CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 10, 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 by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller at 6:08 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by City Clerk Jewett.

- Mayor Donya L. Sartor (Absent)
- Mayor Pro-Tem Asjah Miller (Presided over the meeting)
- Councilmember Chelsey Curney
- Councilmember Alfred Dixon
- Councilmember Cameron Dixon
- Councilmember Santia Fox
- Councilmember Tracey Messick
- City Manager, Blue Cole
- City Attorney, LaTonya Nix Wiley (Arrived at 6:11 p.m.)
- City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett
- Code Compliance Officer, Derry Walker
- Community Development Director, David Allen
- Downtown Development Authority Director, Blue Cole
- Economic Development Director, Faith Akuta (Absent)
- Finance Director, Karen Slaton-Dixon
- Operation/Human Resource, Maria Wetherington
- Police Chief, Christopher Cato
- Public Works Director – N/A

III. INVOCATION

Invocation by Pastor Amy Rhodes of First Baptist Jonesboro.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The following changes were noted:

Consent Agenda - Letter C. - Council to consider approval regarding the purchase of a tennis backboard for Lee Street Tennis Courts. Rally Master in the amount of $28,434.00. *(This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under Old Business as letter I.)*

Presentation - Letter D. - Swearing-in Ceremony of Jonesboro Youth City Government members for FY26-27 Program Year. *(This item was re-alphabetized from letter D. to Letter A., and the remaining letters were re-alphabetized.)*

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

VI. MAYOR'S PRESENTATION

A. Mayor's Report (None)

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Swearing-in Ceremony - Jonesboro Youth City Government members - FY26-27 Program Year

- Commissioner Neat Robinson provided opening remarks regarding Youth Leaders.
- JYCG Alumni - Isaac Hathaway - Spoke regarding his time with JYCG in December 2023 as a first term Councilmember and then later served as the Mayor Pro Tem during his second term. Also, he spoke about how he advocated for the youth and youth with special needs. He is currently serving as an Intern for the City of Jonesboro.
- Past JYCG Mayor - Zahion Mikell - Spoke regarding his time with JYCG Program as the third youth mayor. He thanked everyone for their support and how JYCG has accomplished so much.
- Chief Judge Keisha Wright-Hill - Spoke on how we are seeing youth today in a positive manner. Also, she administered the Oath to the below JYCG members.
- The following FY26-27 JYCG members introduced themselves:
  Director of Finance - Dylan Jenkins
  Director of Communications - Khole Hunter
  Director of Events - Riley Roscoe
  Director of Community Service - Sean Ames
  Secretary - Chyna Thornton
  City Manager - Lillian Heard
  Councilwoman - Brooklyn Seals
  Councilwoman - Eveyon Maldonado
  Councilwoman - Sariyah Robinson
  Councilwoman - Jackeline Alvarado Munoz'
  Councilwoman - Miranda Guiterriz
  Mayor - Mason White

Councilmember Fox gave a shoutout to Councilmember A. Dixon and C. Dixon for their hard work and dedication regarding the JYCG program.

B. Acknowledgment of Honorary Officer Dwayne "Buddy" Divins 5-year Anniversary (8/2/26)

C. Proclamation recognizing Ellen Divins for her significant contributions regarding Logan's Law

D. Proclamation Recognizing Georgia 811 Day

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

Leadership Clayton (Fresh Hope Lather and Load) – The group spoke regarding Fresh Hope Day that was held on July 11, 2026. She stated that eight (8) unhoused individuals have been housed. They asked Mayor and Council to consider joining Fresh Hope via an Intergovernmental Agreement.

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS & CONSIDERATIONS

A. Public Hearing regarding **Conditional Use Permit Application #26-CUP-003**, submitted by Dr. Lenore Coleman. The request is for a mixed-use dwelling, with an existing office on the first floor and a proposed rental dwelling on the second floor. The property is located at 177 North Main Street, Parcel No. 13240D C004, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236. The subject property is zoned H-2 (Historic District). The property consists of approximately 0.75 +/- acres.

Council to consider Conditional Use Permit Application #26-CUP-003.

Public Hearing Opened

Dr. Coleman spoke in favor of the request and clarified that the upstairs portion of the building has three (3) rooms: a living room, bedroom, kitchen, and a full bath.

Community Development Director Allen spoke regarding the approved conditions and clarifications regarding the rental being mid-term vs. long term.

Public Hearing Closed

RESULT: **Approved with the below Conditions (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Fox**
SECONDER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**

Conditions:

1.) The dwelling must also satisfy all Building Official and Fire Department requirements.
2.) The dwelling is not approved as a short-term rental/ Air BnB (30 days or less between rentals). If the short-term rental / Air BnB use is proposed in the future, it must first be brought back to the Mayor and Council for approval as a conditional use permit.

B. Public Hearing regarding **Text Amendment #26-TA-001** regarding further revisions and updates to the "Table of Uses Allowed by Zoning District", Section 86-204, of Article VI – Conditional Uses, Chapter 86 – Zoning, of the City of Jonesboro Code of Ordinances.

Council to consider Text Amendment #26-TA-001.

Public Hearing Opened

No one came forth to speak.

Public Hearing Closed

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

C. Public Hearing regarding **Text Amendment #26-TA-002** regarding further revisions and updates to Article VI – Conditional Uses, Chapter 86 – Zoning, of the City of Jonesboro Code of Ordinances, corresponding to revisions and updates to the "Table of Uses Allowed by Zoning District", Section 86-204.

Council to consider Text Amendment #26-TA-002.

Public Hearing Opened

No one came forth to speak.

Public Hearing Closed

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

D. **Public Hearing** regarding **Text Amendment #26-TA-003** regarding further revisions and updates to Article XVII – Additional Conditional Uses, Chapter 86 – Zoning, of the City of Jonesboro Code of Ordinances, corresponding to revisions and updates to the "Table of Uses Allowed by Zoning District", Section 86-204.

Council to consider Text Amendment #26-TA-003.

Public Hearing Opened

No one came forth to speak.

Public Hearing Closed

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

E. **Public Hearing** regarding the correction of clerical display errors to the Gateway South Overlay District, Article V, Sec. 86-118 of the Jonesboro Zoning Code, as displayed on Official City of Jonesboro Zoning Map.

Council to consider alignment of the Gateway South Overlay District boundary shown on the Official City of Jonesboro Zoning Map with the codified Gateway South Overlay District boundary in the adopted Gateway South Overlay District Ordinance.

Public Hearing Opened

No one came forth to speak.

Public Hearing Closed

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

F. **Public Hearing** regarding the re-adoption of the Official **City of Jonesboro Zoning Map, #26-REZ-002**, as required by Section 86-74 of the Jonesboro Code of Ordinances, including all recent map amendment activity, correction of general clerical errors, and necessary clerical corrections to the Gateway South Overlay District.

Council to consider the re-adoption of the Official City of Jonesboro Zoning Map, #26-REZ-002.

Public Hearing Opened

No one came forth to speak.

Public Hearing Closed

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

G. **Public Hearing** regarding proposed Annexation from Clayton County into the City of Jonesboro and subsequent **Rezoning #26-REZ-001** from HI (Heavy Industrial) County to M-1 (Light Industrial) City, submitted by Hammer De Limited Partnership. The property is located at 7600 Jonesboro Road, Jonesboro, Ga. 30236, Tax Map Parcel No. 12049A A002 and consists of 32.65 total acres. It currently contains a warehousing use.

Council to consider Annexation from Clayton County into the City of Jonesboro and subsequent Rezoning #26-REZ-001 from HI (Heavy Industrial) County to M-1 (Light Industrial) City.

Public Hearing Opened

Community Development Director Allen led the discussion. He said that staff originally had recommended denial but is now recommending approval.

Presentation by Attorney Adam Buckley and Charles Stocks.

Public Hearing Closed

RESULT: **Approved with the below Conditions (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Messick**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Curney**

Conditions:

1. Existing fencing along all property boundaries (including Old Morrow Road frontage) shall be repaired or replaced where necessary, based on a walkthrough with the applicant and City staff. Applicable fencing portions shall be repaired or replaced no later than ninety (90) days from date of walkthrough.
2. External security lighting shall be installed on the property as necessary to address code violations, with lighting plan subject to approval by the City Manager, Police Chief, and Community Development Director. Applicable security lighting shall be fully installed no later than ninety (90) days from approval date of lighting plan.
3. New landscaping shall be provided for the existing entrances and along the frontage for Jonesboro Road, and the landscape plan shall be subject to approval by the City Manager and Community Development Director. New landscaping shall be fully installed no later than nine (9) months from approval date of landscape plan.
4. Future uses shall comply with the City of Jonesboro M-1 Light Industrial Zoning District. The Conditional Use Permit Application #26-CUP-004 shall serve as approval for warehouse, storage and distribution center uses for the existing building as well as future redevelopment.
5. All future redevelopment and uses on the subject property shall meet or exceed the design / construction standards of the nearby 7776 Jonesboro Road development, including exterior architectural materials, landscaping and screening, lighting, and signage. All future buildings shall be oriented so that large truck and equipment parking and loading docks are screened from Jonesboro Road with adequate landscaping, fencing, screen walls, ponds, or other screening elements.
6. Within eighteen (18) months after the city council's approval of this application, the developer shall submit site redevelopment plans and elevations/renderings to the planning director for their informal review and administrative approval.
7. Any new light industrial / warehouse use approved for the property in the future shall feature office space totaling a minimum of twenty-five hundred (2500) square feet.
8. Future development for the subject property shall be required to have concrete sidewalk connectivity along its Jonesboro Road frontage, with the sidewalk width and location subject to approval by the City Manager, Community Development Director and GDOT.

H. Public Hearing regarding **Conditional Use Permit Application #26-CUP-004**, requested by Hammer De Limited Partnership. The request is for a warehouse storage and distribution center, corresponding and subsequent to the proposed annexation of the property from Clayton County to the City of Jonesboro and proposed rezoning from HI (Heavy Industrial) in Clayton County to M-1 (Light Industrial) in the City of Jonesboro. The property is located at 7600 Jonesboro Road, Parcel No. 12049A A002, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236. The property consists of approximately 32.65 +/- acres.

Council to consider Conditional Use Permit Application #26-CUP-004, for a warehouse storage and distribution center.

Public Hearing Opened

Attorney Harold Buckley and Mr. Charlie Stocks spoke in favor of the request.

Community Development Director Allen said the Conditions were the same as the above item letter G.

Public Hearing Closed

RESULT: Approved with the below Conditions (Vote was unanimous)
MOVER: Councilmember Fox
SECONDER: Councilmember A. Dixon

Conditions:

1. Existing fencing along all property boundaries (including Old Morrow Road frontage) shall be repaired or replaced where necessary, based on a walkthrough with the applicant and City staff. Applicable fencing portions shall be repaired or replaced no later than ninety (90) days from date of walkthrough.
2. External security lighting shall be installed on the property as necessary to address code violations, with lighting plan subject to approval by the City Manager, Police Chief, and Community Development Director. Applicable security lighting shall be fully installed no later than ninety (90) days from approval date of lighting plan.
3. New landscaping shall be provided for the existing entrances and along the frontage for Jonesboro Road, and the landscape plan shall be subject to approval by the City Manager and Community Development Director. New landscaping shall be fully installed no later than nine (9) months from approval date of landscape plan.
4. Future uses shall comply with the City of Jonesboro M-1 Light Industrial Zoning District. The Conditional Use Permit Application #26-CUP-004 shall serve as approval for warehouse, storage and distribution center uses for the existing building as well as future redevelopment.
5. All future redevelopment and uses on the subject property shall meet or exceed the design / construction standards of the nearby 7776 Jonesboro Road development, including exterior architectural materials, landscaping and screening, lighting, and signage. All future buildings shall be oriented so that large truck and equipment parking and loading docks are screened from Jonesboro Road with adequate landscaping, fencing, screen walls, ponds, or other screening elements.
6. Within eighteen (18) months after the city council's approval of this application, the developer shall submit site redevelopment plans and elevations/renderings to the planning director for their informal review and administrative approval.
7. Any new light industrial / warehouse use approved for the property in the future shall feature office space totaling a minimum of twenty-five hundred (2500) square feet.
8. Future development for the subject property shall be required to have concrete sidewalk connectivity along its Jonesboro Road frontage, with the sidewalk width and location subject to approval by the City Manager, Community Development Director and GDOT.

X. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Council to consider approval of 06/02/26 Townhall Meeting Minutes.

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

B. Council to consider approval of 07/06/26 Work Session Minutes.

RESULT: Approved (Vote was unanimous)

MOVER: **Councilmember C. Dixon**
SECONDER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**

C. Council to consider approval of 07/13/26 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

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

D. Council to consider approval of 07/16/26 Special Called Council Meeting Minutes

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

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Council to consider appointment of David Allen as Jonesboro Representative on the Clayton County Land Bank.

B. Council to consider approval of safety lighting for Lee Street Park provided by Georgia Power.

C. Council to consider a fee waiver request from Clayton County Public Schools to use Lee Street Park and have a 5K on Saturday, September 26, 2026.

Council to consider approval of the above Consent Agenda.

RESULT: **Approved Consent Agenda (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Fox**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Messick**

XII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Council to consider approval of an Enterprise Permitting Software Platform.

Code Compliance Officer Walker provided an update regarding maintenance support.

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

B. Council to consider approval and adoption of a resolution authorizing immediate payment to Arts Clayton for the attached 2026 and 2027 invoices from FY2026 budget, in support of the City's ongoing partnership with Arts Clayton and its efforts to expand arts and cultural programming that enhances community engagement, tourism, and economic development.

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

C. Council to consider a Request for Proposal of Key Street Park Redevelopment.

RESULT: **Approved with the below Conditions (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**
SECONDER: **Councilmember C. Dixon**

Conditions:

1.) Verification for ownership - Title Search
2.) Staff to provide a short-term improvement plan

D. Council to discuss an Employee Climate Survey.

A motion was made to approve the Employee Climate Survey. The survey to be issued on August 17, 2026 with a 30-day response timeframe and answers to be provided around the first part of October 2026.

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

E. Council to consider approval of a revised Employee Grievance Process.

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

An amended motion was made to approve the revised Grievance Policy effective August 11, 2026, and for staff training to take place within two (2) weeks. The City Attorney will do the staff training.

RESULT: **Amended Motion Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Fox**
SECONDER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**

At 9:26 p.m., a motion was made for a five (5) minute recess.

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

At 9:34 p.m., a motion was made to reconvene the Regular Council Meeting.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Fox**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Curney**

F. Council to consider adopting a resolution creating the City of Jonesboro Charter Review Committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the City Charter and governmental structure.

City Manager Cole led the discussion. During the discussion, concerns were raised about the proposed timeline, the process for appointing committee members, and the need for meaningful public input and legislative delegation involvement. He said the review process could be completed by January 2027, allowing any proposed charter changes to be considered during the 2027 legislative session.

Several Councilmembers expressed support for reviewing and updating the charter but suggested that the full Council serve as the review body rather than creating a separate committee. Councilmember Curney recommended that the Council lead the charter review process through a series of Special Called Meetings rather than establishing a committee, while also incorporating Public Hearings to gather citizen input. Councilmembers agreed that this approach would allow for a more efficient review process while ensuring transparency through public meetings and public hearings. The importance of receiving input from residents, department heads, the City Clerk, and state legislative representatives was also emphasized.

Councilmember Curney reported that Senator Gail Davenport, Representative Eric Bell, and Representative Robert Flournoy were willing to participate in discussions and were available on August 27 and 28, 2026.

Following discussion, Council directed the City Manager and City Attorney to develop a proposed meeting schedule, review framework, and supporting information to guide the Council's charter review process. City Attorney Wiley and City Manager Cole offered to prepare a review package and recommendations for Council's consideration. Mayor Pro-Tem Miller requested that staff distribute a scheduling poll to identify dates and times for future meetings. Attorney Wiley also outlined the three forms of government available for consideration: Strong Mayor, Council-Manager, and Strong Council/Weak Mayor

City Attorney Wiley recommended that Council first determine its preferred governmental structure. She further advised that legislative delegates would participate as advisors rather than voting members and suggested inviting representatives from other municipalities to discuss their experiences with various forms of government.

Ultimately, Council voted to table the creation of a Charter Review Committee indefinitely and proceed with a Council-led charter review process supported by staff, legal counsel, legislative delegates, and public input.

A motion was made to table the creation of a Charter Committee indefinitely and to allow the City Attorney and City Manager to move forward by establishing a meeting pattern along with the information needed to move forward with the Charter changes outline to be presented to Mayor and Council.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Messick**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Fox**

G. Council to discuss an Elected Official Initiative Funds Policy.

A motion was made to table the item until 09/08/26 Work Session.

RESULT: **Approved to table (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Fox**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Curney**

H. Council to consider adopting a resolution reconstituting the governing board of the Urban Redevelopment Agency of the City of Jonesboro as an independent board of commissioners and superseding the 2024 designation of the Downtown Development Authority membership as the URA board.

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

I. Council to consider approval regarding the purchase of a tennis backboard for Lee Street Tennis Courts. Rally Master in the amount of $28,434.00. *(Discussed at 11:29 p.m.)*

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

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council to consider a partial road closure of Main Street & West Mill Street. *(This item was heard after letter F. under Old Business.)*

At 9:35 p.m., a motion was made to amend the agenda to allow item A. under New Business to be heard earlier for time sakes.

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

Andrea and Willard of Amazon Studios and MGM led the discussion. They are in the process of making a project titled Lizard Music which is a children's movie. The filming date is August 26, 2026 at the Train Depot. Southeastern Traffic Supply, LLC (STS) has a plan pertaining to signage regarding the road closures. A message will be displayed on a digital message board one week in advance. Andrea said there will be lots of signage to alert people. Chief Cato recommended approval.

RESULT: **Approved road closure of Main Street & W. Mill Street (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Curney**
SECONDER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**

An amended motion was made for Council to approve a partial road closure for S. Main Street and N. McDonough Street at the same time, and a portion of W. Mill Street and Courthouse Way on August 26, 2026. (7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

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

The following entities to be notified of the road closures include:

- Clayton County Schools and buses
- Clayton County 911 (Emergency Services)
- Clayton County Police Department and Sheriff's Office
- Jonesboro One App
- Jonesboro website and social media outlets
- Teachers to be notified and excuse the absence of students that may arrive to school late due to the road closure.

B. Council to consider updates and revisions to the City of Jonesboro's Personnel Policy.

A motion was made regarding the updates and revisions to the City of Jonesboro Personnel Policy as a special project by City Attorney Wiley, not to exceed $12,000.00. The funds to come from the Professional Services budget line item.

RESULT: **Approved - Special Project by City Attorney Wiley, not to exceed $12,000.00, and to come from Professional Services line item. (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Fox**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Curney**

C. Council to consider approval of an Addendum to the contract for Finance Director Services with JATAXS Consulting, LLC.

City Attorney Wiley led the discussion. This is an onsite Addendum that allows Karen Slaton-Dixon (who serves as a consultant) to work four (4) days per week onsite (with the exception of holidays) to perform financial services for the City. She will provide a weekly schedule.

RESULT: **Approved the Addendum and weekly schedule to be provided to Mayor and Council regarding days onsite. (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Messick**

SECONDER: Councilmember Fox

D. Council to consider approval of an Addendum to the Professional Services Contract for Legal Services with The Wiley Law Firm, P.C.. A monthly retainer amount of $18,500.00.

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

E. Council to consider approval of an Employee Workplace Dignity Policy for Elected Officials.

Mayor Pro-Tem Miller and City Attorney Wiley led the discussion. This will be added to the grievance training to take place in 14 days and go into effect in 48 hours.

A motion was made to approve an Employee Workplace Dignity Policy for Elected Officials and to include all forms of communication such as emails, text messages, the official City website, etc. when acting in official capacity. This goes into effect within 28 hours and training is to take place in 14 days.

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

F. Council to discuss fee waiver for use of Lee Street Park large amphitheater.

Council discussed a request to waive fees associated with the use of the Lee Street Park Large Amphitheater for the upcoming Jonesboro Neighborhood Day event. The City Manager expressed support for the event but cautioned that granting a fee waiver would require the City to absorb costs associated with police security, staff time, overtime, and other operational expenses.

During the discussion, Council explored alternatives, including waiving only certain fees while requiring payment for security and other essential services. Councilwoman Fox noted that Jonesboro Neighborhood Day had historically been a community event and expressed support for reviving it as a City-supported activity. She stated that the event had been previously presented to Council.

Councilmembers raised concerns about the short planning timeline, potential hidden costs, event logistics, security requirements, and fiscal responsibility. Staff advised that if the event became a council-sponsored initiative, it could be handled under the City's normal event procedures and insurance coverage rather than through a standard park rental fee waiver process.

Following discussion, Council determined that a fee waiver was no longer necessary because the event would be treated as a City-sponsored initiative. Instead, Council approved $2,500.00 in funding for Jonesboro Neighborhood Day, with funds transferred from the Contingency fund to the City Events budget through a budget amendment, to assist with event expenses such as entertainment, food, and activities. The event will take place on August 22, 2026.

A motion was made for Councilmember Fox to spearhead this City Event initiative in the amount of $2,500.00 to be utilized for Jonesboro Neighborhood Day. The funds will come from the Contingency line item.

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

The motion was amended for the 8/22/26 Jonesboro Neighborhood Day to be spearheaded by Councilmember Fox and $2,500.00 to be utilized for this City Event. Funds to be moved from Contingencies to the City Events line item via a budget amendment.

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

G. Council to consider approval of the following invoices from MRJ Commercial Contractors, Inc.: Invoice #1167 for $21,600.00 and Invoice #1178 for $5,000.00.

A motion was made to consider payment of the invoices from ARPA Funding first and if money was not already designated from ARPA funding, then to consider it being paid from SPLOST FY21.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Fox**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Curney**

H. Council to discuss and approve $15,000.00 for the Harvest Festival on October 30, 2026.

Council discussed a proposal to host a Harvest Festival on October 30, 2026, as a community-wide fall celebration. Mayor Pro Tem Miller outlined a vision for the event that includes family-friendly attractions such as a petting zoo, bubble artists, bounce houses, game trucks, food trucks, a vendor marketplace, pumpkin painting, and an artisan market. Additional components would include a month-long "Harvesting History" initiative to preserve community stories, the return of the City scarecrow contest, and a "Taste of Jonesboro" program showcasing local businesses.

The initial funding request was $15,000.00, with the expectation that sponsorships would help offset costs. However, at the Mayor's recommendation, the proposed budget was increased to up to $25,000.00 to include live entertainment, specifically a cover band (911 Band), to provide activities for all age groups. Councilmembers expressed support for the concept and confirmed that the event date would not conflict with other community fall festivals.

Following discussion, Council approved moving forward with the Harvest Festival on October 30, 2026, with a budget not to exceed $25,000.00, funded through a budget amendment transferring money from the contingency fund to the city events budget.

A motion was made was made to approve $25,000.00 (and not to exceed $25K) for the Harvest Festival on October 30, 2026.

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

An amended motion was made to approve $25,000.00 (and not to exceed $25K) for the Harvest Festival. The funds would come from contingency line item to city event line item via a budget amendment.

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

XIV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

A. Economic Development Report by Director Akuta.

City Manager Cole led the discussion in the absence of Director Akuta.

XV. FINANCE REPORT

A. Finance Report (June 2026) by Finance Director, Karen Slaton-Dixon.

Finance Director Slaton-Dixon led the discussion. She said the City Event line item is over budgeted by $81,000.00. Also, she stated that $31,000.00 has come in from donations.

Councilmember Curney wants a breakdown of each event and what was spent. Finance Director Slaton-Dixon said she will do this and get it to Council. All departments are operating within and under budget. Mayor and Council are over budget in their Education and Training line item.

XVI. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. City Manager's Report by City Manager Cole.

- Staff recommended moving the regular Council Meetings to the 3rd Mondays.
- Spoke about a Council Retreat potentially being held on September 17th and 18th . Councilmember Messick said she may not be available.
- Spoke about GMA being potential presenters and retreat being held at Clayton State University.
- Budget Meetings coming up on August 14, 16, and 18. Department heads will be available, and Council can pick a date when they want to come in.

XVII. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. City Attorney Report by City Attorney Nix Wiley

The report was emailed to Mayor and Council.

XVIII. REPORT OF CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Comments by Councilmember Fox:

- Stated she would make a social media post in regard to her comments

Comments by Councilmember Messick:

- Thanked everyone for remaining at the meeting late into the evening
- Expressed appreciation to the Council for their continued efforts on policies, projects, and initiatives benefiting the City
- Acknowledged the hard work of staff and council members
- Encouraged residents to keep families and students in their thoughts as the school year begins
- Encouraged everyone to enjoy the season and cherish time with family and friends

Comments by Councilmember C. Dixon:

- Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Announced the City's Annual Cleanup Day on August 22 at 10:00 a.m. on Spring Street. He invited residents, friends, and families to participate, noting that lunch, gloves, and supplies would be provided for volunteers.

Comments by Councilmember Curney:

- Promoted City Hall Selfie Day, encouraging residents, staff, and elected officials to take photos at City Hall and share them with GMA to showcase community pride.
- Announced the first Veterans Memorial Project Advisory Committee meeting on August 18 and expressed excitement about the volunteers' enthusiasm for the project.

Comments by Councilmember A. Dixon:

- Thanked city staff, residents, and community members for their continued support, especially for the youth.
- Announced the upcoming JYCG meeting.
- Praised the success of the City's mural initiatives and the partnerships with local artists and organizations.

- Recognized staff for onboarding 13 interns who are eager to contribute to City projects, including the City newsletter.
- Thanked residents for participating in public comments.
- Expressed support for Jonesboro Neighborhood Day.
- Promoted the upcoming Runsboro GA 5K, and thanked staff for their work in organizing the event.

Comments by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller:

- Thanked City staff and council members for their commitment and noted that the recent lengthy meetings reflect the council's intentional efforts to improve the City.
- Recognized Councilmen C. Dixon and A. Dixon for their youth-focused initiatives.
- Highlighted the success of the Play Jonesboro summer programs, including Toddler Tuesday, Bubble Day, STEM Saturday, and the upcoming Chalk the Park event (this Friday at 5 to 8 pm) event.
- Special shoutout to Taylor, Makayla, City Manager, Chief Cato, Officer Brumfield, and any staff that assisted with the summer programs.
- Thanked numerous staff members and public safety personnel for their contributions to these activities.
- Announced a food drive at noon on August 14 at Mundy's Mill High School, and encouraged residents in need to participate.
- Reminded the community about the August 22 Jonesboro Neighborhood Day cleanup and block party on August 26, encouraging residents to stay engaged through the City's social media platforms.
- Acknowledgement of Councilmember Curney birthday (August 10th) and City Clerk Jewett birthday (August 13th).
- Reminder that City Clerk Jewett will be out of the office on vacation August 13-22, 2026.

XIX. OTHER BUSINESS

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

None

B. Council to consider reconvening the Public Session. N/A

C. Council to consider approval of the Executive Session Affidavit and Minutes (if any). N/A

D. Council to consider any action(s), if necessary, based on decision(s) made in Executive Session. N/A

XX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 a.m.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Curney**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Fox**

Dr. Donya L. Sartor, Mayor

Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk