CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 11, 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 6:04 p.m. by Mayor Sartor.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by City Clerk Jewett.

- Mayor Donya L. Sartor
- Mayor Pro-Tem Tracey Messick
- Councilmember Alfred Dixon (entered at 6:25 p.m.)
- Councilmember Don Dixon
- Councilmember Billy Lester
- Councilmember Asjah Miller
- Councilmember Billy Powell
- City Attorney, David Dreyer (Absent)
- Interim City Attorney Zanele Ngubeni
- City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett
- Downtown Development Authority Manager, Andrew Simpson
- Economic Development Manager, Faith Akuta
- Police Chief, Christopher Cato
- Public Works Director, Marcus Heard

III. INVOCATION

Invocation by Pastor Trent Davis of Jonesboro First Baptist.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The following items were added under New Business:
C. Council to discuss Health Benefits
D. Council to discuss the forensic audit (Plante Moran)

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

VI. MAYOR'S PRESENTATION

Mayor Sartor encouraged everyone to review the Millage Rate/Budget Presentation she presented during the August 4, 2025 Work Session.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation in recognition of Georgia 811 Day.

B. The Trans Am Takeover Georgia Celebration - October 17-19, 2025.

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

- Lance Van Dike (Jonesboro, GA) – Spoke regarding increase in taxes but not getting what he pay for such as events. Own businesses in the City. Code Enforcement citing business owners because they are no longer zoned. Address is 251 S. Main Street, Jonesboro, GA. Mayor Sartor told him that the change is for new and incoming businesses. Old businesses were grandfathered in. Mayor said if people pay additional taxes they should see the impact.

- David Hembrick (Riverdale, GA)– Clayton County District #3/National Rifle Association – Spoke about election season, accountability, transparency, honesty. He said, "it seems after election, these things go away." People are afraid of an audit. Said he was a member of the NRA (National Rifle Association) and they have audits every year. Also, spoke regarding tax audits, accountability, and the Ethics Board.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING(S) & CONSIDERATION(S)

None

X. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Council to consider approval of the Minutes from July 7, 2025 Work Session.

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

B. Council to consider approval of the Minutes from July 14, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.

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

C. Council to consider approval of the Minutes from July 25, 2025 Special Called Meeting (Budget Meeting #1).

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

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

None

XII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Council to consider approval of the proposed revisions made to Jonesboro Youth City Government Charter (Article II, Sec. 33-2), to ensure consistency throughout the document.

Mayor Sartor shared her concern regarding four (4) members constituting a quorum. She said she thinks it requires five (5).

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

The above motion was withdrawn (see page 5).

Councilmember A. Dixon stated "in the past it took five (5) members to make a quorum, but now I would like the language to read (4) members. Also, he recommended the language Jonesboro Youth Council be changed to Jonesboro Youth City Government.

The only people that would constitute a quorum for JYCG, would include the Mayor and six (6) Councilmembers.

RESULT: **Approved - Revisions to the Charter (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Miller**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Lester**

B. Council to discuss FY 26 Budget.

Mayor Sartor shared the changes that were made to the budget as of 8/7/25. She mentioned that she had removed the special initiative. Councilmember Miller said she does not agree with the cut to the Initiative Funds.

Travel – Recommendation made to cut in half (just in case any new council want to attend new members training)

Discussion Regarding The Budget And Financial Report:
At this time, Finance Director Cannady provided a financial report.

Mayor Pro-Tem Messick inquired about Georgia 1 Fund. Mayor Sartor said there is $2.7 million in this fund.

Finance Director Cannady provided the account balance as of June 30, 2025. General Fund 731. Also, she spoke about a CPA firm name Tab & Tab, LLC that is located in downtown Atlanta, Georgia. She said they are ready to start the audit for FY 2023 and hopefully it can be completed by the end of the year and then they can jump into FY 2024. She will obtain a quote by the end of the week for Council's review. Mayor Sartor said an RFP is not required since it is a professional service.

The proposed budget for this service is $45,000.00. Mayor Pro-Tem Messick said she would like a quote. Mayor Sartor said this is a 12-month plan to get the City caught up with all of the audits.

A motion was made for Council to consider approval to move forward with Professional Services by an audit firm selected by Finance Director Cannady and Ed Wall, not to exceed $45,000.00 and to begin immediately.

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

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council to consider approval of a fee waiver submitted by Tabernacle of Praise Church International (Jonesboro location) for use of Lee Street Park on Saturday, October 25, 2025 in support of their Fall Festival event.

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

B. Council to discuss proposed street closure submitted by Bo Durban for The Trans Am Takeover - Georgia on October 17-19, 2025. This is a three (3) day celebration of Smokey and the Bandit, highlighting Jonesboro's role in the iconic 1977 film. The road closure would include Broad Street and South Main Street (from the Lawyers' Office at 102 S. Main Street to Arts Clayton, 136 S. Main Street, Jonesboro, Georgia.)

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

C. Council to discuss Health Benefits

The proposed FY 26 Budget reflects a possible 10% increase. This is what the market is trending. The City pays 100% of employees' health benefits. However, there were concerns that the City was paying a portion of employee spouse policies, employee children's policies, and family policies. Mayor Sartor shared with Council a document that showed those individuals who are using the employee children and employee spouse benefits. No one is using employee family benefits. She asked Council if there was a certain percentage that the City wants to pay for employee spouse, employee children, and employee family. At this time, there are 33 individuals covered in the policy and nine (9) staff that use the policy, other than employees only. Mayor Sartor said she will bring this item back for a vote in September but wanted to have this discussion.

In the past, there was a discussion regarding the City contributing 50% for employee spouse, employee children, and employee family rather than completely removing it because it would have a significant financial impact on the employees that have to utilize it.

Example: Current premium for employee + child(ren) = $1,366.32. The City pays $1,249.00 (79%) of the premium and the employee pays $116.00 (20%).

Example: Current premium for employee only is $0.00.

Example: Employee + Spouse with no children = $142.00 (28%) paid by the employee. The City is covering 71%.

Mayor Sartor proposed that the City do not require employees to completely pay for it, but reduce the City's share from 71%-79% to 50% effective January 2026. The City only has one policy - Cigna.

Councilmember Miller recommended keeping everything the same until the City can figure out a budget that allows us to give the employees more than a 2% raise, especially if we are going to ask employees to pay additional money towards their premiums. Healthcare is very important.

A motion was made to continue with the same percentage of coverage that the City is currently providing.

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

D. Council to discuss Forensic Audit re. Plante Moran.

A discussion took place regarding the scope of work and how much it would cost. Mayor Sartor said they need to have the contract in front of them for review and discussion along with clarifying the allegations. Mayor Pro-Tem Messick spoke about diving deeper into the health benefits. Attorney Ngubeni recommended waiting for Attorney Dreyer to return to discuss the matter in detail. Mayor and Council agreed.

A motion was made for council to consider approval to table the discussion until City Attorney Dreyer is present to speak on the above-mentioned matter.

RESULT: Approved to table (Vote was unanimous)
MOVER: Councilmember Miller
SECONDER: Councilmember Lester

At 6:42 p.m., a motion was made to modify the Agenda.

Mayor Sartor asked Council to consider modifying the agenda.

A motion was made for Council to consider approval to modify the agenda so that Old Business (Letter A.) could be heard, and immediately after that she requested to add Letter B. under Old Business for Budget Discussion and the Finance Report.

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

XIV. DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

A. Downtown Development Report by Andrew Simpson, Downtown Main Street Manager.
- World Cup
- American 251
- The Trans Am Takeover Georgia (Smokey and the Bandit)

XV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

A. Economic Development Report by Faith Akuta, Economic Development Manager.

Mrs. Akuta advised Mayor and Council that she received applicants to be on the board.

XVI. REPORT OF CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Comments by Councilmember Powell:

None

Comments by Mayor Pro-Tem Messick:

None

Comments by Councilmember Don Dixon:

None

Comments by Councilmember Miller:

- Thanked staff and all of the departments - "You are all amazing"
- Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for providing input during Public Comments
- Advised everyone to have a safe drive home

Comments by Councilmember Lester:

- Thanked all employees for everything they do and for their hard work.
- Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting

Comments by Councilmember Alfred Dixon:

- Thanked everyone for showing up to the meetings in person and online
- Thanked Mayor and Council for pouring into the youth
- Happy Birthday to all of the people born in August (Leo)

XVII. REPORT OF MAYOR

- Spoke regarding the Nuisance Abatement Training
- Point of Personal Privilege – Keep Shelby and her family in prayers regarding the passing of her grandmother.
- 08/14/25 - Groove on the Green at Lee Street Park
- 9/11 City Hall will be closed – Staff will attend a day of service with Habitat for Humanity
- Community Pop up
- Playground construction to start next week
- Procurement Training
- Shian Development – Would like for Council to be a part of this meeting
- Millage Rate Public Hearing - August 18th at 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. and August 25th at 6 p.m.
- First city field trip - 22 members of the community attended. Looked at a micro pocket community. DDA is looking to partner with the City.
- City of Jonesboro takes on London to support Jonesboro High School Band

XVIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation.

At 7:22 p.m. a motion was made for Council to enter into Executive Session to discuss a pending litigation.

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

At 8:41 p.m., a motion was made to reconvene to the Regular Council Meeting.

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

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

Council to consider approval of a settlement agreement as discussed during Executive Session for Seddrick Hill's E.E.O.C. matter.

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

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

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

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Dr. Donya L. Sartor, Mayor Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk