CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 10, 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 at 6:09 p.m. by Mayor Sartor.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by City Manager, Miller-Thornton.

- 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 Manager, ChaQuias Miller-Thornton
- City Attorney, David Dreyer
- Interim City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett
- Interim Police Chief, Christopher Cato
- Finance Director, Cynthia Hammond
- Public Works Director, Marcus Heard
- Downtown Main Street Manager, Andrew Simpson

III. INVOCATION

Invocation by Pastor Mill Smith.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

The following items were added to XIII. OLD BUSINESS:

D. Item 1. Council to consider approval to draft an ordinance for forensic audit guidance.

Item 2. Council to consider approval and adoption of an ordinance regarding the forensic audit.

E. Council to consider approval of appropriations regarding a fourth (4^{th}) vehicle for the Police Department. Vehicle quote in the amount of $48,310.00.

F. Council to consider approval of the Compensation Grade and Step Plan regarding staff salaries.

G. Council to discuss the 4th of July event Festivities.

The following item was added to XIV. NEW BUSINESS:

B. Council to consider the approval of a proposal from Billy's Affordable Tree Service in the amount of $3,600.00 for tree removal service. The tree is located at 123 Ingleside Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia.

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

VI. MAYOR'S PRESENTATION

None

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Echo Healing Center and Residences Project - Duke Hill Properties, LLC.

The Echo Healing Center & Residences

Cori Honore', President of Duke Hill Properties provided a brief overview regarding their mission, project summary, services, the facility, and project renderings. The Echo Healing Center & Residences is looking to redevelop the 60-unit building (30,000.00) located at 6907 Tara Boulevard (30,000 sq. ft.). Their mission is to provide critical care and healthy housing solutions for individuals with chronic health conditions, while partnering with local hospitals to reduce hospital strain and ensure patients recover safely and sustainably.

The Echo Healing Center & Residences is an innovative comprehensive care facility with 18 units for Respite Care for post-hospitalization recovery and housing for local hospital patients. 42 studio units are for integrative care for individuals with chronic physical and/or mental health conditions needing ongoing care in a stable setting. The facility would be staffed by doctors, nurses, social workers, therapists, and security.

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

- Tiffani Howard - Spoke in favor of Mayor Sartor continuing in her role as Mayor. Thanked Mayor Sartor for her contributions.
- Attania Jean-Funny (President of Clayton County Federation of Democratic Women, Lovejoy, GA) - Shared a list of accomplishments that Mayor Sartor completed.
- Pastor Robert L. Burton (The Association of Christian Ministers of Clayton County, Riverdale, GA) - Asked everyone to stop harassing Mayor Sartor.
- Judith Cotton (Member of Shiloh Baptist Church) - Asked everyone to respect Mayor Sartor and let her lead the City.
- Ricky Blalock - Spoke regarding the resignation letter of Mayor Sartor and provided documents.
- Ann Wise (Jonesboro Resident) - Spoke against Mayor Sartor. She stated, "the reason why everything is happening is because of Mayor Sartor and that is why everyone is present for the meeting tonight".
- Larry Jones (Jonesboro Resident) - Spoke regarding the growth of Jonesboro and that taxpayer's monies should no longer be used for frivolous investigation.
- Stanley Jones - Spoke regarding the desire to see the City of Jonesboro progress and don't want to keep seeing the City on the news.
- Pat Pullar - Spoke regarding voting expectations. She stated, "Let's work together, govern, and allow Mayor Sartor to do her job, and stop usurping her authority."

- Jessie Goree - Quoted Hebrews 12:25-29 - A kingdom that cannot be shaken. He stated, "Let's find a way to work together."
- Arlene Charles (Jonesboro Resident) - Made the following statement: "I was offended by the president of Clayton County Federation of Democratic Women holding up a sign during the meeting." Stated, "she does not want to see the City of Jonesboro in the news, and that a lot of things that were said are not true.
- Sam Ibonez - Made the following statement: "Let's get ethical and reformed."
- Darlene Johnson (Rex, GA) - Community Leaders for District 1 DNC. – Spoke of being in full support of Mayor Sartor regarding her role as Mayor. Also, spoke about strong mayor vs weak mayor.
- Christopher Bryant (Stockbridge, GA) - Spoke regarding the following: Optics Matter (Seeing vs. Hearing, and Body Language). He stated, the audio may be muted, but the visual is still present. Racism in the City of Jonesboro.
- Gaye Dobson (Jonesboro Resident) - Made the following statement: "Let's work together to support the children of Jonesboro."
- Maquita Jackson (Morrow, GA) - Spoke in support of Mayor Sartor regarding her role as Mayor. He said there is a sense of fear in Jonesboro. Fear is False Evidence Appearing Real. Asking for grace and compassion.
- Ed Wise (Jonesboro Resident) - Made the following statement: "Most people speaking do not live in the City of Jonesboro and the City needs to listen to the people who live in Jonesboro and not those outside of the City."
- Ethelene Meadows (Member of Shilow Baptist Church) - Presented a plaque to Mayor Sartor on behalf of the church. The plaque reads: "Presented to Mayor Dr. Donya L. Sartor with our deepest gratitude for your exceptional support and partnership. Continue to be a blessing dated 02/22/25.
- Drew Andrews (Chairman of the Clayton County Democratic Party) Jonesboro, GA - Spoke about leading from the front and feeling alone. He told Mayor Sartor, "we have your back and will come from all over to support you."
- State Representative Robert Flourney (Hampton, GA) - Spoke encouraging words to the Councilmembers and said he is in support of Mayor and Council putting other things aside for the betterment of the people.
- Tracie More (Atlanta, GA) - Spoke regarding unity of government.
- Maya Davis (President of the Young Democrats of Clayton County) - Spoke in support of Mayor Sartor. Spoke regarding unfair treatment towards Mayor Sartor because of her womanhood.
- Torrey Harris (Jonesboro, GA) - Spoke in support of Mayor Sartor. He stated, "I have known Mayor Sartor for years and the Mayor cares for the community." "Wish we could all come together as a community."

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Council to consider approval of the Minutes from January 13, 2025 Caucus Meeting.

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

B. Council to consider approval of the Minutes from January 13, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.

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

C. Council to consider approval of the Minutes from February 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.

RESULT: **Approved with noted change to the correct spelling of Helen Meadows last name under the Public Comment section. (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Miller**

D. Council to consider the approval of the Minutes from February 24, 2025 Special Called Council Meeting.

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

X. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

A. Economic Development Report by Downtown Main Street Manager, Andrew Simpson.

Downtown Development Manager, Andrew Simpson provided a brief report. See Agenda Packet for the report.

XI. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Financial Report by Finance Director, Cynthia Hammond.

Finance Director Hammond provided a brief report. She spoke regarding the following accomplishments and items pending over the last 90-days.

- The bank reconciliations for nine of the eleven accounts were completed
- The payroll postings from July 2024 through February 2025 were completed
- Cash receipt postings from July 2024 through January 2025 for the Municipal Court Fund were completed
- Group Insurance and other benefits from July 2024 through February 2025 were completed
- 1099 and 1096 for the fiscal year were completed
- Payroll processing fees from July 2024 to February 2025 were posted
- FY25 Budget was entered into Incode

Items to be completed include:

- Credit Card entries from July 2024 to February 2025
- Bank reconciliations for the Municipal Court Funds and the Pool Cash Fund
- Work papers for the audits are ongoing
- FY23 and FY24 Audit
- Mr. Lamont, the financial consultant, is scheduled to start working on March 11, 2025

At this time, Finance Director Hammond discussed the January 2025 preliminary expense report.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Council to consider approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Clayton County Tax Commission and the City of Jonesboro, Georgia.

B. Council to consider approval and adoption of Resolution #2025-004 Declaring Support For The Preservation Of The Federal Tax Exemption Of Municipal Bonds.

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

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Council to consider approval and adoption of Resolution #2025-003 To Adopt The Tara Boulevard Livable Centers Initiative Plan dated July 2024.

RESULT: **Approved (5 to 1)**
MOVER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Miller**
AYES: **Mayor Pro-Tem Messick; Councilmembers A. Dixon, Lester, Miller, and Powell**
NAYS: **Councilmember D. Dixon**

B. Council to consider approval and adoption of Ordinance #2025-002 regarding FY2024 Budget Amendment for:

- Mayor & Council $58,293.00
- Administration $158,123.00
- City Center Operations $41,743.00

Mayor Pro-Tem Messick stated, "the budget amendments should be brought to Council when there is a need for one and not after the fact." "For this reason, I ask the Council to consider tabling the item until after the forensic audit is completed."

City Manager Miller-Thornton provided insight regarding the matter. She stated, "if the budget amendments are approved, it does not negate the fact that budget amendments have been made. Therefore, there is still a record at the time of making the budget amendment that the line-item appropriation was overspent. However, you don't want to go into the audit cycle for 2024 with a substantial misstatement of expenditures which creates another finding on your audit. What you want to present to the financial auditors is working papers that are in line with what has happened within the organization. You want to represent the amendment within your working papers when you turn them into the auditors. What you are concerned about will still be represented based on the nature of the amendment and the minutes that would go along with the item."

Mayor Pro-Tem Messick thanked City Manager Miller-Thornton for providing clarity. She asked Attorney Dreyer to confirm, and he said approval of the amendment would be used primarily to balance the books for the audit.

Mayor Pro-Tem Messick asked Mayor Sartor if she could withdraw the motion to table the item. Mayor Sartor said, the original motion was seconded and that Mayor Pro-Tem question to table the item was during discussion. Therefore, there is no motion to table. The original motion stands which is to approve the original item.

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

C. Council to consider approval and adoption of Ordinance #2025-003 regarding FY2025 Budget Amendment for:

- Transfer $2,153.00 from Public Works Department 4100 to Code Enforcement
- FY 2025 Hotel/Motel Tax Fund Budget
- FY 2025 Sanitation Fund Budget

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

D. Council to discuss Request for Proposal results regarding Forensic Auditors.

The City's Administration Office received several Request For Proposals for Special Forensic Audit Services that were due February 13, 2025. Last week, City Manager Miller-Thornton presented to Mayor and Council the proposal of Plante Moran for Forensic Auditing Services. At that time, there was consent by Council to potentially add FY22 to the forensic audit cycle.

City Manager Miller-Thornton reached out to Plante Moran about adding FY22. Plante Moran said they were willing to provide this in a proposal scope, in what is called an Engagement Letter. As of today, the City has not received the Engagement Letter. However, the base rate for those services would be a blended rate of $300.00 per hour. Initially, it was presented that the audit would take an estimated 250-260 hours (estimated cost of $65,000.00 on the low end for FY23 & FY24). Also, they would provide a listing of the representatives of their firm that would be servicing the City. Therefore, the City is waiting for the following items:

- Engagement Letter, with the additional proposed cost for FY22 and a list of representatives who would service the City regarding the audit.

Mayor Sartor clarified the above information and said, "we would add the difference for FY22 and therefore, no action on this item at this time." City Manager Miller-Thornton said once the City receives the Engagement Letter, it will be submitted to Council for approval.

Item #1 - Council to consider approval for City Attorney Dreyer to draft an ordinance for guidance during the forensic audit.

Mayor Pro-Tem Messick stated, "in order to proceed with the forensic audit and for it to be a clean audit, I proposed that we consider drafting an ordinance that would outline guidance for the forensic auditors to include the Council and the Mayor not being involved at all during the forensic audit." "That it be completely between the attorney (our legal team), our Finance Director, and her assistant." " The Mayor and Council to be hands-off."

Also, Mayor Pro-Tem Messick stated, "in the ordinance, I want it to read that everyone (Mayor and each Councilmember) can speak to the forensic auditors (before they begin the process) to bring up any concerns each member has so that they have guidance as they are going through the process... to see where any members of this board would have a concern and then those concerns would be created in a list for the attorney that would be sharable with the entire Council."

Mayor Sartor stated, "a clean audit has clear allegations and this one has none, therefore, any person that touches the audit could be at risk to incur an unclean audit." "As of now, it is really an in-general audit because we have no clear allegations for it." "As of now, I can't say that as the Chief Executive Officer of the City that I will step back and be hands-off on something that may require some input form me administratively along with Mrs. Thornton to move this process forward."

Mayor Pro-Tem Messick reemphasized the point of Mayor and Council meeting (in advance) with the forensic auditors along with providing a list of concerns to the City Attorney. Mayor Sartor stated she would like to see if Council (in its authority) could have access to this from a legal standpoint based on the current Charter and day-to-day operations. Mayor Sartor said she would work with staff (City Manager, Finance Department, and everyone else) to make sure the City has a clean audit.

City Attorney Dreyer read a draft of what he believes the Council wants to see in the ordinance. However, a forensic auditor would need clarification as time goes on. He stated, "I was trying to keep the employees that are providing information clean from political influence." Mayor Pro-Tem Messick said this is the direction the City needs to go in. She said since the Council requested the forensic audit, then Council should be informed every step of

the way. Mayor Sartor said this makes it even more problematic because Council requested the forensic audit and then they want to monitor it.

City Manager Miller-Thornton said the forensic auditors are not going to want to directly engage with the Mayor or the Council. Several auditors asked if their engagement would be directly with the City Attorney. The list of concerns needs to be submitted before the forensic auditors start the process. She further said, "if the City hires a forensic auditor, the auditor would more than likely prefer to engage with the City Attorney and through legal (City Attorney) to the appropriate staff....this would be the cleanest way."

Councilmember Miller had two (2) questions about speaking to the forensic auditors prior to the start of the process.

Question #1. "If all of us speak to them in private, then we don't know what all we are asking them to look for, therefore, we have no idea of knowing (as a collective) what the price tag might be." "Is it better practice for us to bring forth our concerns publicly (so we will know) instead of speaking to them individually." City Manager Miller-Thornton spoke regarding the RFP that was put out with a certain set of standards regarding what the Council was looking for the auditors to engage with us on. The bidders responded based on the scope of work the City had presented. If Council change the scope substantially, then the RFP would have to be put back out for bidding.

Question #2. "If the forensic auditors need something from the Mayor (in a time where staff was not present), would legal (City Attorney) just talk to the Mayor to obtain such information and the City Attorney would provide that information to the forensic auditors? City Manager Miller-Thornton said this was correct and the same scenario would apply to staff as well.

Mayor Sartor said she feels that it is a disservice and inappropriate to suggest an ordinance on the day of the meeting. She stated ordinances are very serious and are placed in the books.

RESULT: **Approved (No ayes/nays taken. See below withdrawal of the above motion).**
MOVER: **Mayor Pro-Tem Messick**
SECONDER: **Councilmember D. Dixon**

Discussion – Councilmember Miller asked for clarification regarding the guidance. She wanted to know what language would be used as it relates to guidance. Mayor Pro-Tem Messick said the Council could review what the City Attorney present and go from there. The draft ordinance could be modified.

Mayor Pro-Tem Messick asked City Manager Miller-Thornton if the City should do another RFP for a Forensic Auditor to include the addition of FY22 and the additional scope of work. City Manager Miller-Thornton made a recommendation for the City to complete the financial audit for FY23 and FY24 and present any findings and any audit results to a forensic auditor who can then take the findings of the completed regular audit (with specifics of what the Council is looking for) and put those things together to present to a forensic auditor.

City Manager Miller-Thornton said if Council wants to include additional services ahead of engagement, then the Council should consider the scope of the RFP and re-present the RFP for solicitation. If additional services are needed after engagement, then that would be a different story.

Mayor Sartor stated, "let's get these two years of regular audits done and see what those findings are." "This would give Council time to come up with any specific information Council wants to ask or add." An RFP for a forensic audit can be done at this time that clearly says "based on the findings from the regular audit and anything Council may have come up with that they may want to look deeper into...this would narrow the scope."

City Attorney Dreyer asked when would the regular audit begin? City Manager Miller-Thornton said the FY23 and FY24 regular audit are scheduled to begin in April 2025. The final audit report would be presented by June 30, 2025 to the Georgia Department of Audits & Accounts.

Mayor Sartor asked Council if they could postpone the draft ordinance until the City receives the Engagement Letter. The draft ordinance should include components from the Engagement Letter. Council agreed that a Special Called Meeting should be held after the letter is received.

Council to consider a Special Called Meeting after the City receives the Engagement Letter from Plante Moran (Once received, the City can move forward with a better scope and understanding).

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

A motion was made to withdraw the previous motion regarding the draft of the ordinance as it relates to guidance for the forensic auditors. *(Per City Attorney Dreyer, it cannot be brought up again.)*

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

Item #2 - Council to consider approval and adoption of a draft ordinance regarding forensic audit guidance.

No action due to the above motion (withdrawal) being approved.

E. Council to consider approval of appropriations regarding a fourth (4th) vehicle for the Police Department. Vehicle quote in the amount of $48,310.00.

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

F. Council to consider approval of the Compensation Grade and Step Plan regarding staff salaries.

City Manager Miller-Thornton led the discussion. Last week she presented City of Jonesboro data regarding compensation study as presented by Mercer. The study was about meeting the market match and being more competitive. Within the compensation study the City was presented with a market match for the positions employed by the City of Jonesboro to exclude Public Safety, Code Compliance position, and the City Manager's position. A significant majority of the City of Jonesboro's salaries operate within the lower 25th percentile (rate for salaries) as opposed to the market match for those same positions. In order to move the City's salaries across the board, it was presented that the cost for all of those salaries to be moved in a grade scale to the 50th percentile so that we would be competitive in the market was about $228,000.00. However, it does not include the Police Department (PD). In order to bring the Police Department to a market rate salary above or at a salary that is competitive in the market that is around us, the City would need to move the Police Department's salary an additional $5,000.00 per year above the starting rate. For 12 patrol positions, it would be $60,000.00. So not to include the City Manager's position, a cost of $289,000.00 would be necessary to move salaries in the current positions as employed by the City of Jonesboro and it would be at an annual rate.

It has been identified that the City currently have a Georgia One Fund. The interest rate is $130,000 per year. The City would be able to use the interest on the Georgia One Fund account plus the additional $59,000.00 from the Georgia One Fund to fund the salary increases.

I did not want to create the full of the Grade and Salary scale until Council determines if they want to operate within the 50th percentile. In order to operate within the 25th percentile, (which would make the City a little bit less competitive within the market) the cost would be $100,000.00.

Mayor Sartor asked what would get the City employees close to a livable wage? City Manager Miller-Thornton stated, "the 75th percentile would get the City to a livable wage ($24 per hour)." "Not taking into account that the City have salaries at present that operate within the 50th and 75th percentile." Therefore, everyone would not move.

A motion was made to approve a composition of a Grade and Scale Plan at the 50th percentile. Once the Grade and Scale Plan has been composed, it would come back to Council for a review and establishment within the City's pay scale. Then the City Manager will get exact numbers from this.

City Manager Miller-Thornton, said once Council decides on the percentile the City will operate within, then she will compose a Grade and Step Plan. The plan will be for all positions within the City to start at step 1 (assign a grade). Every grade will have a potential step increase (annual cost of living, promotion, anything other than a lateral transfer, etc.). The scale would provide the salary range for positions that come in at the minimum requirements plus some level of education. It would be a very detailed plan. Therefore, in summary, the 50th percentile (not to include the City Manager's position) would be $289,000.00. The 75th percentile would be about $521,000.00.

Mayor Sartor said the goal is to move from a minimum wage to a livable wage. Last year the City increased the minimum wage from $15.00 per hour to $19.00 per hour.

A motion was made to raise the minimum wage to $24.00 per hour and leave everything else the same (effective once Council receives the draft).

RESULT: **Motion was withdrawn (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Powell**
SECONDER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**

Discussion: City Manager Miller-Thornton stated, "provided you would bring those making $19.00 per hour up to $24.00 per hour and then increase the other salaries by the percentage equivalent to make sure there is no compression." Mayor Sartor recommended moving to the 75th percentile and identifying the cost ($500 - $600K). Councilmember Powell said he could not go along with $600K at the 75th percentile. However, he would like to see the minimum wage go up to $24.00 per hour.

City Manager Miller-Thornton made a recommendation for Council to increase the minimum wage to $24.00 per hour and then let her and Finance Director Hammond come up with a Compensation Scale that is within the City's budget for any cash fund, and they would present it to Council accordingly. She said doing it this way would allow Council to decide how they would want to move forward. Councilmember Miller requested that the millage rate be included as well. Mayor Sartor asked City Manager if she had the directions needed to move forward and she replied, "yes".

Councilmember Powell withdrew the above motion.

RESULT: **Motion was withdrawn (Vote was unanimous)**

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

G. Council to discuss the 4th of July event festivities.

On March 3, 2025, Council had discussion about consideration of a July 5th celebration for the July 4th holiday. The information was presented to the Public Works staff members. The administrative team discussed and made a recommendation for the event to be held on July 3rd instead of July 5th, for the record. This would save the City money as it relates to holiday pay and overtime. Mr. Simpson has already ensured that everything would be available on July 3rd. The Mayor and Council were okay with having the event on July 3, 2025.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council to consider approval of Project Management Services for Renovation of the Gloria Drive Public Works Facility - Whitley Engineering - $23,640.00.

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

B. Council to consider the approval of a proposal from Billy's Affordable Tree Service in the amount of $3,600.00 for tree removal service. The tree is located at 123 Ingleside Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia.

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

XV. REPORT OF CITY MANAGER

A. City Manager's Report

- Public Works Facility Improvement Renovation Project set to begin on March 17, 2025 along with the Groundbreaking Ceremony at 10:00 a.m. The pre-construction meeting will be held in-house on March 14, 2025.
- Grant Application was submitted to Southern Cities Economic Inclusion Program with the intent to revise the cities procurement policies to include inclusive practices.
- Tara Boulevard round table discussions (Thanked Council for adopting the plan)

XVI. REPORT OF CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Comments by Councilmember Powell:
- No comments

Comments by Mayor Pro-Tem Messick:
- No comments

Comments by Councilmember D. Dixon:
- No comments

Comments by Councilmember Miller:
- Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Comments by Councilmember Lester:
- No comments

Comments by Councilmember A. Dixon:
- Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting

- Office hours are 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the City Hall for anyone needing to address any concerns or share their ideas
- April 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. - Jonesboro Youth City Government will have their 2nd Annual Fund-Raising Event at the Skate Zone skating ring

XVII. REPORT OF MAYOR

Comments by Mayor Sartor:

- Congratulatory remarks extended to a resident that moved into her new Habitat for Humanity home.
- March 10-12, 2025 - National League of Cities (Congressional City Conference)
- April 20-26, 2025 - Georgia Cities Week
- April 26, 2025 - Spring Fling Concert
- Community Quarterback Habitat for Humanity - Reforming the Community Quarterback Committee
- Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their public comments

XVIII. OTHER BUSINESS

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

At 8:52 p.m., a motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

The Executive Session did not take place. Therefore, a motion was made to reconvene to Regular Session at 9:22 p.m.

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

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

None

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Powell**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Miller**

Dr. Donya L. Sartor, Mayor

Shandrella Jewett, Interim City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Jonesboro, GA
1859 City Center Way| Jonesboro, Georgia 30236

STATEMENT OF MAYOR DONYA SARTOR
CONFIRMING SHE WILL NOT OFFER A RESIGNATION

Dear Citizens and Colleagues:

During the Special Called meeting earlier this evening I gave the public **an indication** that I would resign on April 19, 2025. After speaking with numerous residents and business owners and other stakeholders in the City of Jonesboro, I have changed my mine and **I will not offer a resignation as mayor.**

Specifically speaking, when I gave the indication, I was under duress by several colleagues who may have nefarious reasons for trying to force me out of my duly elected position. I believe that although it would be personally favorable to my family and me, I cannot, in my heart, let down the thousands of citizens who are depending on me to fulfill and complete the term of office to which they elected me. Also, as a proud graduate and alumnus of Emory, Georgia State and Clark Atlanta Universities, I must finish the job as mayor—and I will.

Accordingly, after consulting with counsel, and under Georgia state law and the Charter of the City of Jonesboro, there is no vacancy in the Mayor's Office, and there is no resignation from the mayor.

Also, it came to my attention via a social-media post that some members of the Council have called a special called meeting of the Council for Friday, at 6 p.m. to accept my resignation. Secondly, according to state law and the city charter, there can be no special called meeting without first providing the mayor and council members with **48 hours personal notice**. That notice would have had to be delivered personally to me and all council members by Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 6 p.m. Therefore, I will not be attending an unlawful meeting, and there can be no lawful meeting of the Council tomorrow evening to accept **a resignation that does not exist and has not been tendered.**

Yours in service,

Donya L. Sartor, Ph.D.
Mayor

2024 CODE OF GEORGIA
Title 45 - PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES (§§ 45-1-1 — 45-25-7)
Chapter 5 - VACATION OF OFFICE (§§ 45-5-1 — 45-5-7)
Section 45-5-1 - When offices deemed vacated; filling vacancy; notice; appeal

Universal Citation:
GA Code § 45-5-1 (2024)

(a) All offices in the state shall be vacated:

(1) By the death of the incumbent;

(2) By resignation, when accepted;

(3) By decision of a competent tribunal declaring the office vacant;

(4) By voluntary act or misfortune of the incumbent whereby he or she is placed in any of the specified conditions of ineligibility to office;

(5) By the incumbent ceasing to be a resident of the state or of the county, circuit, or district for which he or she was elected;

(6) By failing to apply for and obtain commissions or certificates or by failing to qualify or give bond, or both, within the time prescribed by the laws and Constitution of Georgia; or

(7) By abandoning the office or ceasing to perform its duties, or both.

(b) Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in any office in the state, the officer or body authorized to fill the vacancy or call for an election to fill the vacancy shall do so without the necessity of a judicial determination of the occurrence of the vacancy. Before doing so, however, the officer or body shall give at least ten days' notice to the person whose office has become vacant, except that such notice shall not be required in the case of a vacancy caused by death, final conviction of a felony, or written resignation. The decision of the officer or body to fill the vacancy or call an election to fill the vacancy shall be subject to an appeal to the superior court; and nothing in this subsection shall affect any right of any person to seek a judicial determination of the eligibility of any person holding office in the state. The provisions of this subsection shall apply both to vacancies occurring under this Code section and to vacancies occurring under other laws of this state.

(c) Any Governor appointed seat of an executive branch board, commission, or council shall be filled by appointment of the Governor as provided by law when the seat becomes vacant upon term expiration or when declared vacant by the Governor pursuant to this Code section.

Amended by 2023 Ga. Laws 57,§ 3, eff. 5/1/2023.

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