CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 13, 2025 AT 6:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 1859 CITY CENTER WAY, JONESBORO, GA 30236

MINUTES

I. CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Mayor Sartor.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by City Manager Miller-Thornton.

Present:

- Mayor Donya L. Sartor
- Councilmember Alfred Dixon
- Councilmember Don Dixon
- Councilmember Billy Lester
- Councilmember Asjah Miller
- Councilmember Billy Powell
- City Manager, ChaQuias Miller-Thornton
- City Attorney, David Dreyer
- Interim City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett
- Chief of Police, Todd Coyt
- Assistant Chief of Police, Audrey Dunlap
- Finance Director, Cynthia Hammond
- Downtown Development Authority Manager, Andrew Simpson

Absent:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Tracey Messick

III. INVOCATION

At this time Mayor Sartor asked everyone for a moment of silence regarding Mayor Pro-Tem Messick's family.

Invocation by Jonesboro Youth City Government.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A. Council to consider approval and adoption of the amended agenda.

The Executive Session items A. and B. under XVII. Other Business were removed from the Agenda.

~~A. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, real estate, or personnel matters.~~

~~B. Consider any action(s), if necessary, based on decision(s) made in Executive Session.~~

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember D. Dixon**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Lester**
AYES: **Vote was unanimous**

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. City of Jonesboro's 2025 Mantra

Mayor Sartor provided a presentation regarding the City's Mantra for year 2025 titled H.O.P.E. in Jonesboro (Helping Others, Pursuing Excellence).

B. Wade Ford Dealership - Ron Morgan (Commercial/Government Fleet Manager)

Mr. Wade provided a presentation regarding electric vehicles and the F150 Lighting PRO SSV.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO THREE (3) MINUTES)

- Brittany Jackson and Isaac Jones – Ms. Jackson spoke regarding the Conditional Use Permit Application 25-CUP-001 and the events/organizations they provide services for within the community: Homeless Education Department, Clayton County Police Department, Jonesboro Police Department, other vending opportunities.
- Penny Fauscett – Spoke regarding Electric Vehicles and EV Chargers. She wished everyone a Happy New Year and encouraged everyone to H.O.P.E. in Jonesboro.
- Arlene Charles - Spoke regarding the sanitation department and how pleased she was with the garbage service. She thanked Public Works Director, Marcus Heard for a job well done.
- State Representative Robert Flournoy, Jr. (Georgia House of Representative) – Thanked everyone for allowing him to serve as a representative. He stated, "I really cherish Jonesboro as a city." He quoted "Genesis Chapter 11 – "when the people are one, nothing they imagine doing can be withheld from them." He encouraged Mayor and Council to keep pushing the City of Jonesboro forward.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Council to consider approval of the Minutes from December 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting.

B. Council to consider approval of the Minutes from December 16, 2024 Special Called Council Meeting.

C. Council to consider approval of the Minutes from January 6, 2025 Work Session.

One (1) motion was made to approve the above minutes.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember D. Dixon**
SECONDER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**

IX. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

A. Presentation of Awards

Volunteer of the Year Award – Board Member, Jule Segner

Best Community Event of the Year Award – Board Chair, Tammary Scott

B. Economic Development Report by Downtown Main Street Manager.

Economic Development Manager, Andrew Simpson spoke regarding the following:

- Banner Program for January 2025
- Board Members up to date with their DDA and Main Street training
- Tammary Scott was appointed as the Board Chair and Santia Fox was appointed as the Vice Chair
- 01-20-25 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade will be held in Forest Park
- Lee Street Park, Electronic Sign
- The Fig Tree Café paused its operations on December 21, 2024
- Five (5) business licenses were issued for December 2024
- Smart Cities Signs

X. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Financial Report by the Finance Director, Cynthia Hammond.

Ms. Hammond advised Mayor and Council the auditors will not be able to start the audit process until April 2025. However, in April, the City will be doing both audits (FY23 and FY24). In addition, the Finance Department was able to get over half of the items that were required for the audit.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Council to consider the appointment of the Accident Review Committee Members for 2025. Term to expire on January 1, 2026 - Councilmember Don Dixon, City Manager ChaQuias M. Thornton, Major Christopher Cato, Interim Director Marcus Heard, and City Clerk (to serve as secretary of the Committee).

B. Council to consider approval of a Non-Exclusive Agreement between the City of Jonesboro and JusticeOne Solutions, Inc. to use certain software programs and related materials for the designated processing system.

C. Council to consider approval and adoption of Resolution 2025-001 of the City of Jonesboro to Call and Authorize the 2025 Municipal General Election; To Fix and Publish the Qualifying Fee; And For Other Purposes.

A motion was made to approve the above Consent Agenda.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Miller**
SECONDER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**

XII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Council to consider the purchase of an F-150 Super Crew Lighting ($68,870.00) for use in the City's Police Department.

A motion was made to deny the purchase of an F-150 Super Crew Lighting Vehicle ($68,870.00) for use in the City's Police Department.

RESULT: **APPROVED (3 to 2 To deny the purchase of an F-150 Super Crew Lighting vehicle)**
MOVER: **Councilmember D. Dixon**
SECONDED: **Councilmember Powell**
AYES: **Councilmembers D. Dixon, Lester, and Powell**
NAYS: **Councilmembers Miller and A. Dixon**

B. Council to consider approval of a Conditional Use Permit Application 25-CUP-001 by owner/applicant Voyles Property, Inc./Isaac Jones, IV. Location: 282 N. Main Street, Jonesboro, Georgia.

Conditions:

- No overnight outdoor storage or display of merchandise or equipment shall be permitted.
- Owner/Applicant must apply for and be approved for an Occupational Tax License
- Once a conditional use has been approved by the Mayor and Council, said conditional use and any conditions shall run with the land upon which the conditional use was approved, except under the following conditions which would allow the revocation of a conditional use permit:

  (1) The conditional permit will expire when the approved use ceases for six (6) months or more.

  (2) The conditional permit will expire if the approved use has not begun six (6) months after the approval date.

RESULT: **Approved with above-mentioned Conditions (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Miller**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Lester**

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council to consider the appointment of Todd Coyt (Chief of Police) to the Accident Review Committee. Term to expire January 1, 2026.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Powell**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Lester**

B. Council to consider approval and adoption of Ordinance 2025-001 regarding FY 2024 Budget Amendment.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Miller**
SECONDER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**

C. Council to consider the approval of an Employment Contract between the City of Jonesboro, Georgia and Judge Charles K. Wood - Municipal Court Judge.

Council recommended leaving the amount of $575.00 until they receive clarification regarding the Judge being paid per day or per session.

RESULT: **Approved (Tabled until February 3, 2025 Work Session. Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Lester**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Miller**

D. Council to consider the approval of an Employment Agreement between the City of Jonesboro, Georgia and KOG Realty Corporation (Adleisa Cameron) – Community Development Services.

The Mayor and Council discussed the revisions that were made to the agreement. Ms. Cameron agreed to the changes and the agreement would go into effect on January 14, 2025.

A motion was made to approve the amended Employment Agreement.

RESULT: **Approved the amended Employment Agreement. (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember D. Dixon**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Lester**

XIV. REPORT OF CITY MANAGER

A. City Manager's Report

City Manager Miller-Thornton spoke regarding the following:

- Year-end items that have been attended to or completed by the administrative office
- Renewal of the City's United States Federal Contractor Registration System
- Submission of the City's required Immigration Report
- Preparation of the City's American Rescue Plan Act Fund Account
- Departmental Year-End Reporting for FY 2024
- Close out of the City's internal/independent annual audit
- FY24 Budget Review and Operation Review (Preparation of Year-End Amendments)
- Review and Preparation of finalizing job descriptions for job opening announcements
- Weekly Department Meetings
- 01/02/2025 - Held an organizational staff policy meeting
- 01/03/2025 - Completed the implementation phase of the Civic Plus Agendas and Meetings Software.
- Thanked staff for their assistance during the product implementation process
- Proposed RFP's - Landscape Maintenance, Legal Services, Forensic Audit
- Solicitation of three (3) Forensic Auditors
- City Manager Miller-Thornton was reappointed to the GMA Federal Policy Council (represents the 13th Congressional District)
- Thanked all departments for everything they do

XV. REPORT OF CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Comments by Councilmember Powell:

- No comments

Comments by Councilmember D. Dixon:

- No comments

Comments by Councilmember Miller:

- Congratulatory remarks were extended to City Manager Miller-Thornton regarding her appointment to GMA's Federal Policy Council
- Thanked Finance Director, Cynthia Hammond for doing a great job presenting tonight
- Thanked Andrew Simpson, Downtown Main Street Manager for great leadership and for acknowledging Jule Segner and Tammary Scott with their awards
- Thanked staff for everything they do to make Jonesboro a place to live, work, play, and stay
- Thanked staff that were present on the snow days
- Thanked Arlene Charles for her public comments regarding the sanitation
- Congratulatory remarks were extended to the Board Members regarding their appointment to the Ethics Committee
- Thanked Ms. Penny Fauscett for attending the meeting tonight

Comments by Councilmember Lester:

- Thanked all the employees who were present on snow days
- Glad to have the Ethics Committee up and running

Comments by Councilmember A. Dixon:

- Happy New Years to everyone
- Thanked residents for joining the meeting in person and via online
- JYCG to participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade
- The Rock Basketball Season starts this Saturday at First Baptist Jonesboro - Come out and support the Vipers (age 10 and under)

XVI. REPORT OF MAYOR

- Thanked City Manager Miller-Thornton, Police Chief Coyt, Assistant Chief of Police Dunlap, and Major Cato for giving exemplary performance in the face of a crisis (as it relates to snow days)
- Go out and support JYCG at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade
- February is Heart Health Month. The City partnered with Shiloah Baptist Church to sponsor a community-based event
- H.O.P.E. in Jonesboro – Helping Others Pursue Excellence

XVII. OTHER BUSINESS

None

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

RESULT:	**Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER:	**Councilmember Powell**
SECONDER:	**Councilmember D. Dixon**

Dr. Donya L. Sartor, Mayor

Shandrella Jewett, Interim City Clerk