CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING #2 (MILLAGE RATE)

AUGUST 18, 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 6:14 p.m.

The meeting started late in order to accommodate people that were going through the security process in the foyer of City Hall.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by City Clerk Jewett.

- Mayor Donya L. Sartor
- Mayor Pro-Tem Tracey Messick (Absent)
- Councilmember Alfred Dixon
- Councilmember Don Dixon
- Councilmember Bobby Lester
- Councilmember Asjah Miller
- Councilmember Billy Powell (Absent)
- City Attorney, David Dreyer (Absent)
- City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett
- Downtown Development Authority Manager, Andrew Simpson (Absent)
- Economic Development Manager, Faith Akuta (Absent)
- Finance Director, Donnetta Cannady
- Police Chief, Christopher Cato (entered at 6:20 p.m.)
- Public Works Director, Marcus Heard (Absent)

III. PRESENTATION

FY 26 Budget presentation by Mayor Sartor.

Mayor Sartor shared that the state law requires three (3) Pubic Hearings regarding the Millage Rate. She spoke regarding the following matters.

- Millage Rate defined
- Tax Assessed Value – Residents are taxed on the Assessed Value (40%)
- Incorporated Jonesboro vs. Unincorporated Jonesboro
- Explained the definition of a rollback millage rate
- 2024 Notice of Property Tax Increase
- 2024 Tax Digest and 5 Year History Levy

- Sample General Fund Revenues
- How the City builds its budget – What the City need in order to operate.
- Group Insurance, health benefits for employees, staff cuts, police cars, etc.
- Recommendation of a 2% pay raise to employees
- Spoke regarding the previous plan to pay off the City Center building
- Debt Service – Must be included when building a budget

At 6:32 p.m. - Point of Personal Privilege - Mayor Sartor spoke regarding the comment that was made by Lee Moore during the 11:00 a.m. Public Hearing (08/18/25) as it related to Jonesboro being a City of Colors.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING – NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

Public Hearing Opened

- Dana Hall (Jonesboro Resident) – Spoke regarding Code Enforcement issues, City Events, and Decorations in the City of Jonesboro.
- Lance Van Dyke (Jonesboro Business Owner) – Spoke regarding property taxes and concerts.
- Ann Wise (Jonesboro Resident) – Spoke regarding budget cuts and people living outside the City should be able to speak during public comment time.
- Shelian Caldwell (Jonesboro Resident) - Spoke regarding annual audits and positions.
- Frank St. Preux (Jonesboro Resident) – Spoke regarding Jonesboro being a Purple Heart City.
- Jackie Washington (Unincorporated Jonesboro Resident) – Inquired about any delinquencies or deficiencies within the City.
- Russell Smith (Jonesboro Resident) – Spoke regarding Jonesboro Charter 6.28 Independent Audit and the hiring of a CPA firm.
- Latiah Bowen (Jonesboro Resident) – Spoke regarding FY26 Budget and the millage rate.
- Ms. Rawls (Jonesboro Resident) – Spoke about a citation not being issued to another driver regarding her vehicle accident due to a printer error according to the police officer.
- Francis Martinez (Jonesboro Resident) – Spoke regarding increase in his taxes. Asked if the millage rate could be increased incrementally.
- Sharon Kimble (Unincorporated Jonesboro Resident) – Spoke regarding accountability from County officials and finding a way to raise money for the City.
- Cleopatra Valentine (Jonesboro Resident) – Spoke regarding Christmas lights throughout the City and Christmas tree decorations on Main Street.
- Steven Armstrong (Jonesboro Resident) – Spoke regarding the City Center being built. without residents' input and asked why there haven't been any hero flags on Main Street.
- Curtis Robinson (Jonesboro Resident) – Spoke on behalf of the Senior Citizens and taxes.
- Ms. Karen (Jonesboro Business Owner) – Spoke regarding empty buildings in the downtown area and asked if there were any incentives for businesses to come to Jonesboro.

Public Hearing Closed

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

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

Dr. Donya L. Sartor, Mayor

Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk