**Town of Jonesboro**

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**SPECIAL CALL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Date: March 29, 2022 Time: 500 p.m. Gather at the bridge near 824 Sixth St., Jonesboro, LA**

**Following this, move to:**

**Place: Jonesboro City Hall, 128 Allen Ave., Jonesboro, LA 71251 @ 6:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tempore Nia Johnson.

Roll call established a quorum with the following members present: Ginn, Stringer, Flowers, Johnson, Siadek,

Invocation- by Flowers

Pledge of Allegiance -by Ginn

Public Comments – none

Introduction of Sewer Rate Ordinance (Ordinance #: 2022-001) – Brad Graff, Town Engineer, indicated that $750,000 DEQ grant requires a 10-year revenue to expense projection. The 10-year period begins in 2022 and the current rates reflect a deficit in income and expenses beginning in 2025. DEQ indicted that to fund the grant, the Town must have a ten-year rate ordinance showing income to expenditures adequate to handle repairs and other maintenance needs of the system before DEQ will sign off on the final approval of the grant. DEQ wants to be sure the money required to make improvements will be available, so the Town won’t be continually seeking grant funding to maintain the system. Graff indicated the money has been allocated to Jonesboro and we want to maintain our position with DEQ. Since the current inflation rate is 8%, Graff used an inflation rate of 4% to develop this projection of income to expenses. The rates currently in effect will remain as is until 2025 when the first 4% increase will go into effect. This grant is for a 12” main for the creek running from Stinson to South Polk St. Graff requested the council to consider approval of this ordinance to make the town eligible to receive the funds. Flowers moved to introduce sewer rate Ordinance 2022-001, second by Johnson and to have the public hearing at the regularly scheduled council meeting on May 10, 2022.

Ginn requested of Graff an accounting as to where all the grant funds which have been awarded are going as far as projects are concerned.

Stringer vs Town of Jonesboro lawsuit – Stringer moved to go into executive session, second by Flowers, to discuss this case. Attorney Ben Mayeaux from the law firm of Neunner Pate talked about the Stringer case and presented his defense as well as a potential offering of settlement they believe would be fair to all parties. Mayeaux indicated this case was originally filed against the former Bradford administration and the town. He talked about the allegations, claims and facts of the case. No action was taken in executive session. Johnson moved to come out of executive session, second by Stringer. Motion carried.

Council’s comments - each council member thanked the public for coming out to the meeting.

Mayor’s comments – mayor thanked the public for coming out.

Flowers moved to adjourn, second by Johnson. Motion Carried

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Janice M. Simmons, Deputy Clerk Leslie C. Thompson, Mayor

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If you need Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations, please inform Town Hall prior to the meeting to make the necessary arrangements.