MINUTES FOR JULY 11, 2022

TOWN OF JACKSON

Public Hearing began at 5:30 P.M. with a quorum present and no board members absent. Mayor Jimmy Norsworthy led the public hearing. The Proposed Amendment to Article III.-Dogs Ordinance, Sec. 8-78 et. Seq. was discussed.

Cary Quiet presented his recommended adjustments to the current dog ordinances of record. Public discussion held. Mary Reese and additional representatives from West Feliciana animal shelter present to discuss their shelter policies, procedures and recommendations. At 5:50 public meeting closed.

The monthly regular public meeting was held on July 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Jackson Volunteer Fire Department located at 1631 Charter Street, Jackson, LA 70748. All motions passed unanimously unless stated otherwise. No public comment unless stated otherwise.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor James Norsworthy, thanking everyone for their attendance and input in the above public hearing.

Roll Call by the Town Clerk, Lanna Matthews; all present.

 Prayer and Pledge were led by William Free.

Agenda, additions Mr. Macdiarmid asked to be added to the agenda to present the quarterly Historic Committee update. Mr. Macdiarmid also requested an additional item to be added to the agenda regarding the Audubon Library. Board of Trustee member Mike Harrell asked to be added to the agenda to introduce an Ordinance Amending Chapter 18, Historic and Landmark Preservation” ordinances. Moved by William Free and seconded by Rafe Stewart. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes from last meeting on June 13, 2022; approval of minutes. Rafe Stewart moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by David Guillory, passed.

Approve Bills; Rafe Stewart reviewed bills prior to the meeting, all checked out. Rafe Stewart moved for Mayor and Treasurer to pay bills, seconded by William Free. Motion passed.

Budget vs. Actual; Copy of budget versus actual presented to board. Next month the 2022-2023 budget will be coming up. If anyone in the audience or the Board has questions get with Lanna Matthews, the Town Clerk. Motion by Rafe Stewart, seconded by Don Havard. Motion passed.

Old Business

1. Linda Karam: Mosquito Spraying; abatement; Mrs. Karam asked if there were any responses from the abatement advertisements seeking employees to work the mosquito truck. No response to advertisements. No action taken.
2. Linda Karam: Planning & Development; Mrs. Karam discussed chapter 26 which covers planning and development. Mayor recommends Linda Karam to meet with town committees to discuss Planning and development. No action taken.
3. Linda Karam: Square footage; occupancy permits; Mrs. Karam is requesting an increase in the square footage of lots to be approved to have a mobile home placed therein near the Historic District. Mrs. Karam also asked to increase the distance from a trailer and historic home. 150 is current distance from a mobile home to a historic home. Second, to increase 11,250 square feet to 15,000 square feet or higher.

Mike Harrell moves to introduce and ordinance to Increase the square footage of lots allowed to place home near the Historic District and to increase the distance a mobile home can be placed near the Historic District. Rafe Stewart seconded the motion. Mike Harrell requested a roll call vote. Roll call vote. Rafe Stewart, no, Mike Harrell no, Don Havard, no, William Free, no, and David Guillory no. motion fails.

 New Business:

1. Dog Ordinance: chip and muzzle added to ordinance. Mike Harrell, moved, to accept the ordinance entitled “Amendment to Chapter 8, Article III Dogs, Division 2 Dangerous or Vicious Dogs, Section 8-121. Requirements of Owning a Dangerous Dog with the addition of the dogs are also required to wear a muzzle and be inserted with an identification chip. Motion was seconded by Don Havard. Approve ordinance with chip and muzzle added to ordinance. Passed unanimously.
2. Tim Butler of Mary Sue Stages, CPA, APAC. Mayor states town met with CPA and would like to hire a CPA to assistance with the Town’s financial affairs and better prepare for an audit. Goal is to reduce overall cost of the annual audit. It is in the Towns best interest to hire CPA to assist with financials. Tim Butler, Mary Sue States, CPA. Fees not to exceed $1,400/month. The goal is to reduce cost of audit per year. The town is expected to save $15 to $20 thousand per year. Moved by Rafe Stewart to hire the accounting firm, seconded by William Free. discussion, comments, motion passed.
3. Award Bid for Sewer Plant Cleaning; Mr. Drew Cotton from PEC, the town’s project manager recommended Spinks Construction, in that they were the lowest bid for the project for $123,500. Town shares sewer cost with DCI and the State Hospital. The Town holds the license for the sewer system. This $123,500 is shared with DCI and East Hospital. Town of Jackson is approaching DEQ limits on its sewer system. This project is the first step to get sewer system compliant. Moved by Mike Harrell and second by Rafe Stewart. Motion passed.
4. Dianne Wilson: Water issue. A dollar is on her sewer bill, asking what it is for. The dollar is a state charge to test for the purity of the water. No action taken.
5. Public Hearing August 8, 2022 – Gas. Mike Harrell Introduced an ordinance entitled “Rate Restructuring for Town of Jackson, La Gas System”. Seconded by Don Havard, motion passed.
6. Mr. Macdiarmid of the Historic Committee presented the quarterly report. Mr. Macdiarmid informed the community the “Bride’s House” was removed from the town and the Historic Committee is recommending changes in its ordinances for housekeeping purposes. No action taken.
7. Martin Macdiarmid Audubon library; Audubon library is moving from the school next to doughnut business in the Town. Hopefully making the library more successful. Mr. Macdiarmid is on the Audubon Library board and recommended to move the location of the library. It’s cheaper where the library will be moving. Director of library board also resigned. NAT
8. Introduction of an ordinance entitled “Ordinance Amending Chapter 18 Historic and Landmark Preservation, et. seq... Mike Harrell introduced the ordinance and moved, seconded by Rafe Stewart. All in favor, motion passed.

Maintenance Report. Matthew Leggett advertised for 2 full time employees. One he would like to hire, Kaleb Sarton, at $12/hour. Full time, moved by William Free and seconded by David Guillory. Motion passed.

Police Report: Chief Fred Allen asked for a raise of his employees. Some of his deputies have been working 17 years making $17.00 / hour. Full time. Rafe Stewart stated we are aware of the pay situation, and are working on that and aware of that.

Code Enforcement Report: Code enforcement, Cary Quiet presented a written report given to board, reviewed multiple violations to appear in court, vehicles, properties and dogs barking, as well as raw sewage.

Attorney report. Nothing.

Mayors report. Mayor comments, several weeks ago, an employee from town having 40 years of service passed away. Mayor Norsworthy wanted to remember JC Jackson. He worked for the town in the late 70’s and early 80’s. He was a loyal employee, very dedicated. The Mayor wanted to mention his name and state that he will be truly missed. Everyone knew him and he knew everyone. The work and service he performed will be truly missed and remembered.

Adjourn.

Moved by Mike Harrell. Seconded by Don Havard. Moton passed.