

**TOWN OF JACKSON
TOWN MEETING
Jackson Volunteer Fire Department
1631 Charter Street
Jackson, Louisiana 70748**

**MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2026
6:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

MR. DANE BROWN, MAYOR
MRS. ANNISSA WOODARD, TOWN CLERK
MR. DAVID GUILLORY, BOARD MEMBER
MR. WILLIAM FREE, BOARD MEMBER
MRS. DEBRA ALLEN NORSWORTHY, BOARD MEMBER
MR. MICHAEL HARRELL, BOARD MEMBER
MR. WILLIAM "BUBBA" MCCRORY, MEMBER
HALEY MAJOR GREEN, TOWN ATTORNEY (TAKING MINUTES)

ABSENT: All present

CALL TO ORDER:

The town meeting was called to order by Mayor, Mr. Dane Brown at 6:01 pm., pursuant to the prepared agenda.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called by Town of Jackson Clerk, Mrs. Annissa Woodard, with all Board members present.

PRAYER/PLEDGE

Opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mr. Free.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA-

A discussion of the Agenda was had;

A motion was made by Mr. Michael Harrell to amend the agenda to add the following items:
Second by Mr. Guillory. There was no opposition; the agenda was amended as listed and accepted as amended.

1. Approval of bids for blighted property demolition contract.
2. To remove Fred Allen and the issue of the water pipes.

3. Remove Jonathan Cutrer from a part-time position and add Chance Lee as part-time officer of the Marshall's Office and the current part-time pay rate.
4. Approval of the meeting minutes from the March. 16, 2026 special meeting as written.

A request was made by the Maintenance Supervisor for a pay increase for the Maintenance Department. No motion was made to add the matter to the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda with the additions and deletions by Mr. Free; there was a second by Mr. Harrell.

MEETING MINUTES-

Mr. Harrell made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2026. Mrs. Debra Norsworthy gave a second; there was no opposition. The minutes of the March 9, 2026 meeting were approved as written.

Added: Mr. Harrell made a Motion to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2026 special meeting as written. Mrs. Norsworthy gave a second. There was no opposition and the Minutes from the March 16, 2026, special town meeting were approved as written.

BILLS

Mr. Free reported that he examined all the bills and he made a motion to approve the bills and Mayor Brown and Annessa Woodard to process the bills. Harrel offered a second. There was no opposition. There was approval of the bills and authorization to pay the same.

BUDGET V. ACTUALS

Free has not looked over the budget at this time. Clerk indicates it was e-mailed on Thursday. Mayor asks for it to be reviewed at this time. For any questions, the public is directed to contact Mrs. Annessa Woodard, Town Clerk or Mrs. Holli Gilmore. A copy of the budget was printed and included for review. Per Mr. Free, the budget is in order. Motion to accept the budget versus actuals was made by Mrs. Norsworthy and second by Mr. McCrory. The budget was sent to all members at their jackson@la.gov e-mails.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Love the Boot – Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. This is a community event to clean up and pick up trash. Everyone will meet up at the Town Hall – this Saturda. Everyone is asked to pass the word.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. Jim Parker, Economic Development Board Member Report. Been meeting every month next is 5 pm at Clinton town hall. Next Monday. The next meeting is in

Jackson and everyone is invited to the open. Air strip is done. There now are planes being taken in and out. We do not have enough money for turn arounds on the end but after 1.625 million dollars, we have an airport. There is a Fly-in next month, and everyone invited to come out.

The Humane society is opened up. Lots of complaints about animals. There is a business plan, they are working the plan and working to that goal. Mary Reese – go see her. Come to Mr. Jim and he will take you. She is working very hard to get up and running.

Recreation park for East Feliciana Parish. The first meeting is taking place tonight. They are looking for acreage in a place neutrally located. They want to have all of the courts such as basketball, pickleball, soccer, baseball, with vendors on the outside. That is the plan. LA economic development district, BREC – lots of things happening. With HUT-8, West Feliciana is going to expand. We want to have controlled growth with infrastructure put in before buildings are put in. The other four mayors are represented. Kleinpeter and Adams are represented. There are 14 members now but there will be a cut down to nine. These are all volunteers, no one gets paid. There was a meeting in Slaughter with State individuals. He is not sure how well it will go over with the Police Jury but we do not report to them.

They are looking for 350 acres – looking to put in business. The board is still working on that. He encourages everyone to come to the board with ideas, or property. The board will help with things all over the parish. He encourages contact with the board.

Richard Oliveaux with the police jury remarks that the Parsh does not have money to give them and that is what they need. East Feliciana needs animal control, badly. The money given to Mary Reese has been spent very wisely so far.

AI project – have more subdivision lots in my area, lots of lots being sold and there is building going on. Its going to be out on 61 by the Paper Mill.

2. Bridget Steid, MEAD Program talking about school. MEAD is a Non-Profit organization is a team comes together – raises money, started in 2008, to bless a child with a brand new vehicle on the night of their graduation. This is the 5th school to be a blessing to a child so far. The group works hard to get the job done. Four high school students have been blessed so far. We decided to come back to where she is from. Jackson and Clinton High school. The only reason she is here is for awareness. She chose East Feliciana to be the recipient this year. The winner is chosen based on merit – gpa, and accepted into an accredited college. Support by mouth and be there for the child and there is an Essay. They do not know who will get it until they get to graduation and they must recognize their own essay. It is very powerful to see a recipient receive this. She invites everyone to be present for the graduation and to check it out. Read the history.

3. Linda Karam, Zoning. Recently we needed a classification of a certain property. A commercial building that is trying to be a residential classification that is a parish zone for commercial. If you change one without permission – it will affect everyone around. We have lots of historic properties. The path we chose to be able to come to a conclusion – capital planning commission from Baton Rouge. They give you the information that you need. Second – the police jury. They are not really over the municipality of the Jackson, as they indicated to Mrs. Karam. The attorneys have come to the conclusion that it is commercial. Assessor – assessed as commercial. Realtor is trying to change it and she is concerned.

We do not have zoning. But we do. If we could work with those Codes – there is a lot going on. The Planning commission wants it to stay commercial for the benefit of the future. We just want to know that we could work with these Ordinances with our commercial buildings. If we had more clarity on our classification – maybe in the future some will become more commercial, which is what we want. It depends on who wants to come in and invest. AI is creating an overflow for this place. She wants to improve upon these ordinances in the future.

Mr. Harrell – does not have a problem with changing some of these ordinances for clarity but he is not for zoning. She is asking for clarity of classification – open to Jackson and changing. Mr. Parker warns that we need to get ready for the changes. Harrell says there is no place to go. Linda says, it has to do with the integrity of each building in the Town of Jackson.

4. Fred Allen, Water Pipe issue -Removed.
5. Brianna Hawkins, Mobile Home Permit. Mr. Sam Hawkins – my niece wants to put a trailer on the back of my mom’s property. They are saying there are too many trailers on the property. There was a house and a trailer there already. The trailer does value for well above \$15,000.00. Cary Quiet – went to speak to them, if they can prove that the land has enough square footage to be in compliance with the ordinance, then he is satisfied. Officer Quiet asked him to bring him proof that the land is sufficient size to have two. There was no permit to move anything. Cary is asking for 30 days to bring a plot that says how many square feet. Other issue – if you move one trailer off you may have enough space. Until that is done, all preparations for the trailer must cease. There are fines associated with these violations.

Mr. Harrell moves to consider a hardship case. Guillory 2nd. We want to open it for discussion.

A Question was posed by the audience: what if you give the hardship to one, you give it to everyone? That is the concern.

Neighbor behind says she is seeing it as an improvement.

Mr. Harrell rescinds. He offers that when the Town gets the clarity on a hardship criteria from the board. They can submit the information for a hardship. The board needs to know the basis for the hardship and need lot size.

There is another issue. Please request to be put on the agenda. We will put it on the agenda for discussion.

6. Mayor Dane Brown, Policy and Procedure Update to Benefits Package for new hires. Benefits for employees – Town currently pays 100% of all benefits for the employee. The Town paying 100% of benefits is not sustainable. All of the towns around pay a portion. We want to pay 70% and the employee pays 30%. We will grandfather in any current employees. This will apply to new employees only. If you do that, will include a spouse and children – they pay 100% of that. Harrell – grandfather in all full-time existing employees at 100%. Effective date: July 1st. If you move from a full-time position to part-time or leave and come back. This is health benefits we are discussing. Insurance is steadily climbing. Free 2nd. No opposition.
7. Contract put out for bid for the properties. Bids were opened by Haley Major Green, Town Attorney and read aloud.
First onsite \$366,153.85
Orion service \$180,065.00
Sealevel and Co \$188,750.00
6 structures with Asbestos 7 without
Free moves to accept the lowest bid, McCrory gave a second, no opposition and the Bid contract goes to Orion Services.

MAINTENANCE REPORT -

MATT LEGETT'S REPORT-. Put a copy of report for all members. The final sign off on water well and water tower in the next weeks. The sewer project should be complete the first week in May.

As soon as Dane meets with the engineer, the Sewer project should be done the first week of May to put it out for bid. Mayor thanks Matt for the hard work and workability with him on these projects.

POLICE REPORT-

CHIEF MARSHALL MITCH HARRELL'S REPORT –

April is Autism awareness month. We have emblems – for your car. If a driver or a passenger suffers from autism, it is a way to alert officers that there is a person who has Autism and may exhibit certain behaviors consistent with Autism.

Chief Marshall wants to remove Jonathan Cutrer from officers to replace him with Chance Lee. (Chance Lee is not POST certified will be POST certified through Clinton. To do this, need a motion at part time pay. Mr. Michael Mitchell made motion and Mr. McCrory seconded the motion.

. There were 70 citations written. 152 citations were paid. There were 47 bench warrants issued. There was \$41,748.00 in fines for the month of March.

Dane thanks the Marshall's Office. They are keeping the Mayor informed. There is an open line of communication. Mayor also thanks Officer Cary Quiet as well. We are making a great team. He thanks everyone for their hard work in that department. Best way to reach the department is 683-5459 communications.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:
OFFICER CARY QUIET'S REPORT

Old business –.

GAVE AN UPDATE on all pending properties,

New Business – reports on inoperative vehicles. Taking complaints but just not acting because there is a problem with the ordinances. Officer Quiet will get with Haley Green to discuss ways to improve the ordinance.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor thanks everyone for working together.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Harrell and there was a second offered by Mrs. Norsworthy. There was no opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.