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Town of Jonesboro

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**Town of Jonesboro**

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**MIINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**Date: June 14, 2022 Time: 5:30 p.m.**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Call to order by Mayor Thompson

Roll Call established a quorum with the following members in attendance: J. Ginn, R. Siadek, D. Flowers, N. Johnson; absent: P. Stringer

Invocation was led by -Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance - Ginn

Ordinance 2022-002- Redistricting Board of Aldermen Districts – Ginn disagrees with the maps as drawn and suggested changes for the re-districting.

Ordinance 2022-004 – Annual Report of the Budget (General)

Ordinance 2022-005 – Water Revenues and Expenditures budget

Ordinance 2022-006 – Sewer Revenues and Expenditures budget

**AGENDA**

Public Comments N. Hayes discussed better use of Fairgrounds. R. Layfield appeared on behalf of the Chamber to announce that the Chamber Banquet is scheduled for 8/4/2022 and to thank Town officials who sponsored the golf tournament. S. Davis talked about her passion and interest in starting programs for youth.

Approval of Agenda – Flowers moved to accept agenda, second by Johnson. The vote was unanimous to approve the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of May 10, 2022, regular meeting – Flowers moved to approve minutes of the May 10, 2022, meeting, second by Ginn, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of minutes of May 24, 2022, special call meeting – the minutes reflect the mayor would get with the event sponsors for Juneteenth with the decision of the council on whether to collaborate with them on this event. Ginn pointed out that the council did not make a decision and wanted this reflected in the minutes. Ginn moved to approve the minutes with the noted modification, second by Siadek, unanimously approved.

Creation of downtown cultural arts district – Dr. Simmons briefly talked about what having this designation would mean to the town, stressing that it does not cost the Town anything. A suggestion was made by the mayor to table this item until the next meeting.

Mayor’s update - Amanda Womack informed the council of her duties as Accounting Clerk/Internal Auditor for the Town.

Approval of May bills paid: Flowers moved to accept bills as paid, second by Johnson. Voting yea: Flowers, Johnson; voting nay: Ginn, Siadek; Mayor Thompson voted Yea to break the tie with a 3 to 2 vote. Motion carried.

Approval of May financials – Johnson moved to approve May financials, second by Flowers, motion unanimously approved.

Ratify Mayor’s declaration of emergency for well #5 – This well is malfunctioning causing Mayor Thompson to have to declare an emergency. All steps were followed to declare this emergency and he is asking that repairs be paid with ARPA money. Water levels have dropped to dangerously low levels and this well is critical to providing water to the Town’s residents and businesses. In compliance with Title 38, subsection 2212, commencement of the advertising process was authorized to begin as required by law. Repairs to this well are expected to cost $82,463. Motion by Ginn, second by Siadek, motion carried unanimously to ratify the mayor’s declaration of emergency and complete the necessary repairs to well #5 using ARPA funds.

Talbot Street project – Graff indicated the Talbot Street project would cost $33,250. The money will come from streets for this project moving forward. The mayor asked to revise the budget to include the $33,250 in the street fund for the repairs. Flowers moved to approve the Talbot Street Project, second by Ginn, vote was unanimous.

Brad Graff, Town’s Engineer talked about the Industrial Drive clearing project and laying 8” outfall pipe. They were unable to get an easement from the detention center requiring having to go to the land behind the property which has a lot of trees to be removed thereby increasing cost for this service by $11,500. This move also added a manhole and extra footage of pipe. The total overall for rerouting this outfall line will be a change order of approximately $35,000.

Graff also discussed City Hall Tank paint – there are no bids to date.

DEQ project has received all the grant money available to this project and council will need to figure out where overruns, if any, will come from or the scope of the project will have to be changed and rebid.

Fuel bids – approval of lowest bid- the ad for bids has been printed in the town’s journal. Bids will close at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 24, 2022. Bids will be opened at 2:10 p.m. on Friday, June 24, 2022. Mayor requested to be authorized to accept lowest bid. Flowers moved to approved, second by Siadek. Motion unanimously carried.

Appointment of official journal – recommend Ruston Leader due to multiple weekly publishing per week. On motion by Flowers, second by Siadek, motion unanimously carried to appoint the Ruston Leader as the Town’s official journal for a period of one year.

Resolution 2022-012 – Disposal of Surplus Property – All items are currently being advertised with minimum bids published. Ginn moved to authorize sale of surplus property to highest bidder, second by Flowers, motion unanimously carried.

Ordinance 2022-002- Redistricting Board of Aldermen Districts – Ginn has recommendations for change. The consensus is that with this item being due to the Secretary of State by June 22, there might not be enough time to make changes. Cedric Floyd was called to speak to the council and to have their questions answered. Floyd indicated that to have elections in November, the ordinance must be passed before June 20th in order to get it to the Secretary of State’s office on time. He indicated that the changes were minimal and that Ginn’s district did not change. Flowers asked that if any change were made would a public hearing be required. The answer was yes which would lead to there not being enough time to meet the requirements as the next meeting would be past the deadline for submission to the state. Floyd agreed to address the changes Ginn is requesting and get the information to the council before the end of the meeting. He indicated that the changes may not be able to be made based on the requirements of the Census for redistricting. After much discussion by council, Ginn moved to accept the redistricting plan, second by Siadek; vote was as follows: Yeas: Flowers, Siadek; Nays: Ginn, motion carried to adopt Ordinance 2022-002.

Budget

One change made to the budget was to include the $33,250 for Talbot Street.

Ginn wanted the $100,000 moved from administration to water. Johnson asked what the $100,000 would be used for, mayor responded it would be used for incentive pay for employees. He stressed that if council does not want to give the employees incentive pay, they should just say that. Ginn expressed his dissatisfaction with all employees receiving the same amount of incentive pay. Ginn then went on to discuss police chief using his personal vehicle and adding an additional $8,000 stipend to police budget for a fuel allowance.

Ordinance 2022-004 – Annual Report of the Budget (General) – Siadek moved to remove the $100,000 of ARPA funds from the general fund, second by Ginn, vote unanimously carried.

Motion to amend general fund budget in street department to increase in the amount of $33,250 by Johnson, second by Siadek, motion carried unanimously.

Motion to amend the police budget by $8,000 for police chief’s gas stipend by Ginn, second by Johnson, motion carried unanimously.

Siadek made motion to adopt the general fund budget with the following changes: move $100,000 from administrative budget to the water department; increase street department by $33,250, increase police department’s budget by $8,000 as indicated above, second by Ginn; vote as follows, Yea: Siadek, Ginn, Johnson, Nay: Flowers; motion carried to adjust the general fund budget as indicated above.

Johnson left the meeting after this item was discussed.

Ordinance 2022-005 – Water Revenues and Expenditures budget – Motion by Ginn to add $100,000 in ARPA funding to water department to be used for water sector program, second by Siadek. Vote was as follows: Yea’s: Siadek, Ginn; Nay’s: Flowers, motion carried to amend the budget as indicated above.

Motion to adopt the amended budget 2022-005 by Siadek, second by Ginn, vote as follows: Yeas: Siadek, Ginn; Nay’s: Flowers. Motion carried to adopt the amended budget 2002-005.

Ordinance 2022-006 – Sewer Revenues and Expenditures budget; Flowers moved to adopt the budget as is, second by Ginn, motion unanimously carried.

Town’s membership in One Call (811) - tabled

Department head reports (reports submitted to council in packets)

Council’s comments – none

Mayor’s comments – none

Motion to adjourn: Flowers, second Siadek, unanimous.

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

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