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Town of Jonesboro

Mayor Leslie Thompson P.O. Box 610

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**BOARD OF ALDERMEN SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**Date: May 24, 2022 Time: 6:00 p.m.**

**Place: Town Hall, 128 Allen Ave, Jonesboro, LA 71251**

**MINUTES**

Call to order by Mayor Thompson

Roll Call established a quorum with the following members present: – James Ginn, Robbie Siadek, Aaron Stringer, Devin Flowers, Absent: Nia Johnson

Invocation by Flowers

Pledge of Allegiance by Stringer

Public Comments – none

Approval of Agenda with the following addition : Add as item 5A, Sale of surplus items by Public Works Department. Motion by Flowers, second by Stringer. Motion carried unanimously to add item to agenda.

Calvin Wortham, Public Works Director, presented a list of items to be sold as surplus. He referred council to the list indicating that all vehicles listed are not in working condition and asked that they get approval to sell at the indicated starting bids. The following items were presented for surplus:

* T-14 Ford 150 Truck, 2000 model, bad engine; minimum bid: $450.00
* 2002 Sport Truck, bad engine; minimum bid: $450.00
* 1996 Ford New Holland Tractor; fuel system needs pump, bad engine, shuts down after about 30 minutes running, tow is bad on front, needs 1 rear tire; Minimum bid: $1650
* St 9, 1996 GMC Dump Truck, rear and transmission bad; minimum bid: $1,575
* ST 35, 2001 ford F150, engine bad, front end about to fall out; minimum bid: $400.00
* 2006 GMC truck, bad engine and drive train; minimum bid: $650.00
* 2008 Challenger tractor, rear end gears and power train bad, PTO problems; minimum bid: $3,250
* ST 10, 2000 Ford Tiger tractor w/side cutter, engine knocking badly; minimum bid: $1,000
* 2007 F250, 1 ton, engine blown, transmission and oil seal leak; minimum bid: $1,250
* NDS Cat 301.8C, Mini Excavator, runs hot, leaks oil and hydraulic fluid, hard to start and will not remain running for long periods of time; minimum bid: $1.500
* 2002 Side Cutter Tractor, front end totally broken, runs rough; minimum bid: $1,650
* Ford LTD, Engine knocks, interior destroyed, smokes badly; minimum bid: $250.00
* F 150 Super cab, engine very bad; minimum bid: $500.00

Items will be sold without warranty, as is. Motion to approve items for surplus and to begin advertising process Flowers; second by Siadek, motion carried unanimously.

There are four (4) resolutions before the board tonight: Resolutions 2022-008 CWEF; 2002-009 LGAP; 2022-010 DRA; 2022-011 DEQ.

Brad Graff gave a brief synopsis of each resolution and addressed concerns/questions of the council.

Resolution 2022-008: $35,000 CWEF grant for Patterson Street Pump Station to install new pumps; motion by Stringer, second by Flowers, motion unanimously carried.

Resolution 2022-009: $35,000 grant for LGAP grant for Patterson Street Pump Station to install new pumps; motion by Siadek, second by Stringer, motion unanimously carried.

Graff, town Engineer indicated that although the resolution reads like a loan, it is in essence not a loan in that it will be 100% forgiven by DEQ. This resolution has been approved before, but a blank was left off for the signature of the mayor, therefore DEQ requested that the resolution be signed with the correction.

Resolution 2022-010: Delta Regional Authority (DRA) grant for $278,400 for new tank and building repairs at Patterson Street Pump Station; motion by Flowers, second by Siadek, motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2022-011: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) grant in the amount of $750,000, for sewer main replacements and repairs to mitigate inflow and infiltration; authorizing to submit a pre-application to issue debt in the amount of $750,000 for the purpose of placing this project on the Project Priority List for funding through the state revolving loan fund program. Motion to approve by Stringer, second by Siadek, motion unanimously carried.

Lil’ Snupe Day – Mayor Thompson indicated that Snupe’s mother is requesting to have this annual event at the fairgrounds. His concern was related to crowd control, loud music, and traffic in the public housing development, thereby the suggestion that moving the event to the fairgrounds would eliminate those concerns for housing authority tenants. The sponsors would provide insurance in the required amount, security, portable potties and would not assess an entrance fee if allowed to use the grounds at no charge. The Town recognizes this event. This request garnered discussion about safety of having such an event with the recent events having taken place in Jonesboro and Winnfield. Stringer expressed that he did not agree with having this event with everything else going on now and suggested they look at a later date. He does not agree that they should use the fairgrounds for free as the sponsor is not putting anything back into the community. He did not feel the Town should set this precedent of allowing a group to use the fairgrounds gratis. Siadek stated he believes security should be provided by local officials. The police chief indicated no one had discussed this event with him. He did not agree with hiring security from outside of Jonesboro. He did not recommend the fairgrounds for the venue and suggested use of the parish’s community building which would aid in better crowd control. He stressed he is not against Lil’ Snupe day but is against having it in the park, and timing is not right. Police Chief suggested they have the event at the community for better crowd control. Stringer indicated he is with the chief on having it at some other time or at the community center. Police chief indicated he has pictures of youth talking about retaliation. It was stressed that only local officials have jurisdiction over security. Stringer questioned use of water for the event and Wortham indicated that for the Sunshine festival, they are not required to pay for bulk water which is assessed at $10.00 for two weeks.

Jonesboro’s assistant police chief suggested that if outside security provides security, they are required to provide certifications for officers, the million-dollar insurance required, and copy of document which indicates whether they are certified to be armed or unarmed.

The mayor indicated he is torn based on what the chief expressed. His commitment to the sponsor was that he would bring the matter to the town council and get back to the event sponsors with the decision of the council.

Discussion of Budget Ordinances 2022-04; 2022-05; 2022-06 – Mayor Thompson indicated the budget is on the agenda along with the Budget Message for discussion only. Mayor thanked department heads for doing as requested and reducing budgets by 10%. The Budget Message includes the transfers in which were inadvertently missing from the original document given to the council. He wanted to present toe budget to council so that they would have time to look over it carefully before the June monthly meeting. Mayor Thompson indicated that having become aware of a recent dog bite, he included a budget item for animal control. Stringer indicated that whoever is hired would have to have the certifications required for this position and that the Town must insure they are meeting all requirements for housing animals. Ginn suggested getting together with other mayors in the area and the parish to discuss a possible collaborative effort to solve this problem.

The current dog in custody will need to be presented to the Town’s Magistrate for how to handle this animal after the required 10-day hold.

Siadek indicated that the amount collected last year is missing from the budget. The mayor indicated that proposed amounts are what was collected last year based on the current financials. Siadek questioned why we are proposing employee bonuses when the town needs money for projects.

Ginn indicated he would like to see where revenues come from. Ginn expressed his thankfulness that the mayor is recognizing the state of the economy is and is trying to scale back where necessary.

The mayor asked that if any council person has any questions about any aspect of the budget, they contact him before the regular June meeting so the budget cycle will move along better than it has in the past.

Council’s comments - none

Mayor’s comments - none

Motion to adjourn by Flowers, second by Siadek, motion unanimously 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.