PD inclusively and not separately.

Mayor informed Council about a new coding system, about going back to a requisition system to avoid authorizing purchases after items have already been bought, and the need to work together on the upcoming budget.

Flowers motioned to table this item till the next meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> 2019. Siadek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Mobile Home Consideration:** Miss Jojo's 2013 mobile home and its compliance to ordinance were discussed. No action was taken.

**LA Public Service Commissioner District #5 – Foster L. Campbell's Office:** Ebony Evans made a presentation about services provided, discussed jurisdiction, disaster relief, energy efficiency grant awards, and the desire to help Jonesboro.

**Clerk Appointment (Vivian McCarden) – Executive Session:** Siadek motioned to enter into executive session (to discuss competency and character of the candidate). Flowers seconded. Motion carried.

Evans motioned to end executive session. Flowers seconded. Motion passed. No action taken by Council during executive session.

Flowers motioned to confirm / appoint Vivian McCarden to the position of Town Clerk. Ginn seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Council Comments:** Johnson thanked all for coming out and asked for continued prayers for the Town. Ginn expressed thanks for the renewal of the sales tax, for the budget information provided, his desire to tour Town departments to assess needs, and expressed thanks for all the hard disaster relief work from the recent tornado damage.

Siadek welcomed Miss McCarden on board, thanked Ebony Evans for her presentation, expressed disappointment and concerns about a letter he'd received, and asked for Flowers to resign.

Flowers stated there were no charges brought against him, that he'd continue serving his constituents on the Board, thanked all for coming out and asked all to continue praying for the Town.

**Mayor's Closing Comments:** Mayor Thompson thanked all for a good meeting, and discussed the benefits of working together, and setting priorities.

**Adjournment:** Flowers motioned to adjourn. Siadek seconded. Motion carried.

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Deputy Clerk, David J. Dill

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Leslie Thompson, Mayor

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