Minutes of the Town of Jonesboro Board of Aldermen

Regular Monthly Meeting,

November 9, 2021

Meeting called to order by Mayor Leslie Thompson.

Roll call – established a quorum with the following members present: James Ginn, Pete Stringer, Devin Flowers; absent: Nia Johnson, Robbie Siadek

Invocation by Stringer

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by-Flowers

Ordinance 2021-023 (General)

Ordinance 2021-024 (Water)

Ordinance 2021-025 (Sewer)

The public hearing was on the agenda to deal with the afore mentioned ordinances related to amending the budget as related to the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding received by the town. There were no comments during the public hearing.

**AGENDA**

Call to order: Mayor called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comments: Wilda Smith of the chamber of Commerce brought citizens up to date on upcoming activities of the Chamber related to the Christmas season.

Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2021 and September 21, 2021: Flowers moved to accept minutes from both dates, seconded by Stringer, unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes from October 12, 2021: Flowers moved to accept, second by Stringer, unanimous approval.

Mayor’s update: the mayor requested a change in the order of the agenda as follows: Move B. Graff up to item number 12 and move mayor’s update to item 22a. Flowers moved and Stringer seconded this change. Motion carried

Ratification of Resolution 2021-019 –Airport Grant (Brad Graff): Town Engineer, Brad Graff, asked the council to ratify Resolution 2021-019 a DOTD resolution for grant funding to the Jonesboro airport. The Capital Improvement Plan was due in October and he failed to get it in a timely manner, thus the request for retroactive approval. Ginn moved to approve second by Flowers to approve the resolution. Voting by district: Districts A, C and D voted in favor. District B and at large were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of October bills: Flowers moved to approve October bills, seconded by Stringer. Both Flowers and Stringer voted in favor and Ginn voted nay. Motion to approve carried.

Approval of October financials: Flowers moved to approve financials, second by Stringer, unanimous approval.

Nuisance Ordinance 2021-10: Stringer moved to table this item until they could have the town’s attorney answer some of their questions.

Fee increase for garbage collection to cover cost of tipping fees charged by Police Jury ($3.00 per customer) to begin January 2022. This fee is a result of the tax not being approved by the citizens thereby causing the Police Jury to have to pay this fee for dumping. Customers will be advised of this increase via the monthly water bill. Stringer moved to approve this item seconded by Flowers, unanimous approval.

Introduction of Tax Collector pay ordinance 2021-004: A public hearing will be held at the next regular council meeting. Motion by Stringer, second by Flowers, unanimous to schedule the public hearing at the December 14 council meeting .

Mayor’s recommendation for hiring Tax Collector –Stringer moved to table this item until the Attorney General opinion is received.

Mobile Home Ordinance modification: Stinger moved to table this item until they talked to the town’s attorney and they will check state regulations on mobile homes.

Zoning Change – Property on Industrial Drive is being considered for constructing housing for senior citizens. Request to change property from industrial to R2. If project is not approved by the Louisiana Housing Council the property designation would revert to industrial. Zoning commission has reviewed this request and is recommending this change. Flowers moved to approve this zoning change second by Ginn, unanimously approved.

Mayor Thompson gave an update on the financial status of the Town.

Compliance Officer Duties: the fire chief has agreed to conduct the duties of the compliance officer and the mayor is recommending him to perform these duties when they are needed. This was an information item only.

Department head reports: Fire chief and public works director reports submitted to council in packets. Police chief gave oral report. Beginning with December meeting, all department head packets will be submitted as part of the board packets.

Ordinance 2021-023, Amend Revenues and Expenditures

Ordinance 2021-024, Amend Water Revenues

Ordinance 2021-025, Amend Sewer Revenues

Mayor Thompson indicated that the School Board, Police Jury and others have already paid incentives to their employees from the ARPA funds. After a brief discussion of items contained in the budget such as the changes from $82,000 to $92, 000 for employee incentive pay and from $66,000 to $56,000 for income loss, Stringer moved to approve the ordinance amendments for Ordinances 2021-023; 2021-024; 2021-025 and to approve the changes as indicated in the ordinances; seconded by Flowers, unanimously approved. Stringer questioned the amount of the incentive pay and whether or not the pay would be taxed. It was clarified that the money would be taxed at regular tax rate.

Council’s comments - none

Mayor’s comments – none

Adjournment: Flowers moved to adjourn, seconded by Stringer. Motion carried.

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

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