**Minutes of the Town of Jonesboro Jonesboro, Louisiana**

**Regular Meeting – 5:30 P.M. September 10, 2019**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Leslie Thompson called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:37pm.

**Roll Call**

Roll call was taken by Mayor Leslie Thompson.

Flowers – present

Ginn-present

Johnson-present

Siadek-present

Stringer-present

A quorum was present

**Invocation –** Flowers

**Pledge –** Ginn

Addendum to the agenda-Request to add to agenda

 -Fair Ground rental agreement -15B

 -Letter to the Police Jury -submit to get work done on the property-

 15A

 -Move Public Comments to number (1) and Mayor’s comment to

 Number (2)

Flowers-Motion to add new additions to the agenda

Siadek- Seconded

Motion carried

Johnson-Motion to reposition items (1)-(2) and (2) to (1) on the agenda

Flowers- Seconded

Motion carried

**Public comments –** Ben- Jackson Independent Newspaper

Author of new book titled “Jonesboro Hodge New Edition” 100 year history of Jonesboro Hodge Football and it also includes the history of how Jonesboro was named from the very beginning of 1836-The book was presented to the Mayor.

**Mayor’s Town Update**- Over the last 30 days we have been working very hard on problems dealing with sewer and water. I received a call from the engineer from Shreveport, and as we have been pushing to get this grant working very hard, we made a couple of trips to the governor’s office. We have also had the governor’s team here. We are currently in motion/process of requesting $1. million dollars. We have scored 50 out of 50 toward that end. We but we are excited about that even though we have a little further to go. What you may not know, is that when you came in we did an assessment of the entire water/sewer infrastructure. With the council’s approval we spent $10,000.00 for that purpose and we were able to get a schematic that’s shows us all the problems we have in the town as it relates to infrastructure of water/sewer. We able to put a price tag on what it’s going to take to fix those problems. We are prioritizing those areas that need to be corrected the fastest. We are working on the properties. We met with council the other day and we are trying to expediate and look at possibly modifying some of the ordinances so we don’t have to wait so long. If you have woods next to your house and you need for us to address that, it should not take six months to hear back from somebody to correct the problem. The fire department has a list of houses that will be burned. We are working very closely with Entergy. There are a lot of light out around the town. Reginal Director came by and stated this issue should be taken care of within next week or so.

We need not be so hampered. There seems, that everything that we are trying to do that seems to be one or two folks that are trying to stop the progress. That’s not what we want to be about here in the town. If you have some complaints, we ask you to come and to share those complaints with us. We don’t have to fight about everything. I have a public records request that was submitted to me from the previous Mayor. I want to make sure the council has a copy of request and the list items of things he wanted to see. I don’t miss anyone that maybe looking for the same thing that he’s looking for. He wants to know:

* Who have we hired since January 2019?
* Who are we paying?
* How much we are paying them?
* Where do I go in the car?
* Is this for business purposes?

I say to you, there are things we have do that are much more important than having to deal with previous administration or even people here that are submitting these kind of requests, I’ve asked to come to me if you have a problem put in on a public records forms, so we will know what you want. I will guarantee you we will get to you whatever you want. We are trying to move this town forward and we would like to do it without hindrances of some of those kinds of issues. Help us out with that and pass the word. Some of you see me in the car and you wonder where I am or where I’m going you can actually come in and ask me. If you see me at church, anytime I’m invited to do anything that pertains to town business, I’ll be in the car and I’ll be ok by law. If you have a problem and it’s irking you, come by and talk to me.

**Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2019 and August 20, 2019**

**Discussion: Mr. Ginn -**August 20, 2019 minutes last page, I didn’t say “If the street budget is reduced, we will have to terminate employees”.

**Mr. Stokes –** If the minutes are incorrect make a motioned to amend the minutes. If the motion is passed, enter corrected minutes and motion to pass corrected minutes. “As a general rule minutes don’t reflect discussion, minutes reflect what the board did”!

**Stringer-** motioned

**Flowers-**seconded

Motioned carried.

**Introduction of Zoning Board**

**Glenda Rhodes – Mobile Home**

The mobile home meets all the specks. Motion will be made contingent on land issue being resolved.

**Flowers-** Motioned

**Johnson-** Seconded

Motioned carried

**Interview Board Designee-** Mayor requested a councilman to sit on the Interview Board, to pick the right candidate for the Tax Collection position.

Johnson agreed to sit on the interview board.

**Christmas lights – Council** is requested to vote to decide whether or not the street department will be allowed to engage in putting up the Christmas lights.

**Johnson** – Motioned

**Siadek –** Seconded

Motioned carried

Councilman roll call to vote to put up Christmas lights with Public Works employees. Johnson -yes, Ginn-yes, Siadek-yes, Stringer-yes, Flowers-yes, - Motioned carried unanimously - they will start putting up Christmas lights in the morning.

**Stringer-** Put in paper to solicit donations

**Termination of JPD Officer-** John David Maxwell **by request per Police Chief**

**Flowers-**Motioned

**Stringer-** Seconded

Motioned carried.

**Hiring Reserve Police Officer-** Gayland Arnold and **by request per Police Chief**

**Stringer**- Motioned to be accepted as a reserve officer.

**Siadek-**Seconded

Motion Carried.

**Department Head Report-Chief Harris Citizen Advisory Board –**Community Police relations – building bridge between the citizens and the police department -meet with the Chief once a month.

**Fire Department –** 78 fires for the month – 4 employees- Best men on the job - to go into a fire they make $2.50 an hour - step up and give these firemen a raise.

**Public Works** -Must bring in people to put up Christmas lights. In addition, they need equipment.

**Stringer-**Motioned

**Flowers**-Seconded

Motioned carried

**Customer Utility Accounts Policy approval-** Policy for all customers to gain knowledge in the process of paying their water bill and what the expectations are if they fail to pay their bill.

**Siadek** Motioned to amend policy and revision that you only get (2 ) opportunities adhering to this agreement. If payment is not made the bill will be paid in full.

**Johnson -**seconded

Motion carried.

**Siadek**-Motion to approve amended policy

**Stringer-** Seconded

Motioned carried

**Assignment of Mayor’s Car-** Tabled – discussion of stipend for next meeting

**Letter for Police Jury** – Tabled for next meeting

**Public Records Request** -Talbot Street – One invoice collaborates the work done on Talbot Street. The CD that was cashed for $250,000.00 for the work to be completed, only $17,000.00 was accounted for the work done.

**15B Rental Agreement-** Ginn -Is there a policy for outdoor events? Three things needed -**Liability** **Insurance, Security and** **Cleanup cost.**

**Mayor –** There is a policy that is being modified and make user friendly. We don’t have a clean up fee. We have that in the contract and the individuals over the event are responsible for cleanup. We haven’t had any problems with that. These same individuals know to have liability insurance. Tabled.

**2019/2020 Budget-**

**Council Comments**

**Mayor Comments**

**Adjournment**

**Meeting cancelled for lack of Quorum**

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Mayor Leslie Thompson Vivian McCarden, Clerk

**“This institution is an equal opportunity provider”** 