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Town of Jonesboro

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**Town of Jonesboro**

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**Date: July12, 2022 Time: 6:00 p.m.**

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

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor L. Thompson.

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

Invocation led by Stringer.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Johnson

Public Comments Chamber Director W. Smith talked about the upcoming banquet, encouraged membership in the Chamber. Several Public Works employees encouraged the council to approve a stipend or give them a pay increase, B. Ledbetter thanked the council for working with him and Tim Ashcraft announced his candidacy for Police Chief.

Approval of Agenda -Stringer moved to approve the agenda, second by Johnson. The following items were added: 11A: Clerk’s position; 11B: bids for surplus items; 11C: Authorizing attorney to proceed with settlement conference in Stringer case. Stringer requested to go into executive session for Incentive Pay for employees. The motion caried unanimously. Motion to accept agenda as amended by Stringer, second Johnson, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2022, regular meeting- Flowers moved to approve the minutes, second by Johnson. Siadek indicated a correction to the minutes to state that he wanted the $100K which was moved from the administrative budget placed in the Water Sector Program for upcoming projects. Motion carried unanimously.

Department head reports (reports submitted to council in packets) Stringer moved to accept reports, second by Flowers, motion carried unanimously.

Compliance Officer report – B. Brown reported on the clean-up effort going on in the town.

Approval of June bills paid: Flowers moved to approve the paid bills, second by Johnson. Voting yea: Stringer, Flowers, Johnson; voting nay: Ginn, Siadek. Motion carried 3 to 2.

Approval of June financials: Stringer moved to approve financials, second by Flowers. Ginn questioned whether items are being coded correctly on the financials. Voting to approve financials with corrections if deemed there should be changes: Flowers, Johnson, Stringer; voting nay: Ginn, Siadek

Discussion ensued reference applying for the Town of Jonesboro to establish a Cultural District. Motion to apply for Cultural District by Flowers, second by Johnson. Voting yea: Flowers, Johnson, Stringer; Voting Nay: Ginn, Siadek. Motion carried with a 3 to 2 vote in favor of applying to establish a Cultural District.

Johnson brought up the subject of the town operating without a clerk and questioned whether the town is out of compliance. Mayor Thompson indicated he would present a name for appointment to the clerk’s position at the next regular council meeting.

Surplus items were up for bids with the closing date of July 11. Only one bid was received which started below the approved starting bid, rendering the bid ineligible. Motion to discuss surplus items by Johnson, second by Stringer. The final recommendation is to readvertise and remove minimum starting bids as the right to reject or accept any and all bids which are too low is an option. The motion carried unanimously.

In the case of Stringer vs the Town of Jonesboro, the attorney is asking to set up a settlement conference with the judge. Ginn moved to authorize the conference, second by Johnson, motion carried unanimously to authorize the attorney to set up a settlement conference.

Ratifying fuel bids – Lott Oil Company only one bid was received to supply fuel for the town. Siadek moved to accept the bid, second by Flowers, motion carried unanimously.

Ratifying appointment of official journal – Ruston Daily Leader -motion by Stringer, second by Johnson, motion unanimously carried.

Tax Millage Approval (resolution) there will be no millage changes in the upcoming year. Flowers moved to approve, second by Johnson: the vote was as follows: Yeas: Ginn, Dist A; Siadek, Dist B; Stringer, Dist C, Flowers, Dist D; Johnson, at-large. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor’s update – the mayor invited several people to the meeting and talked about the ARPA funds and approved uses of the funds. He indicated he wanted them to have firsthand information on the standing of the town as it relates to these funds. All the funds required for the match for the Water Sector Program have been set aside and dedicated.

Incentive Pay – Stringer requested to go into executive session to discuss employee’s incentive pay. Mayor Thompson asked legal counsel if going into executive session was allowed under the rules for this purpose and the legal opinion was that they could not go into executive session. Johnson indicated she preferred a pay raise instead of a bonus. Stringer moved not to pay incentive, second by Siadek. Voting in favor of not paying incentive was Stringer, Ginn, Siadek. Voting in favor of the incentive was Flowers. Johnson abstained from voting. Motion carried against paying the incentive three to one.

Gas Stipend – Police Department -council approved stipend to the police chief in the amount of $8,000 per year. Mayor Thompson expressed his concerns about putting this money into a private vehicle with no accountability for where the vehicle goes.

Council’s comments - none

Mayor’s comments - none

Motion to adjourn, Stringer, second Flowers. Unanimous.

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