CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

MARCH 03, 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 6:07 p.m. by Mayor Sartor.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by City Manager Miller-Thornton.

Present:

- Mayor Donya L. Sartor
- Mayor Pro-Tem Tracey Messick
- Councilmember Alfred Dixon
- Councilmember Don Dixon
- Councilmember Billy Lester
- Councilmember Asjah Miller – Arrived at 6:33 p.m.
- 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
- Downtown Development Authority Manager, Andrew Simpson

Absent:

- Public Works Director, Marcus Heard

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A. Council to approve and adopt the amended Agenda.

- Added letter B. under Old Business - Council to discuss Juneteenth and 4th of July Concert. Council to consider an agreement with The 911 Band (Kasper Rouser) for Juneteenth.
- Added letter C. under Old Business - Discussion regarding Compensation Grade and Step Plan pertaining to staff salaries.
- Added letter D. under Old Business - Council to reconsider staff's $1,000.00 incentive bonus that was approved by City Council at the February 24, 2025 Special Called Council Meeting.

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

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

- Susan Taylor, Advisor for the Jonesboro Youth City Government (Jonesboro, GA) - Spoke regarding Georgia Municipal Association's 2025 Youth Forum. She thanked Mayor and Council for giving JYCG youth an opportunity to interact with other youths across the State of Georgia and that they had an amazing time.

V. PRESENTATIONS

None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Council to consider approval of a Sales Agreement between Deep South Fireworks, LLC and the City of Jonesboro, Georgia for the Juneteenth (June 19th) Concert and the July 5th Concert.

Andrew Simpson provided estimates from Deep South Fireworks, LLC, Big Grin Fireworks, LLC, and Ghost Coast Entertainment, LLC regarding fireworks for Juneteenth and the Fourth of July event.

June 19th Concert - $7,500.00
July 4th Concert - $15,500.00 (requires a premium)
July 5th Concert - $13,750.00

Staff recommended Deep South Fireworks based on the estimate provided. Mayor and Council had discussion regarding the best day to have the 4th of July Concert. Council agreed that July 5th would be a better day.

RESULT: **Approved contract with Deep South Fireworks, LLC (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**
SECONDER: **Mayor Pro-Tem Messick**

B. Council to consider approval of a contract agreement between Kasper 911 Band ($2,800.00) and the City of Jonesboro, Georgia for the June 19th Concert.

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

Council to consider approval of a contract agreement between Rock USA ($2,500.00) and the City of Jonesboro, Georgia for the July 5th Concert.

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

C. Consideration of Compensation Grade and Step Plan regarding staff salaries.

City Manager Miller-Thornton led the discussion. She stated, in order for her to establish a Pay in Classification Grading Step Plan, she would need to know what percentile Council would prefer the City to operate within. She recommended operating within the 50th percentile. Mayor Sartor asked City Manager Miller-Thornton to run the numbers. The City Manager agreed and would bring this item back to the Council at the April 7, 2025 Work Session.

Councilmember Miller joined the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Mayor Pro-Tem Messick asked City Manager Miller-Thornton to review Lake City and other cities in the surrounding area. She said, "I have creative ideas of where the revenue stream can come from."

D. Council to rescind the February 24, 2025 motion (regarding the approval of staff being awarded a $1,000.00 incentive/bonus for being with the City for one year) to a later date.

RESULT:	**Motion failed due to a lack of 2/3 support (Vote 4 to 3)**
MOVER:	**Councilmember Lester**
SECONDER:	**Councilmember D. Dixon**
AYES:	**Mayor Pro-Tem Messick; Councilmembers D. Dixon, Lester, and Powell**
NAYS:	**Mayor Sartor; Councilmembers: A. Dixon and Miller**

Mayor Sartor called the vote.

AYES:	**Mayor Pro-Tem Messick; Councilmembers D. Dixon, Lester, and Powell**
NAYS:	**Mayor Sartor; Councilmembers: A. Dixon and Miller**

Councilmember D. Dixon spoke regarding $26,000.00 in overtime for the 2024 budget. He said he is concerned about how it was split. He asked the City Manager to look into this matter and asked where the money came from as it related to Code Enforcement's two employees.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council to discuss Resolution #2025-RES-003 To Adopt The Tara Boulevard Livable Centers Initiative Plan dated July 2024.

Keri Stevens provided a brief presentation regarding Reimagining Tara Boulevard - A Blueprint for Equity, Mobility, and Economic Growth. Aerotropolis Atlanta.

The Tara Boulevard LCI Study is a comprehensive study to rethink how we view the 11-mile corridor.

No Action Taken

B. Council to discuss an Intergovernmental Agreement between Clayton County Tax Commission and the City of Jonesboro, Georgia.

Clayton County Tax Commissioner, Ms. Danielle Smith led the discussion regarding the billing changes that would be required as it relates to HB581.

The item was added to the Consent Agenda.

C. Council to discuss Resolution #2025-RES-004 Declaring Support For The Preservation Of The Federal Tax Exemption Of Municipal Bonds.

City Manager Miller-Thornton led the discussion. She stated that legislation is being considered to remove the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. A letter was sent to Congressman David Scott. However, she would like to submit the resolution to David Scott's office as well. The City needs this to remain in place.

The item was added to the Consent Agenda.

D. Council to consider approval and adoption of Ordinance #2025-ORD-002 regarding FY 2024 Budget Amendment for:

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

City Manager Miller-Thornton led the discussion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Messick requested more time to look through the documents since she was experiencing issues with her e-mail. Mayor Sartor said the item could be rolled over to the March 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem said she will send any questions that she may have to the City Manager.

The item will be added to the March 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

E. Council to consider approval and adoption of Ordinance #2025-ORD-003 regarding FY 2025 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

City Manager Miller-Thornton led the discussion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Messick requested the item be rolled over to the next meeting since she was experiencing issues with her email and was not able to review the documents in advance of the meeting.

The item was added to the March 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

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

City Manager Miller-Thornton led the discussion. She recommended Plante Moran ($300.00 per hour blended rate). Estimating 250-260 hours of work (to include two years). Minimum cost $65,000.00.

Mayor Sartor said she would like to have the Forensic Auditor go back mid-year FY 22 along with doing FY23, and FY24. Mayor Pro-Tem Messick asked City Manager Miller-Thornton to get an amount for FY22. Mayor Sartor asked for Plante Moran's credential.

The item was moved to the March 10, 2025 Regular Council Meeting (under Old Business) until staff can secure the cost for FY22 and identify where the monies for the forensic audit would come from.

G. Council to discuss Request for Proposal results regarding City Attorney.

City Manager Miller-Thornton led the discussion. She stated, "the RFP was sent to 200 providers and the City received one response/proposal from Dreyer & Associates."

Mayor Sartor and Council agreed to place the Request for Proposal (RFP) back out for bid since only one (1) proposal was received.

H. Council to consider a proposal for temporary and/or contracted financial service provision.

City Manager Miller-Thornton led the discussion regarding a third service provider. The previous vendor, Mr. Forsythe was unable to provide services within the City's business hours. Therefore, the City still needs additional support. The following proposals were reviewed and discussed:

- Municipal Central - $105 per hour for 24 hours per week at $40,000.00 until June 30, 2025 (when audits are due). They can provide in-house service.
- Corporate Temps - The cost would be $51,563.20 for one (1) temp for six (6) months at 40 hours per week.

Staff recommended replacing Lennox Forsythe Services with another entity (Municipal Central) and for Municipal Central to start work immediately.

A motion was made to enter into a contractual agreement between Municipal Central and the City of Jonesboro, Georgia regarding financial service.

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

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Executive Session to discuss personnel matter.

At 8:34 p.m., a motion was made to enter into Executive Session regarding a personnel matter.

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

At 8:45 p.m., a motion was made to reconvene to the Work Session.

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

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

Council to consider the appointment of Mrs. Cameron as the Community Development Director at a salary of $105,000.00.

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

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

Dr. Donya Sartor, Mayor

Shandrella Jewett, Interim City Clerk