CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

JULY 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 6:01 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
- Councilmember Don Dixon
- Councilmember Billy Lester
- Councilmember Asjah Miller
- Councilmember Billy Powell
- City Attorney, David Dreyer
- City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett
- Assistant City Clerk, Pat Daniel
- Downtown Development Authority Manager, Andrew Simpson
- Police Chief, Christopher Cato
- Public Works Director, Marcus Heard (Absent)

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The following items were added to the Agenda.

New Business, Letter B. – Council to discuss the Millage Rate.
New Business, Letter C. – Council to discuss a finance contract.
Old Business, Letter E. – Council to discuss CDBG Funding.

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS

- Mayor's Presentation:

Mayor Sartor introduced Faith Akuta, the City's new Economic Development Manager who joined the team on June 30, 2025. Mrs. Akuta brings a wealth of experience, and her

leadership is set to strengthen our partnerships, attract new businesses, and support sustainable growth for our community.

Andrew Simpson, Downtown Development Manager expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Mayor, Council, and City staff for their unwavering support and kindness during his time of bereavement following the loss of his father.

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

None

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council to discuss an Alcohol Business Application #25-ALC-005 to provide complimentary beer, wine, and distilled spirits at 8564 Tara Blvd., Suite C., Jonesboro, Georgia 30236. The legal business name is EZ Nails Bar, LLC d/b/a EZ Nails Bar. Steve Thanh Thach has requested to be the License Representative (Required hearing and consideration set for Monday, July 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.)

Assistant City Clerk, Pat Daniel spoke regarding the above-mentioned matter.

B. Council to discuss the Millage Rate.

Mayor Sartor and Maria Wetherington (Operations Asst./Human Resources) spoke regarding the millage rate. The deadline to submit the advertisement to the newspaper is July 28, 2025. Mrs. Wetherington noted that only one advertisement is required, as the notice includes all three (3) scheduled Public Hearing dates. She explained that last year's rate was advertised at 14 mills. Mrs. Wetherington said, "The City can advertise a higher millage rate and later adopt a lower one, but it cannot advertise a lower rate and later adopt a higher rate."

The millage rate for 2024 was 8.5 mills. Mayor Sartor advised Council of the upcoming Public Hearing dates and asked if they were okay with adverting a millage rate of 14 mills.

A motion was made to advertise the new millage rate at 15 mills.

RESULT:	**Approved to advertise at 15 mills**
MOVER:	**Councilmember Miller**
SECONDER:	**Councilmember A. Dixon**
AYES:	**Mayor Pro-Tem Messick; Councilmember A. Dixon, D. Dixon, Miller, and Lester**
NAYS:	**Councilmember Powell**

C. Council to discuss a finance contract.

Mayor Sartor led the discussion and recommended that the item be tabled for now. See Old Business, Letter A. for more discussion regarding the item.

Mayor Sartor recommended postponing this item noting that Plante Moran would not be available on-site. She emphasized the need for on-the-ground support to prepare the City for the upcoming millage rate discussions. Mayor Sartor requested that Council do not entertain a vote for this item and to carry the item over to the meeting scheduled for July 14, 2025, at which time she intends to present relevant contractual agreements for Council's consideration. The plan is to bring someone in that is familiar with Tyler and that could get the City through this hurdle. She would like this person to provide an updated list on all

spending items, help assist with any amendments that need to be made, balance transfers, and to look at how HB 581 would impact the budget.

At this time Mayor Sartor asked Council to consider a Special Called Meeting (Budget Meeting) on Monday, July 14, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. which could be rolled over into the 6:00 p.m., July 14, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Messick said she would not be able to attend at 4:00 p.m. Mayor Sartor asked if there was another day Council would like to have the Budget Meeting. Councilmember A. Dixon said he preferred Monday, July 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Sartor asked Council if they could meet at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 21, 2025. Councilmember A. Dixon said he has a JYCG meeting that day.

Mayor Pro-Tem Messick asked if the meeting could be held on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Sartor asked Shelby (Executive Assistant) to send a calendar invite for July 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Wetherington advised Mayor and Council to keep in mind that August 6th is the deadline to advertise the millage rate information.

At this time, Mayor Sartor proposed scheduling the meeting for July 17, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. However, Councilmember A. Dixon would not be able available to attend in person. Therefore, Mayor stated she would follow up with the Council after consulting with Ed Wall to determine an alternate date and time.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Council to consider approval of a transitional financial support service, as recommended by Plante Moran, to provide assistance to the Finance Department. Additionally, the Council to authorize payment for the corresponding service invoice.

Mayor Sartor led the discussion and recommended postponement of the item. Plante Moran will not be able to move forward until the Tyler software issue is resolved.

A motion was made to table the item until the next Council Meeting.

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

B. Council to consider approval and adoption of Resolution 2025-006, which proposes adding language outlining the 48-hour Response Rule to the Rules of Procedures for Elected Officials (not to include weekends for City staff and Elected Officials).

The item was added to the 7/14/25 Consent Agenda.

C. Council to consider approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Clayton County and the City of Jonesboro, Georgia for the Provision of Election Services related to the 2025 Municipal General Election, at a cost of $7,151.63.

Mayor Sartor said if the County administers the election, the City would need to immediately notify residents via email and mailers, so they will completely understand that they would not be voting at Jonesboro City Center (City Hall), if approved.

The item was added to Old Business for 7/14/25 Regular Council Meeting.

D. Council to consider approval of a part-time communication/media position.

Mayor Sartor and Mrs. Wetherington led the discussion regarding potential funding sources for a part-time communication/media position. A job description was provided in the Agenda Packet. Mayor Pro-Tem Messick inquired about the salary. Mayor Sartor stated the hourly rate would be $25 per hour at 20-25 hours per week (part-time).

The item was added to Old Business for 7/14/25 Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

E. Council to discuss CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Funding.

Mayor Sartor led the discussion regarding the proposed reallocation of funds for improvements to Lee Street Park. The City received an extension to utilize $110,000.00 in CDBG funding for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Council had previously approved $105,000.00 from reserve funds for this project. However, if the reallocation is approved, the City could utilize CDBG funding instead of withdrawing from reserve. Upon Council approval, an amended sub-recipient agreement would be provided to officially reallocate the funds toward the park improvements. The Mayor noted there may still be a remaining balance of an estimated $8,000.00 (residual) as it relates to the playground (merry-go-round and zipline being deemed not qualified).

The item was added to the 7/14/25 Consent Agenda.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter(s).

At 6:53 p.m., a motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

Point of Personal Privilege was made by Councilmember A. Dixon.

Councilmember A. Dixon recognized members of the Cigar Parlour for creating a safe environment for people to enjoy in the City.

At 7:27 p.m., a motion was made to reconvene the Work Session.

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

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

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

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

Dr. Donya L. Sartor, Mayor

Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk