**MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF JACKSON**

**October 11, 2021 REGULAR MEETING**

All motions passed unanimously unless indicated otherwise.

Regular meeting. The Town of Jackson’s regular monthly meeting was held in the Jackson Hall at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor James Norsworthy, III.

The prayer and pledge were led by Mayor Norsworthy.

Roll call. Present were Rafe Stewart, Don Havard, William Free, David Guillory and Michael Harrell.

Approval of the Minutes for September of 2021. Moved by Rafe Stewart and seconded by William Free, no public comment, motion passed.

Open floor for public comments on agenda items: Neither additions nor comments except for adding Thompson Creek Sporting Goods to the agenda for information only related to their application for an alcohol license.

Budget versus Actual. Rafe Stewart reported to the Board the status of the budget. Moved by Mike Harrell and seconded by Don Havard, no public comment, motion passed.

New Business.

Adoption of 2021 Millage Rate of 6.190. Mayor informed the Board there were no increases or reassessments. Rafe Stewart moved to adopt the 2021 millage rate, seconded by Mike Harrell. No questions or comments by the public. Motion passed.

Susan Guillory; Part time employment. Mayor presented to the board Susan Guillory will work part time for the Town of Jackson working up to 36 hours a week. Motion by William Free to approve the hire, seconded by Don Havard, no public comments, or questions. Motion passed.

Resolution for Capital Outlay. Mayor explained to apply for capital outlay funding a resolution is required by the State. The funds requested will be used to replace the roof on the Jackson Fire Station, Police and Maintenance departments, the public restrooms and public gazebo. Mayor further stated a letter of approval is required by our State Representative Adams and State Senator Ward along with a resolution by the Town. Motion to approved resolution of support by Mike Harrell and seconded by William Free. No public comment, motion passed.

Economic Development Animal Shelter. Mitch Harrell presented the plans of the East Feliciana Parish Economic Committee for the construction of an Animal Shelter for all East Feliciana Parish. The shelter will be located near airport road, funded by grants and donations, located on land leased by the State, and supported by the Feliciana Humane Society. This is a five-year plan to build this shelter and the plan is to start ASAP. The target opening date is set for the fall of 2023. No action taken, informative only.

Trick or Treat. October 31, 2021 is on a Sunday this year. Moved by David Guillory and seconded by Mike Harrell to move trick or treat to Saturday October 30, 2021. The Chief of Police Fred Allen stated the police department will be blocking off streets from the cemetery to the flags. No further comment, motion passed.

Dianne Jackson, water mobile home. Dianne Jackson discussed the construction of a public shelter for emergencies. It was mentioned the “old gym” could be used but needs cots and bathrooms with showers. No action taken.

The owner of Thompson Creek Sporting Goods, Tony Linton was present and made it known to the board he will be applying for a high-end alcohol permit. Mr. Linton stated he will not be competing with local businesses and will have a specialty product not offered in the community at this time. No action required or taken by the board.

Mayor again asked for public comment, a resident stated she had a gas meter on her property that required rerouting. The Mayor stated he was aware of the request. No action taken by the board.

Representative Adams was present at the meeting and acknowledged by the Mayor and thanked for his assistance over the years. Representative Adams stated there are main street grants available for businesses in the community and the main street businesses need to apply for the funding as soon as possible. Informative only, no action taken.

Old Business. Maintenance department employee is needed; this position has been posted and will be advertised for the best available and qualified employee.

Mayor’s update and report. American Rescue Plan funds have been received by the Town. The board has been meeting to discuss where to spend the funding. It was stated the sewer plant needs attention as well aging water lines needing replacing and the aging water tower. Infrastructure and drainage are at issue and need addressing as well. All matters are being discussed for the most productive use of the ARP funds. The Mayor also informed the Board and public a committee has been appointed to rewrite the Town’s policies and procedures and employee handbook manual. And finally, there remains a lot of debris in the community, be patient the Police Jury will be picking up the debris.

Police report. Chief Allen was present and stated there were sixteen tickets issued, eight arrest and one arrest pending.

Maintenance report. Matt Leggett gave the report and stated he has two bids in for the construction of a new water tower. Also, the department needs a man lift. He has one bid for the man lift and will be acquiring two more bids. He also reiterated the advertising of a new employee for the Jackson maintenance department and stated two employees were in a probation period, Cody Worley and Randall Guidry. Mike Harrell moved for the maintenance department to seek additional bids for the man lift request, seconded by William Free, no public comment, motion passed. Mike Harrell moved to hire the two employees; seconded by Rafe Stewart contingent they meet all requirements and physicals. Motion passed.

Code enfoncement report. Officer Cary Quiet has resumed his position as code enforcement officer. Mr. Quiet gave a report of his efforts to date including multiple illegal vehicles being removed from locations throughout the community, corrective action taken on blighted properties and additional actions taken to enforce the Town of Jackson’s Ordinances.

There were no attorney updates at this time.

Motion to adjourn moved by Mike Harrell, seconded by David Guillory. Motion passed.

LANNA M. MATTHEWS/SECRETARY-TREASURER

JAMES M NORSWORTHY III/MAYOR