CITY COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING #3

AUGUST 07, 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 by Mayor Sartor at 6:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by City Clerk Jewett.

- Mayor Donya L. Sartor
- Mayor Pro-Tem Tracey Messick
- Councilmember Alfred Dixon (left the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and returned at 9:25 p.m.)
- Councilmember Don Dixon
- Councilmember Billy Lester
- Councilmember Asjah Miller (Absent)
- Councilmember Billy Powell
- City Attorney, David Dreyer (left meeting at 9:25 p.m.)
- City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett
- Downtown Development Authority Manager, Andrew Simpson
- Economic Development Manager, Faith Akuta
- Police Chief, Christopher Cato
- Public Works Director, Marcus Heard (Absent)
- Department: Court Services - Laterrial Francis, Operations/HR - Maria Wetherington

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Council to discuss FY 2026 Budget.

Budget Presentation by Mayor Sartor.

What is a Millage Rate?
The amount of tax charged per $1,000 of assessed property value. For example:
1 mill = $1.00 collected; 2 mills = $2.00 collected; and 8.5 mill = $8.50 collected
10 mills - you pay $10.00 in tax for every $1,000.00 of taxable value.

What is a Roll Back Rate?
A rollback on a millage rate is a tax adjustment tool used by local governments to prevent automatic tax increases when property values rise due to reassessment. When property values go up, keeping the same millage rate would result in higher tax revenue. A rollback

rate is the lower millage rate that would generate the same total revenue as the previous year – excluding new growth. It's essentially a way to neutralize the effect of reassessments.

The City is required by law to post a 5-year levy.

Mayor Sartor explained her reasoning for proposing an increase from 8.5 mills to 11.5 mills. She spoke about capital projects and debt services for the Capital Project. Ed Wall said the City should be at 12.5 mills in order to cover debt services. Mayor Sator built a proposed budget at 11 mills based on staff needs. She stated the City received a $5 million grant for two (2) projects. "The City applied for three (3) grants, and we received them."

Mayor Sartor asked the audience if they had any questions:

- Speaker's Name Unknown: - Asked, "will the City obtain a loan for the tipper truck, or will it be paid with cash? A gentleman recommended the Environmental Fund of Georgia.

  Cash in the account. Annual yield on funds.

  New Market Tax Credit to refinance the building.

- Karrie Thompson - Spoke regarding Sanitation and Code Enforcement - Trash that is left in residents' driveways or on the road (N. Lake Drive).

  Mayor Sartor told residents that she has an open-door policy and all they have to do is contact Shelby, her Executive Assistant. The Mayor said she would check out N. Lake Drive.

- Speaker's Name Unknown – Asked, "who is the auditor for the City?" The Mayor shared that the City does not have one at this time.

- Robin Hall – Asked, "why all of these projects were done in the City?"

- Russell Smith – Asked, "if there was a contingent plan if the budget is not passed by the deadline?"

- Santia Fox - Asked, "if not having a fund affects us?"

Mayor Sartor asked Councilmember Powell what Council's plan was to pay off the City Center building. He replied with bonds, taxes, and SPLOST.

At this time, the following various documents related to the budget were distributed.

- Document 1 - Proposal Summary for Elgin Pelican Street Sweeper - (Street Sweeper is $296,000,00. Bucket truck $242,000.00.)
- Document 2 - Statement of Account for Georgia Fund 1 for 01/01/25 to 01/01/18
- Document 3 - Georgia Fund 1 Statement of Account
- Document 4 - Revenue and Expense Report as of August 31, 2025 (unaudited)
- Document 5 - FY 2026 Proposed Budget at 11 mills
- Document 6 - FY 26 Proposed Budget for Fund 540
- Document 7 - FY 26 Proposed Revenue Budget
- Document 8 - Current 2025 Tax Digest and 5 Year History of Levy
- Document 9 - Funded Positions as of 07/29/25
- Document 10 - August 5, 2025 FY 2026 Budget Updated $9,151,145.00
- Document 11 - A/P History Check Report
- Document 12 - Semi-Annual Package Installment Schedule

Mayor and Council went through various line items on the proposed budget to see what Council wanted to remove, add, or adjust.

Mayor Sartor thanked Council and staff for attending the meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

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