CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 12, 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 at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Sartor.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by City Clerk Jewett.

- Mayor Donya L. Sartor
- Mayor Pro-Tem Asjah Miller
- Councilmember Chelsey Curney
- Councilmember Alfred Dixon
- Councilmember Cameron Dixon
- Councilmember Santia Fox
- Councilmember Tracey Messick
- City Attorney, LaTonya Wiley (Arrived at 6:15 p.m.)
- City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett
- Community Development Director, Faith Akuta
- Finance Director, Karen Slaton-Dixon
- Operation/Human Resource, Maria Wetherington
- Police Chief, Christopher Cato
- Public Works Director, Marcus Heard (Absent)

III. INVOCATION

Pastor Robert Taylor – Jonesboro Police Department Chaplin

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The following changes were made to the Agenda.

Old Business:

- Item B. was removed - Council to discuss updated AV/IT Support Contract for Jonesboro Youth City Government.
- New Item C. - Council to discuss FY26 Proposed Budget.

New Business:

- New Item B. - Council to consider a contract for additional renovations at 173 Cloud Street.

- New Item C. - Council to discuss the City Manager's position.
- New Item D. - Council to discuss street sweeping services for Public Works Department.

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

VI. MAYOR'S PRESENTATION

Mayor Sartor welcomed and introduced Blue Cole, the new Economic/Downtown Development Authority Director. Mr. Cole is scheduled to start on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

Mr. Cole thanked everyone for the opportunity and said he looks forward to working with everyone and the residents of Jonesboro.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

None

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

None

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS & CONSIDERATIONS

None

X. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Council to consider approval of the Work Session Minutes dated 12/01/2025.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Messick**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Fox**

B. Council to consider approval of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated 12/08/2025.

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

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Council to consider a lease agreement between the City of Jonesboro, Georgia and Clayton County, Georgia regarding 264 N. Main Street.

B. Council to consider a partial update to the City of Jonesboro Fee Schedule regarding Community Development and Administration.

C. Council to discuss replacement of the digital signage at Lee Street Park in the amount of $40,600.00.

D. Council to consider Resolution 2025-14 regarding a budget transfer (FY25) from the Cemetery line item 100-4100-53-1800 in the amount of $35K and Other Professional Services line item 100-3200-52-1290 in the amount of $20K to Building & Facilities Maintenance line item 100-1500-53-1171 to cover cost of damages to signage at Lee Street Park.

E. Council to consider a renewal contract between Luminary MediaWorks and the City of Jonesboro, Georgia for IT Services.

RESULT: **Approved Consent Agenda (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Messick**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Fox**

XII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Council to discuss appointments to the Downtown Development Authority.

A motion was made for Council to accept the appointments of Richara Warren, Scott Miller, and Yolande Turner as new Board Members for the Downtown Development Authority.

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

B. Council to discuss FY26 Proposed Budget.

Mayor Sartor advised everyone that adjustments were made to the proposed budget.

$100,000.00 was added to the line-item of Professional Services for Public Works in order to cover street sweeping services.

The contingency fund is currently at $435,000.00 and Mayor Sartor explained why it was higher for FY26.

Councilmember A. Dixon recommended a total budget of $15,000.00 for JYCG. Councilmember Fox supported the recommendation and would be willing to give some of her initiative funds to reach the $15,000.00. Councilmember Messick supported the recommendation along with fundraising.

Mayor Sartor believes JYCG can raise additional funds. She stated, for the record, there are other areas and line items that she would like to have funded before she would fund them at $15,000.00. Councilmember Curney said it is not fair to raise the funds for JYCG when there are other areas that need additional funds. Also, she spoke about the 9-millage rate. Mayor Pro-Tem Miller said there are creative ways to assist JYCG without making other departments or citizens feel some type of way.

City Attorney Nix-Wiley arrived at the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Councilmember A. Dixon said he appreciated the open-mindedness and the creativity. "However, we are preparing our future leaders and feel that it can be accomplished."

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council to consider matching $2,500.00 for grant funds provided from FY26 Vibrant Communities Grant and to temporarily fund the complete $5,000.00 of the grant (from a city account) until reimbursement paperwork is submitted. Deadline is June 1, 2026.

Executive Assistant, Taylor Johnson led the discussion.

The City of Jonesboro was approved for the FY26 Vibrant Communities Grant in October 2025. The grant will fund the painting of four (4) doors on the public restrooms at Lee Street Park. The project carries a total budget of $5,000.00 and is structured as a reimbursement match grant. As such, the City would initially fund the $5,000.00 and would be reimbursed for half of the amount totaling $2,500.00.

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

B. Council to consider a contract for additional renovations at 173 Cloud Street.

Mayor Sartor led the discussion. The contractors, through Lowe's, made a recommendation to remove and replace the cabinets. The house has new floors and new countertops. The City received a quote for an estimated $9,000.00 and asked that the money be pulled from FY25 Budget to complete this project. The goal is to have it completed by the end of the month.

A motion was made to approve the contract and not to exceed $9,500.00 for final kitchen repairs.

RESULT: **Approved – Contract & $9,500.00 Cap (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Curney**

C. Discussion regarding City Manager Position.

Councilmember Fox asked for clarity as it related to the City Manager's Position. She wanted to know if the City was going to continue with the search for a City Manager. Mayor Sartor said the position is still open. Mayor Pro-Tem Miller stated, "once we ensure that all staff have equitable pay then we would explore adding money to the salary of the City Manager's position." "Once the budget is done again and we see how much contingency we can work with, we can talk about increasing the salary of the City Manager."

D. Council to discuss street sweeping services regarding Public Works Department.

Mayor Sartor led the discussion regarding a proposal to purchase a Street Sweeper. A contract was received from Elgan Pelican Street Sweeper in the amount of $296,700.00. She further mentioned that Public Works Director Heard looked at a plan through the State bidding agency where the City could get the street sweeping services for nine (9) months out of the year. The streets of all 60 curved miles would be cleaned once per month, and during the heavy leaf season, it would be cleaned twice per month for six (6) months at $76,050.00. This would help prevent rainwater/sewage drain cloggage. Mayor Sartor said Director Heard believes this would be the best option for the City.

Mayor Sartor asked for an increase to the Professional Services line item in the amount of $100,000.00. She spoke regarding Sweeping Corp. of American and Tree Cutting.

Councilmember Messick asked if Mayor Sartor had more than one estimate for Professional Services to handle this matter. Mayor Sartor said Director Heard would get some other estimates.

At this time, a conversation took place about the condition and sale of the City's current street sweeper. Councilmember Curney said this would be an excellent opportunity for residents who definitely want their streets cleaned. This would alleviate staff from doing it manually.

Mayor Pro-Tem Miller stated, "I do think we have a very large contingency fund and with the same passion, we want to allocate the additional funds to Jonesboro City Government and to our departments that had things cut." However, when it is time to revisit the millage rate, then we can talk about purchasing the $256,000.00 equipment and utilize what was sold (old sweeper, if anybody wants it) and reallocate those funds.

Mayor Sartor reminded everyone that the budget would be balanced, which means the revenues equal the expenditure. She noted we don't meet again until February. "Therefore, we would use 40 hours of manpower to begin. However, Director Heard is anxious to get started with an approval and not exceed $80,000.00 for the street sweeping services once the budget is approved." If so, they would not have to wait until February 2026 to get approval for this contract.

Council to consider approval of a street sweeping service not to exceed $80,000.00.

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

XIV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

A. Economic Development Report by Director Akuta. (See Agenda Packet)

XV. REPORT OF CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Comments by Councilmember Fox:

- Thanked everyone (constituents, staff) for everything they do for the City
- Spoke regarding community involvement
- Thanked Councilmembers and veterans for their support

Comments by Councilmember Messick:

- Thanked staff for all of their hard work
- Happy 2026
- Looking forward to serving alongside the newly elected Councilmembers

Comments by Cameron Dixon:

- Thanked everyone for being present at the meeting
- Jonesboro Beautification Committee – Need six (6) members
- 35th Annual Clayton County's Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on Saturday at Clayton State Activity Center
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade – After the parade, join us at Dairy Queen for a free ice cream cone

Comments by Councilmember Curney:

- Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight, and thanked the virtual watchers
- Thanked staff for all they do and hope they will be compensated soon
- Happy Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Excited about the future of Jonesboro
- Please feel free to set up an appointment or reach out to me. Contact information is on the City's website

Councilmember Alfred Dixon:

- Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked those who watched virtually
- Lamario Brown, Jr. (Jonesboro Middle School Basketball Team) – Athlete of the Month
- Thanked JYCG members, staff, parents, and advisors for their ongoing support and for attending the meeting tonight
- Thanked Ms. Newlove from Antioch Baptist Church and Councilmember Fox for pouring into the JYCG as it relates to the MLK initiatives
- Thanked Dairy Queen for sponsoring us each year. Stop by for free ice cream

Mayor Pro-Tem Miller:

- Thanked Jonesboro staff for everything they do. "We have the best staff in the land."
- Thanked residents for attending the meeting
- Thanked staff, volunteers, residents, and everyone who assisted with the Christmas program. Helped over 200 kids/250 families. It was a wonderful event
- Congratulations to the new Councilmembers for showing up and for doing the work
- Finding better ways to communicate between Council and the residents. Also, would like to know from residents how they want to be contacted (text message, emails, electronic/flyer blast, etc.) as it relates to things going on in the City. Open to ideas from residents
- Thanked everyone who voted for her to become Mayor Pro-Tem for 2026

XVI. REPORT OF MAYOR

- First Trash War - The winner will be who collects the most trash and get the most volunteers
- Created two committees - Veterans Memorial Committee chaired by Councilwoman Curney (inside Lee Street Park). Senior Interest Group will be led by Tavisa Thomas until we can find a senior to get it off the ground
- Shout out to Faith Akuta for working on the SCEI Grant from the National League of Cities
- London and Paris trip was a great opportunity to support the Jonesboro High School Band. Next year the Rose Bowl Parade will be in California
- Attending a Board Meeting for the African American Mayor's Association and the Mayor's Innovative Project in Washington, DC
- Taking some of the Councilmembers to participate in the County's MLK Parade hosted by College Park on Monday

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 7:35 p.m.

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

Dr. Donya L. Sartor, Mayor

Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk