CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 08, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

I. CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sartor at 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by City Clerk Jewett.

- Mayor Donya L. Sartor - (Left meeting at 8:39 p.m.)
- Mayor Pro-Tem Asjah Miller - (Arrived at 6:05 p.m.) (Presided over the meeting at 8:39 p.m.)
- Councilmember Chelsey Curney
- Councilmember Alfred Dixon
- Councilmember Cameron Dixon
- Councilmember Santia Fox
- Councilmember Tracey Messick
- City Manager, Blue Cole
- City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett
- City Attorney, LaTonya Nix-Wiley
- Community Development Director, David Allen
- Downtown Development Authority Director, Blue Cole
- Economic Development Director, Faith Akuta (Absent)
- Finance Director, Karen Slaton-Dixon
- Operation/Human Resource, Maria Wetherington
- Police Chief, Christopher Cato
- Public Works Director, Marcus Heard

III. INVOCATION

Invocation by Pastor Wendell Webb (First Baptist Jonesboro) – Pastor Webb was not present.

Invocation by Rabbi Nemhauser (Congregation B'nai Israel)

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

Stricken from the Agenda:

- Presentation Item C. - Jonesboro Education Trust Presentation

Additions to the Agenda:

- Old Business E. Council to discuss Ethics Board.
- Old Business F. Council to discuss Hydration Stations.
- New Business D. Road Closure regarding Saturday's market with Arts Clayton.

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

VI. MAYOR'S PRESENTATION

A. Mayor's Report

Mayor Sartor reported that the women of Jonesboro's City Council participated together in a Habitat for Humanity Home Build project on Friday. She described it as an excellent event and a valuable opportunity for team bonding among City leadership.

Mayor Sartor thanked Council for their participation and noted that several major events are upcoming. She also stated that Council had already received an update on grants and that additional updates would be provided as they become available.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation Recognizing Jewish Heritage Month.

Eight members from Congregation B'nai Israel were present and accepted both proclamations. Rabbi Nemhauser thanked the Mayor, Council, and audience, stating that the recognition meant a tremendous amount to the congregation and that they were honored to be invited and publicly recognized in such an official manner. Lastly, she spoke about "Love Needs to Look Like Something."

B. Proclamation Recognizing the City of Jonesboro as a "City of Peace During The Month of June." (Play 4 Peace by Arrow Youth Foundation Organization)

A representative of the Arrow Youth Foundation expressed appreciation for the proclamation and shared that the organization will host a summer summit involving 200 youth participants. The youth will be taught and encouraged to develop a mindset of peace so they may serve as citizens of peace in the community.

An Arrow Youth Leadership Council Member spoke and stated that Playing for Peace ATL is a movement dedicated to empowering young people through leadership, education, service, and meaningful connection. The organization's mission is grounded in four pillars: social justice, social wellness, social equality, and social economics. The speaker shared that these principles guide the organization's work in helping young people develop the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to thrive. Lastly, the representative thanked the families, staff, volunteers, community partners, and all those who believe in the importance of investing in young people.

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

None

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS & CONSIDERATIONS

None

X. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Council to consider 05/04/26 Work Session Minutes.

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

B. Council to consider 05/11/26 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Curney**
SECONDER: **Councilmember C. Dixon**

C. Council to consider 05/28/26 Special Called Council Meeting Minutes.

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

XI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Council to discuss and consider a Resolution Establishing The Legislative Findings, Purpose, Authority, And Policy Framework For The Regulation And Use Of City-Owned Or City-Controlled Facilities; Recognizing The Distinct Legislative, Administrative And Executive Functions Relating To Municipal Facilities; Authorizing The Development And Implementation Of A Facilities Use Policy For Elected Officials; And For Other Lawful Purposes.

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

B. Council to consider a budget allocation in the amount of $1,600.00 to support Runsboro GA 5K that will be held on September 12, 2026.

RESULT: **Approved to come from City Event line-item (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**
SECONDER: **Councilmember C. Dixon**

C. Council to discuss and consider Jonesboro Education Trust Pilot Program Memorandum Of Understanding.

Councilmember A. Dixon stated that the goal was to formally establish the framework of the program, and seek adoption of the program. The MOU would be forthcoming for future consideration.

Councilmember Messick said she would like to know who the City would be partnering with before they move forward with the partnership. Mayor Sartor inquired about fundraising and thanked City Attorney Wiley for clarifying that this was phase 1 (entering into discovering to see who these parties are as it relates to partnerships). Councilmember Fox said she supports the program. Councilmember Curney asked for clarity on what the City role would be in this matter.

A motion was made for Council to consider approval of the Pilot Civic Engagement and Educational Opportunities Initiative of the Jonesboro Education Trust (JET) Program.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Mayor Pro-Tem Miller**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Fox**

D. Council to discuss the Downtown Development Authority nominations for Board Members.

City Manager Cole presented two (2) applications (Fernando Cortez and Kimberly Lightford) regarding their interest to join the DDA as board member. There will be one vacancy left on the board if the two applications are approved.

Mayor Sartor nominated Mr. Cortez and Ms. Lightford. City Manager Cole will get an updated application from Mr. Cortez.

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

E. Council to discuss the Ethics Board.

City Manager Cole distributed the application of one eligible Ethics Board applicant (Altheia Parker Hussey) and advised that the City had received four (4) applications in total. Of those, one applicant was already serving on the Board and two applicants resided outside the city limits, leaving one eligible applicant for Council's consideration.

Mayor Sartor requested clarification regarding the overall status of the Ethics Board. It was explained that the Board consists of three (3) members and that two (2) members constitute a quorum. However, the current members had not yet convened to assign the initial one-year, two-year, and three-year terms as required by ordinance.

The Mayor stated that discussion of the application should be tabled until the current Ethics Board members convene and determine the term assignments. City Attorney Wiley clarified that the committee itself must determine which member serves the one-year, two-year, and three-year terms, and that Council should know which term is vacant before making a new appointment.

City Attorney Wiley further clarified that Ethics Board appointments are made solely by Council and are not subject to nominations from the Board. She also reminded Council that, under the revised ethics ordinance, an alternate panel of three (3) members must also be appointed. Attorney Wiley noted that Councilwoman Curney and Mrs. Arlene Charles were Council appointees and Mr. Larry Jones was the Mayor's appointee, and stated that Mrs. Charles and Mr. Jones must convene a public meeting to assign the terms.

Councilmember Curney stated that, although action could not be taken that evening, she believed discussion of the eligible applicant could still proceed. She reviewed the application and stated that, based on the information provided, the applicant appeared to meet the residency and other stated qualifications, pending completion of the required background review.

Councilmember Fox asked about the scope of the background check and whether application information is independently verified. City Manager Cole stated that staff reviews the applications, but does not conduct employment-style verification. It was noted that applicants attest to the truthfulness of their submissions and that the criminal history review relates to the ordinance requirement that Ethics Board members not have felony convictions involving moral turpitude.

Mayor Pro-Tem Miller asked whether Council could ask applicants if they intended to run for office in an upcoming election. City Attorney Wiley advised against adding that question, noting that the City's resign-to-run ordinance already addresses the issue by requiring an appointed board member to resign if they later seek elective office.

Councilmember Curney asked that staff contact the current Ethics Board members within two weeks so they could convene and assign their terms before the next work session. Mayor Sartor responded that staff had already begun that process internally and intended to obtain dates for the meeting. Councilmember Curney recommended consideration of the appointment at the July 6 meeting, with swearing-in to follow once all administrative requirements, including background check paperwork, are completed. Councilmember Curney also requested that a separate application period be opened for the alternate Ethics Board positions.

F. Discussion regarding Hydration Stations for Lee Street Park.

City Manager Cole provided an update on the hydration stations and stated that the cost is below the purchase threshold established in the City's new procurement policy.

Mayor Sartor directed that the information be forwarded for her review, and the process would proceed administratively. The item will be discussed at a later meeting.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council to consider a resolution to increase the Fund Balance Reserve line item (100-0000-39-1215) and Building & Maint. line item (1500-53-1171) by $9,100.00 to cover expenses related to 173 Cloud Street.

Finance Director Slaton-Dixon led the discussion. She made a request to increase the Building and Facility Maintenance in the General Administration budget and then take the $9,100.00 from Fund Balance Reserve.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Fox**
SECONDER: **Mayor Pro-Tem Miller**

B. Council to consider a resolution to increase the Donations & Sponsorship line item 100-0000-37-1025, and City Events line item 100-1500-52-2321 in the amount of $22,500.00. This will allow for usage of funds donated to the City for events.

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

C. Council to discuss and consider a Resolution Adopting a City of Jonesboro Social Media and Digital Communications Policy.

City Attorney Wiley presented the proposed Social Media and Digital Communications Policy, explaining that the resolution was requested by Councilmember A. Dixon to establish guidelines governing the use of official City communication platforms. She stated that the policy addresses authorized use, prohibited conduct, account ownership, and access to City-owned accounts.

Councilmember Curney asked how the policy would apply if a City employee also resided within the City. City Attorney Wiley explained that the policy applies only to official City of Jonesboro communication platforms and does not restrict employees' personal social media accounts. She noted, however, that employees who are authorized to post on official City platforms must do so in a professional manner and in accordance with both the policy and the personnel manual.

In response to questions about Section 10 of the policy, City Attorney Wiley read the provision stating that City employees may not post to official City communication platforms unless authorized, and that any authorized posts must maintain a professional tone and avoid personal arguments, sarcasm, ridicule, political advocacy, factional messaging, or personal commentary made in the name of the City.

Mayor Sartor asked whether the term "post" included replies or responses to comments. City Attorney Wiley clarified that, for purposes of the policy, "post" includes initiating a post as well as responding or replying, and that all such activity on official City platforms must be limited to official City business.

Council discussed whether employees could express personal opinions on their own social media pages. City Attorney Wiley stated that the proposed policy does not govern personal accounts of employees or elected officials; rather, it is limited to official City of Jonesboro platforms. Councilmembers expressed support for the policy.

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

D. Road Closure regarding Saturday's market with Arts Clayton.

Mayor Sartor introduced an additional road closure request related to the Saturday Market hosted by Arts Clayton. She explained that the request was being presented as a temporary measure so the City and organizers could evaluate what street configuration would work best before bringing back a more permanent plan for Council's consideration in July.

Chief Cato explained that the market organizers had explored moving the event to the front area, but after speaking with vendors, they preferred to remain on Broad Street because the location offers more accessible parking for elderly vendors and patrons, as well as shade from nearby trees. He stated that organizers requested the option to expand the market footprint to Church Street adjacent to Arts Clayton if vendor growth warrants additional space.

Chief Cato further explained that, if expansion is needed, the roadway would be blocked at the rear driveway to the City lot entering the City Green while still allowing patrons to use the United Methodist Church entrance to turn around or access Raleigh Way before reaching the closure. He noted that this flexibility would allow room for additional vendors or a possible food truck while keeping the arrangement responsive to attendance and weather conditions.

Mayor and the Police Chief would manage the road closure on a trial basis for the remaining June market dates. It was explained that the organizers hoped to prepare for continued growth and requested flexibility to either keep the event limited to Broad Street or expand the closure if additional vendors participated.

A motion was made to approve the maximum road closure for the Saturday Market on June 13 and June 27, 2026, along South Main Street from West Mill Street to Church Street, with operational adjustments to be made as needed by the Police Chief based on market conditions. During discussion, Council also asked about signage, and Chief Cato stated that event signage could be placed out the evening before through the event organizer.

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

XIII. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

A. Economic Development Report by City Manager Cole.

See Report on City's website in the 6/8/26 Agenda Packet.

XIV. FINANCE REPORT

A. April 2026 Financial Report - Finance Director Slaton-Dixon.

See Report on City's website in the 6/8/26 Agenda Packet.

XV. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. City Manager's Report by City Manager Cole.

See Report on City's website in the 6/8/26 Agenda Packet.

XVI. REPORT OF CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Comments by Councilmember Curney:

- Provided an update on the City's Veterans Memorial Committee and stated that she would be sharing additional information to encourage broader community participation. Invited fellow Councilmembers to help recommend and invite potential participants.
- Extended Juneteenth and Father's Day greetings to the community and wished everyone well for the upcoming celebrations.
- Stated that she looked forward to attending the upcoming GMA conference with fellow Councilmembers and anticipated it would be a valuable opportunity for learning and engagement.
- Wished everyone a happy Fourth of July.

Comments by Councilmember A. Dixon:

- Thanked everyone for attending the Council meeting.
- Expressed appreciation to Rabbi Nemhauser of Congregation B'nai Israel for opening the meeting with the message, "Love needs to look like something," which he said set a meaningful tone for the evening.
- Thanked Jana Harris, Lillian Heard, and Tia for attending the meeting, and expressed appreciation for their support and engagement in the community.
- Recognized the new downtown mural located on the side of the Clayton County building and thanked the partners involved, including artist Arshad Norwood and his team for contributing to the public art installation.
- Commented that it was encouraging to see elected officials active in the community through events such as office hours and Move with the Mayor, and thanked organizers for continuing to create opportunities for resident engagement.
- Encouraged the public to attend the upcoming event at the community garden on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Shared that he is participating in the Georgia Municipal Association's YoungGame Changers cohort and described the experience as a valuable learning opportunity.
- Referenced a recent reading recommendation shared through the cohort, *Walkable City*, and noted its emphasis on designing communities for both children and older adults.
- Quoted the idea that designing a city for cars and traffic produces more cars and traffic, while designing a city for people and places produces community, and encouraged residents to pick up a book or listen to an audiobook over the summer.

Comments by Councilmember Fox:

- Thanked Councilmember A. Dixon for his positive spirit and thoughtful leadership, stating that his example was appreciated by the Council.
- Announced that she would resume office hours at City Hall on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and invited constituents to stop by without an appointment. She stated that she values these conversations because residents are the reason for public service.
- Highlighted the Beautification Committee's upcoming block party at Batiste Circle on Wednesday, June 17, and encouraged the public to review the City's social media posts for details.
- Announced that she had reserved the Jonesboro Virtual Business Office (JVO) in downtown Jonesboro for a free community work and collaboration day, especially for business owners, remote workers, and parents. She stated that the event would include space to work,

opportunities to collaborate and create content, professional headshots, and a brief podcast opportunity to promote local businesses.

- Explained that she has made a continued effort to promote local businesses, noting that businesses, along with residents, are part of the heartbeat of the community and should be supported and appreciated.
- Expressed appreciation for City staff and reiterated her love for the City of Jonesboro and its community.

Comments by Councilmember Messick:

- Thanked the women of the Council and the Mayor for the recent Habitat for Humanity experience and described it as a rewarding opportunity for service and teamwork. She stated that she looked forward to participating again in the future and encouraged others to join as well.
- Extended Father's Day wishes to all fathers and asked that the community keep in prayer those families who have recently lost their fathers or are caring for ill fathers.
- Flag Day is June 14 and encouraged residents to display flags in observance. The Beautification Committee volunteer Mr. Haynie had additional flags available for those interested.
- Announced that she is partnering with Mayor Pro-Tem Miller for an upcoming Toddler Tuesday program on June 23 in the community room, featuring a music activity for young children. She encouraged families to bring their children and grandchildren to participate.
- Encouraged the public to attend and share information about the City's upcoming Juneteenth celebration and America250 observance.
- Requested additional QR code materials related to the Comprehensive Plan so that Councilmembers could help distribute them and encourage broader community participation.

Comments by Councilmember C. Dixon:

- Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and extended Father's Day wishes to all fathers present and those watching online.
- Announced that the Jonesboro Youth City Government's onboarding would begin on Monday and noted that this marks the fourth year of the program.
- Gave special recognition to Director Heard and the Public Works Department for responding quickly over the weekend after a tree fell in the roadway, noting appreciation for their sense of urgency and responsiveness.
- Invited the public to attend the block party at Batiste Garden Circle on June 17 at 5:30 p.m. and encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the community gathering.

Comments by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller:

- Extended a shout-out to all staff for everything they do. The best staff in the land.
- Extended a special shout-out to Tavisa in regard to the Newsletter, assisting with Beautification, #PlayJonesboro, etc.
- Extended a special shout-out to Derry Walker in regard to bringing back the City's Angels Program. Check the City's social media platform and website for more information.
- Go vote – We are in the middle of the runoff season. Advanced voting ends Friday, The actual date is June 16th.
- Spoke regarding the Comprehensive Survey. Need everyone's input. Please tell a friend. Scan the QR Code and check the City's website and social media platforms for more information.
- Wonderful work done regarding the Habitat for Humanity Home Build Project.
- The Townhall Meeting was a great meeting.

- June 15, 2026 – Will be beautifying Batiste Park.
- June 17, 2026 - Batiste Garden Circle Block Party at 5:30 p.m.
- June 19, 2026 – Juneteenth Celebration
- June 23, 2027 - Toddler Tuesday event at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Will only be able to take the first 20 toddlers and their families. Check the City's social media platforms for flyers and reminders.
- July 2, 2026 - America250 Celebration

XVII. OTHER BUSINESS

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

None

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

None

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Curney**
SECONDER: **Councilmember C. Dixon**

Dr. Donya L. Sartor, Mayor

Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk