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Town of Jonesboro

Mayor Leslie Thompson P.O. Box 610

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**Town of Jonesboro**

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Date: April 12, 2022 Time: 6:00 p.m.**

**Place: Charles Garrett Community Center, 182 Industrial Dr., Jonesboro, LA 71251**

Call to order by Mayor Leslie Thompson

Roll Call established a quorum with the following members present– Ginn, Siadek, Stringer, Flowers, Johnson

Invocation led by-Ginn

Pledge of Allegiance led by -Siadek

Public Comments – Wilda Smith thanked Mayor Thompson and the Public Works Department for their assistance in beautifying the main street in the downtown area. Several other people made comments requesting services on their streets relative to potholes and street lights.

Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2022, regular meeting - Motion by Flowers, second by Johnson to accept minutes, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of March 29, 2022, special call meeting – Motion by Johnson, second by Flowers to accept minutes, motion carried

Approval of Agenda – Stringer moved to add approval of bills as item number 9A -second by Siadek

A motion to approve the change/addition to the agenda was made by Siadek, second by Flowers, motion carried

Motion to approve overall agenda made by Johnson, second by Flowers, motion carried

Approval of March financials – Stringer moved to table this item

Resignation of Kenneth Folden & Associates – the CPA will resign effective April 30, 2022. The function will be handled in house as they have been working to train an in-house person to take over the accounting function. Johnson moved to accept resignation, second by Stringer, motion carried.

Introduction of Ordinance 2022-002 – Redistricting Board of Aldermen Districts – tabled until next regular meeting.

B. Graff - handout of proposed expenditure of ARPA Fund projects/Synopsis of expenditures to date was an information item only.

Phil Street Waterline replacement – during public comments a resident of Phil Street requested that the waterline that has been out of order for years be replaced. C. Wortham, Public Works Director and B. Graff, Town’s Engineer, addressed this issue and indicated that this project is high on the list of projects to address. Graff proposed that there is money in the ARPA funds and estimated that this project will cost somewhere around $20K. After some discussion, Ginn moved to approve this project for $20K of

ARPA funds and additional costs, if any, would come out of the water fund, second by Johnson, motion carried.

Zoning recommendation – Zoning Chair Hammock made a recommendation to allow the structure to be moved to the Jan Circle location. After extensive research having been conducted by D, Stokes and B. Brown (Compliance officer) the restrictions in place do not apply to the lots owned by the applicant. Stringer moved to table this item until the next regular meeting.

Compliance Officer report – due to death in family, Compliance Officer was not present

Department head reports (reports submitted to council in packets) Harris reported that the police department was cited and that audits have dinged the town indicating money should not be collected by the police department since they write tickets. Harris indicated that all Mayor’s Court duties will be relinquished to City Hall and indicated that the only thing the police department will continue to do is issue tickets and keep track of tickets. Flowers moved to accept department head reports, second by Johnson, unanimous approval.

Mayor’s update -State of the Town Address – Mayor commended all departments for the exemplary work they do with limited resources and staff. He indicated that we have gotten information that the 2019-2020 audit is an unmodified report, the best audit a municipality can receive. One audit (2020-2021) is still outstanding and will be received any day. We are hopeful and believe that this audit will be equally as good or better than the 2019-20 report. We are working diligently to fix all audit findings and Mayor Thompson commended Chief Harris for placing the town into compliance by discontinuing the function of collecting ticket funds.

The legislative auditor’s office (in a phone call) indicted that the Town is off the non-compliance list. This will make us eligible to apply for grants other than for water and sewer and to hopefully enhance the town in other areas. He thanked Folden’s CPA firm for the job they have done for the town.

Mayor addressed the dissemination of misinformation as it relates to the town. The rumors that he wants to defund the police department are totally unfounded. At the beginning of his term, the police department had about $332 in its budget. Currently the budget of the police department is greater than $600K. The rumor that the police department is not being paid is totally false. They are receiving regular pay for all hours up to (40) the normal work week. All overtime is being compensated as Compensatory time, time and one-half of time off for any overtime worked. He stressed the importance of working together to serve our constituents and foregoing personal or political agendas for the benefit of those we are charged to serve. All departments are on board with the plan put in place to help to make the town financially solvent except the police department. He is asking that all departments get on board for the benefit of the entire Town of Jonesboro.

He stressed that the town can meet expenses. He has looked at ways to increase revenues as well. fund We need water meters (which the council has refused to approve) to increase revenues in the water and sewer departments. This move will allow the sewer and water departments to stand alone and potentially pay the employees in those departments what they deserve. Moving to compensate employees’ overtime with compensatory time (1 ½ time off for overtime worked) has added to significant savings for the town.

As we move forward, Mayor is optimistic that the actions he has taken will continue to improve the financial position of the town and enable improvements for its citizens. He thanked those in attendance.

Council’s comments - none

Mayor’s comments – covered in update

Motion to adjourn by Flowers, second by Johnson, motion carried.

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

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