

TOWN OF JONESBORO
Board of Aldermen
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 13, 2018
6:00 PM

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Town of Jonesboro Board of Aldermen was held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at the Jonesboro Town Hall Community Room commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Bradford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were: Mr. James Bradford, Mr. Devin Flowers, Ms. Janet Martin, Mr. Robbie Siadek, and Mr. Aaron Stringer. Ms. Nia Evans was not present.

Flowers led the invocation and Siadek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bradford made opening remarks welcoming everyone to the council meeting and informed the public that copies of the meeting's agenda were available in the back of the room, along with public comment cards. Bradford explained that members of the public who would like to comment on an agenda item must complete a public comment card and will be limited to three minutes to express their concern. Bradford further explained that if any member of the public would like to make a general public comment that is not on an agenda item, they must request to be placed on the agenda at least a week prior to the Town Hall meeting.

Bradford stated that agenda item twelve would be amended for clarification to "Knob Hill Subdivision – Deborah Fordham." With no further additions or amendments to the agenda, Bradford requested a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment on item twelve. Flowers proposed the motion to adopt the agenda with its amendment; Stringer seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Bradford requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes for a regularly scheduled meeting on February 13, 2018. Flowers proposed the motion; Martin seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Bradford stated to the Aldermen that four resolutions were required for passage. The resolutions were the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention resolutions for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality in reference to (1) South Oxidation Pond, with permit LA0038547, for October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016, (2) South Oxidation Pond, with permit LA0038547, for January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017, (3) East Oxidation Pond, with permit LA0038539, for January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017, (4) North Oxidation Pond, with permit LA0006477, for January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. The resolutions endorse a commitment by the Board of Aldermen to maintain State standards for the waste water ponds and plant. Copies of these resolutions will be held on file at the Public Works Department and Town Hall Clerk's Office. Stringer motioned to adopt all four Municipal Water Pollution Prevention resolutions for the

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality as a slate; Flowers seconded the motion; the motions passed unanimously.

Bradford moved on to item nine to provide an update on Water Well #7 for the Jonesboro Water System. A public comment was taken first. The public comment requested an update and asked why the funds were being spent on drilling an additional well when the money could be used to repair other portions of the water infrastructure. After taking the public comment, Bradford provided the update to the council informing them that the well had been drilled, but once it is finished, it will be capped until the Town can locate additional funds to move into the next phases of the project. In response to the public comment, Bradford said the grant monies the Town received for the drilling of the well from Delta Regional Authority must exclusively be used for the drilling of the well and cannot be used for other purposes whatsoever. Bradford further explained the phases of the project. Phase One is drilling the new water well. Phase Two is replacing the water distribution system near the well to support the well. Phase Three will be the construction of a storage tank and installing pumps and the chlorination system. Bradford further informed the Aldermen and public that he will be meeting with the Delta Regional Authority on Thursday, March 15 to apply for another grant that would go to funding the remainder of the project. While Bradford expressed optimism, he reminded everyone there is no guarantee the Town would receive the additional funding.

Stringer requested an estimate on the additional funds need to complete the project. Bradford responded with a detailed estimate of the next phases of the project. Bradford stated that he hopes to increase the Town's chances of being awarded the grant by proposing 90/10 or 80/20 cost-sharing alternatives to Delta Regional Authority.

Siadek asked why the Town could not build the storage tank and chlorination system before replacing the water distribution pipes and lightly use the current pipes as needed. Bradford said he would pass the idea to the engineering firm to see if it could be done.

Bradford announced the bankruptcy of Global Hotel International, LLC and asked Mr. Doug Stokes, the town attorney, to briefly explain Chapter 11 bankruptcy and how the bankruptcy of the business affects the Town. Stokes explained that Chapter 11 bankruptcy allows a business to create a plan of reorganization to reschedule the payments of past-due debts. Stokes explained they would be required to still pay their utility bills, sales taxes, and property taxes moving forward, but the past-due taxes would be repaid on a scheduled plan, pending approval from a judge. Currently, the company owes property taxes from 2017 and past-due sales taxes to the Town. Stokes said he has yet to receive said plan from the court and the Town receives priority to other debtors because it is a public entity.

Bradford requested Ms. Deborah Fordham to deliver a statement or express her concern. Fordham expressed gratitude to the Board of Aldermen and Mayor Bradford for listening to her concern. Fordham expressed concerns about garbage cans being left by the street and trash in yards of her neighborhood. Two public comments were taken following Ms. Fordham. The first public comment stated that they agreed with Ms. Fordham and wanted to bring the abandoned vehicles in the Knob Hill Subdivision to the attention of the Aldermen. The second public comment expressed similar concerns and requested limbs and leaves piles be addressed. Bradford responded that the Town is aware of these concerns and explained the processes the Town must take in order to abate nuisances. Bradford further explained that an ordinance

previously thought to exist on garbage cannot be located, and, therefore, he has requested a draft of a garbage receptacle maintenance ordinance from the town's attorney. Bradford thanked Ms. Fordham and the other public commenters for expressing their concerns.

Siadek expressed his thanks to the public for their attendance and requested their patience as the Town works to address their concerns. Martin expressed her thanks to the public for their attendance and requested their patience as the Town works to address their concerns. Stringer expressed his thanks to the public for their attendance and said he would like to see members of the community take action in their neighborhoods to help expedite the clean up the town since the Town is required to follow a lengthy abatement process and lacks the financial resources to address concerns all at once. Flowers agreed with Stringer that the town needs more community involvement and requested that the public continue to pray for the Aldermen, Mayor Bradford, and the Town.

Bradford thanked the public for coming to the meeting and expressing their concern, and he reassured the public that the Town would continue to address the issues and concerns the public brings to it.

With no further comments, Mayor Bradford requested a motion to adjourn. Flowers motioned to adjourn; Siadek seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenisha Raybon, Town Clerk

Approved:

James E. Bradford, Mayor