

**Minutes of the Town of Jonesboro
Regular Meeting – 6:00 P.M.**

**Jonesboro, Louisiana
August 13, 2019**

Call to Order

Mayor Leslie Thompson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Mayor Leslie Thompson.

Flowers – present

Ginn-present

Johnson-absent

Siadek-present

Stringer-present

A quorum was present

Invocation – Siadek

Pledge – Stringer

Public comments – An appreciation was extended to all who attended the community college event last week.

Mayor's Town Update-The Town is where you need to come to get an update and to know what's really going on in the Town of Jonesboro. Here you can get the facts, ask the questions and have the Council respond to you. We have been challenged with water and sewer issues for 10, 20 years. In addition, we are hearing complaints about water bills. The Town is working aggressively to try to correct these problems. The tanks are kept pretty full and this is done to avoid low water pressure but the pipes are old and this is causing leaks. We are addressing the situation and we are correcting 3 or 4 leaks a day. We are asking you to please be patient with us, we are getting there. The last issue is the water bills. There are a lot of water bills that folks owe that are over 90 days old. We cannot have this and when the auditors get here, they will be looking at that. We have 30 days usage and the bills should be paid in 30 days. We have a policy in place now to help citizens who can't pay their bill. They will sign an agreement to pay the current bill and 10% of the past bill. Lastly, we did a quick assessment on the sewer issues that cost us \$10,000.00. We were commended by KNOE News Reporter (who specializes in wastewater) on the equipment and the aggressiveness that's being put forth to fix these issues.

Approval of Minutes – July 9, 2019

Stringer- motioned

Flowers-seconded

Motioned passed.

2019/2020 Fiscal Budget

This is an area we have been working on for the last 6-7 months. I commend the work that Mr. Ginn has put into the budget, they are really good-looking numbers. As a new Councilmen Mr. Ginn has done a great job. We are much closer now then we were before.

Ginn- We based the budget on the best information we had. The information when it comes to the expenses, is accurate information. The revenue side was pretty easy to look at, and pretty clear cut. I think we should fix what we have instead of starting the process over.

-A budget work session set for Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 6:00pm, Special Meeting (Public Hearing). Next month Introduce the budget and there after adopt the budget.

Ginn -motioned

Flowers- seconded

Motioned carried

Town Clerk's Salary Ordinance/Tax Collector Ordinance

Stringer -Introduced Ordinance 13

Introduction to the Salary of Town Clerk and Tax Collector- Town Clerk \$20.00, Tax Collector \$16.35. A public hearing for this matter is scheduled for August 20, 2019 Public Hearing at 5:30pm.

Director of Public Works Certification

Mr. Wortham presented his certifications at the time of hire. He has been certified since 1984. It was also mentioned that the certifications have no barring on his position as Public Works Director. Mr. Wortham's certification can be located on line or in his office for viewing.

Assignment of Mayor's Car

Stringer -Tabled

Open Position – Tax Collector and Ordinance

Ordinance was set. Advertising to fill this position began 8/13/19. An ad was put in Jonesboro, Ruston and Monroe newspaper.

Hiring/Termination – Jonesboro Police Department- Executive Session

The Town is under a cloud due to a law suit of this individual. An executive session was requested. Israel Smith who is the person in question for consideration to be hired by the Jonesboro Police Department. Mr. Smith agreed to go into executive session to discuss his character and professional competence.

Motion Passed.

Settlement of Midwest Management/US Bank vs. #C-35,460, Nancy Ann Jackvony

Update: Case was settled with a check to the Town of Jonesboro for \$516.78.

Ordinance Code of Jonesboro/On line

Stringer- Introduce Ordinance Code of Jonesboro/On line next hearing 8/20/19 at 5:30pm

Approval of Trailer Home(s) on St. Charles

Timothy Stewart presented pictures of trailers for approval of placement of trailers on St. Charles. These trailers are slightly used, refurbished and purchased from the military base.

Flowers-motioned

Stringer-seconded

Motioned passed

Resolution – Signatory Authority

Presented a Resolution No. 2019-012 for signatory authority for Mark Treadway, in the absence of the Mayor and/or the Clerk.

Flowers- motioned

Stringer -seconded

Motion passed.

Surplus Property

The surplus properties were bid on and were presented for councils' approval

Stringer – motioned

Flowers- seconded

Motioned passed

Quitclaim Deed

Update: Deed in Midwest Management settlement – Resolution was submitted to the Mayor for his authorized signature. The document was signed and sent back to Midwest Management.

Enrollment of Legal Counsel – Doug L. Stokes in the case of Renee Stringer

Doug will be the lead attorney on the Renee Stringer case. To defend the Town on this on-going case of sewer issues on her property. Every effort has been made since the beginning of this administration, January 2019. We have ordered pumps to correct the problem as well as fencing to secure the well stations.

Zoning Board Confirmation – Recommendations and correction of names presented

Approve the names of Zoning Board. The board will recommend changes in zoning areas. The council suggested changing the staggering line up which will appear as follows:

Alvin Jones 5 yrs., Sam Lamkin 4 yrs., Danetta Hayes 3 yrs., David Hammock 2 yrs. And Michael Hall 1 yr. The Zoning Board will start on September 9, 2019.

Stringer-motioned

Flowers- seconded

Motioned passed.

Customer Utility Accounts Policy approval

The policy is implemented to make sure that we are audit ready and the customers knows what is expected regarding bill payment. If an agreement is approved, they will have to pay their regular bill plus 10% in addition on pass bill.

Stringer – tabled

Department Head Reports/Approval of Department Head Reports

Fire Chief referenced report regarding taking certification courses at LSU. JB Fire Department received over 17 certifications, 47 throughout the Parish. PIAL – all the hydrants done, tested fire hose at the station, pressure low. Getting all the training points required. Contract was approved by council. But the contract was not on a line item but with the new budget its on a line item, and should be approved shortly.

Public Works Director – Truck is broken down and the leaves have not been picked up, working on leaks.

Flowers -motioned

Siadek -seconded

Motioned carried

Executive Session

Stringer -motioned that the council come out of executive session with no action taken

Siadek – seconded

Motioned passed

Ginn – motioned to hire Israel Smith as a full-time Officer

Stringer – seconded

Motioned passed

Council Comments

Mayor Comments

Adjournment

Flowers-motioned

Siadek-seconded

Motioned carried

Mayor Leslie Thompson

Vivian McCarden, Clerk

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider”

