CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

JANUARY 05, 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 6:05 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, David Dreyer
- 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

At this time, City Clerk Jewett acknowledged the newly elected Councilmembers that were sworn in on January 5, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

Additional language was added to item E. under Old Business - Council to discuss an ordinance regarding the adoption and approval of the FY 2026 Budget.

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

IV. MAYOR'S PRESENTATIONS

- Acknowledgement of Code Enforcement Officer, Derry Walker
- 5-Year Pin was presented to Councilmember Alfred Dixon for five (5) years of service to the City of Jonesboro

V. PRESENTATIONS

None

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

- Pastor Jared Newlove of Antioch Baptist Church (Jonesboro Business) – Congratulatory remarks were extended to the newly elected City Councilmembers. He also addressed agenda item J., Blaze Leadership Proposal. He offered to provide his services at no cost to help the City save money should the City decide not to use Blaze Leadership.

- Representative Robert Flournoy (State Representative of District 74) – Congratulatory remarks were extended to the newly elected City Councilmembers. He encouraged Mayor and Council to continue their positive work and to keep pushing the City forward. Lastly, he spoke regarding Civility – "Keeping the main thing the main thing…the people."

- Jonesboro Youth City Government – Zahion Mickell (JYCG Mayor), Mason White (City Manager), Jacqueline Alvarado Munoz (JYCG Finance Director), Miranda Gutierrez (JYCG Councilmember). Congratulatory remarks were extended to the newly elected City Councilmembers. JYCG recommended that their FY26 Budget be set at $15,000.00 in order to maintain programs, serve seniors, beautify the City, and give youth leadership experience. Also, they spoke regarding community engagement, regional opportunities, live streaming meetings, JYCG events, and transportation.

- Arlene Charles (Jonesboro Resident) – Thanked Public Works Director Heard for ensuring trash is picked up for the residents. Thanked Mayor Sartor for great staff that provide great customer service. Also said she would like to help JYCG with fundraising along with being more involved in the City.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate and personnel matter(s).

At 6:26 p.m., a motion was made to enter into Executive Session.

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

At 6:59 p.m. a motion was made to reconvene the Work Session.

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

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

Mayor Sartor deferred all of the business that was handled in Executive Session regarding future appointments to be captured under New Business. Council agreed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council to consider the appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem for 2026.

Mayor Sartor opened up the floor for nominations.
Councilmember Curney nominated Councilmember Miller.
Councilmember Messick nominated Councilmember Fox.
Councilmember Fox nominated Councilmember Messick.
Mayor Sartor closed the nominations.

A motion was made for Councilmember Asjah Miller to be the Mayor Pro-Tem for 2026.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was 6 to 1)**
MOVER: **Mayor Sartor**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Curney**
AYES: **Mayor Sartor, Mayor Pro-Tem Miller, Councilmembers Curney, A. Dixon, C. Dixon, and Fox**
NAYS: **Councilmember Messick**

Mayor Sartor asked if anyone wanted to withdraw their nominations.
Councilmember Messick withdrew her nomination of Councilmember Sanita Fox.
Councilmember Fox withdrew her nomination of Councilmember Messick.
Congratulatory remarks were extended to Mayor Pro-Tem Miller.

B. Council to consider reappointment of Municipal Court Solicitor, Julie Kert.

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

C. Council to consider re-appointment of City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett

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

D. Council to consider the re-appointment of the Public Works Director, Marcus Heard.

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

E. Council to consider the appointment of Faith Akuta as the Community Development Director.

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

F. Council to discuss the appointment of a Finance Director.

A motion was made for Council to consider the appointment of a financial consulting service with JATAXS Consulting, LLC (Karen Slaton-Dixon) for 12 months with terms specified in the scope of services contract that was provided effective January 1st, 2026.

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

G. Council to consider approval of a contract for Legal Services by The Wiley Law Firm.

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

H. Council to consider appointments to the Accident Review Committee. (Terms to expire January 13, 2026 - Councilmember Don Dixon, City Manager, Police Chief Cato, Public Works Director Heard, and Secretary/City Clerk Jewett.)

The following were appointed to the Accident Review Committee. Terms to expire January 13, 2027: Mayor Sartor will serve in the absence of a City Manager, Councilmember C. Dixon, Police Chief Cato, Public Works Director Heard, and Secretary/City Clerk Shandrella Jewett.

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

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

This item was tabled in order to notify applicants that were selected. The announcement will be made on Monday, January 12, 2026.

RESULT: **Approved to Table (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Messick**
SECONDER: **Councilmember C. Dixon**

J. Council to consider a proposal between Blaze Leadership and the City of Jonesboro, Georgia regarding Trailblazer Retreat for Elected Officials and Workshops for Senior Leadership.

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

K. Council to consider approval of a quote from Tran Communications, LLC in the amount of $23,150.00 for Security & IT Infrastructure at 100 Gloria Drive.

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

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

RESULT: ADDED TO 01/12/26 CONSENT AGENDA

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

Community Development Director Akuta stated that the $75.00 Trade Permits Fee was not included in Council's packet. This is a standard fee which has not changed. It includes HVAC, electrical, and plumbing.

RESULT: ADDED TO 01/12/26 CONSENT AGENDA

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Council to discuss replacement of the digital signage at Lee Street Park.

RESULT: ADDED TO 01/12/26 CONSENT AGENDA

B. Council to consider a resolution regarding a budget transfer (FY25) from the Cemetery line item 100-4100-53-1800 in the amount of $35,000.00 and Other Professional Services line item 100-3200-52-1290 in the amount of $20,000.00 to Building & Facilities Maintenance line item 100-1500-53-1171 to cover cost of damages to signage at Lee Street Park.

RESULT: ADDED TO 01/12/26 CONSENT AGENDA

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

RESULT: ADDED TO 01/12/26 CONSENT AGENDA

D. Council to consider Health Insurance for Mayor and Councilmembers.

A motion was made for Council to consider Health Insurance for Mayor and Council Members that choose to have it just for them and not their families.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was 5 to 1)**
MOVER: **Mayor Pro-Tem Miller**
SECONDER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**
AYES: **Mayor Pro-Tem Miller; Councilmembers A. Dixon, C. Dixon, Curney, and Fox**
NAYS: **Councilmember Messick**

E. Council to discuss FY26 Proposed Budget and Ordinance 2026-01 regarding the adoption and approval of the FY26 Budget.

Mayor Sartor stated that Council could agree to accept the FY26 Proposed Budget or have a Special Called Meeting / Budget Retreat to go over each item, line by line, in order to get the budget adjusted for Mayor to present.

Karen Slaton-Dixon spoke regarding the FY26 Proposed Budget.

- FY23 Audit is pretty much done. The Finance Department would need to take the numbers provided by the auditors and put them into a MDNA (Management and Decision Analysis Report) and send it back to the auditors for further processing.
- FY24 through FY25 has not been audited.
- December 30, 2025 - The City has a draft of FY23 financials from the auditors.
- $900,000.00 went back into the General Fund Balance which means the City brought in more revenue than expenditures.
- FY24 and FY25 may be similar to FY23 wherein there is more revenue than expenditures but waiting for the audit to determine if this will be factual.
- All departments underspent with the exception of one department.
- FY25 has $2 million dollars more in revenue came in than expenditures gone out. The books will stay open for 60 days. Therefore, the City will still receive invoices in January and February of 2026 that are from 2025. The City would pay out of FY25 Budget. The same process applies to revenues as well. Therefore, the numbers could change.
- Approvals and Payroll – Dates that fell within FY25.
- FY26 Proposed Budget and Debt Service currently coming out of SPLOST since SPLOST is trending so high.
- The City had several Budget Meetings. At one of the Budget Meetings there was about $600,000.00 in General Fund Budget for Debt Service. The City will put this in SPLOST because this is where the payments would be coming from. This would leave $520,715.00 in Contingency for FY26. Mayor Sartor would like to put some of it in Georgia Fund 1 (Reserve) in order to gain the most interest.
- What a 2% vs 4% employee raise would look like if considered and based on contingency.
- Money rolls over into the fund balance if the City does not use all of the revenue.
- Explained what prior year means – When cities use money that was left over in the prior year to do any specific projects that may be needed for the City.
- Group Insurance for Mayor and Council is included in FY26 Budget.
- Will begin doing Financial Reports starting February 2026. However, a report can't be done if there is no budget. Currently operating under an old budget. FY26 Proposed Budget pending approval. Once FY26 Budget is approved, then the Financial Report can be done.
- Staff adjustments

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, real estate, or personnel matter(s).

None

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

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

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

Donya L. Sartor, Mayor

Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk