

# CITY OF JONESBORO

July 09, 2007

## Council Meeting Minutes

The City of Jonesboro Mayor and Council held their monthly Council meeting on Monday, July 09, 2007. The meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Jonesboro Police Station, 170 South Main Street, Jonesboro, Georgia.

**Council Present:** Roger Grider Luther Maddox  
Clarence Mann Linda Wenz  
Bobby Wiggins Rick Yonce  
Mayor Joy Day

**Staff Present:** City Clerk - Janice Truhan, Chief - Wayne Rowland, Asst. Chief - Brad Johnson, Public Works Director - Joe Nettleton, Officer Carpenter, and Officer Lindsey. Mayor Day called the meeting to order, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Minutes of the May 17<sup>th</sup> and June 11, 2007 meeting were approved as written. [May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Called meeting, *Motion: Grider, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Wiggins, Vote: Unanimous*] [June 11, 2007 Regular Council Meeting, *Motion: Grider, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Wenz, Vote: Unanimous*].

The Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters [*Motion: Maddox, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Yonce, Vote: Unanimous*]. Following Executive Session, the Council voted unanimously to resume regular session: [*Motion: Mann, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Grider, Vote: Unanimous*]. Public comments were delivered by: Rosalie Doggett, Suzanne Iglar, Daniel Hudson, Jon Crane, Tony Upton, Patrick Duncan, Donya Sartor, and Beverly Lester. There was old business to discuss, and amendments to the agenda were made to add items.

The Council considered the following items (C-I and J-K - added) on the agenda:

- Considered motion to adopt Tara Wrecker's proposed contract. Approved [*Motion: Grider, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mann, Vote: Yes – Grider, Maddox, Mann, Yonce; No: Wenz, Wiggins*].
- Considered motion to develop R.F.P. for 911 dispatch system. Approved [*Motion: Grider, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Yonce, Vote: Yes – Wiggins, Yonce; Grider, Maddox, Mann; No: Wenz*].
- Considered Variance request, Mr. Larry Bazemore, Old Ivey. Approved [*Motion: Grider, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Wiggins, Vote: Unanimous*].
- Considered Officer removal from position as School Resource Officer – Approved [*Motion: Grider, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Yonce, Vote: Unanimous*].
- Considered motion to remove Linda Wenz as Council Liaison [*Motion: Wenz, 2<sup>nd</sup>: unknown, Vote: Unanimous*].
- Considered motion to create line item for Streetscape. Tabled [*Motion: Maddox, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Grider, Vote: Unanimous*].

Other Business:

Mayor Day read a statement into the minutes:

*"This is a grudge match with the media invited. Some of our council members are asserting their own personal agendas without regard to the good of our city. This year we have retaken ten steps backward as far as economic progress is concerned. We have no viable projects or agendas to show for our work since July 2006 except the renovation of the old fire station as a clubhouse for a select few. I want to commend Councilman Bobby Wiggins for his dedication and hard work on that project. The council discussed giving \$30,000 for that project in 2005, but never revised the budget to provide the funds. In essence, they*

*gave carte blanche to Bobby Wiggins to spend \$30,000 that was never in the budget. This year the council allotted monies for the project; that has been overspent by \$9000, but no one has called the media on that expenditure. In essence, a councilmember can spend \$9000 without asking permission of anyone.*

*The council voted to purchase a garbage truck in the amount of \$125,480 even though the city does not pick up garbage. The council has been given hard figures on city cost, which is high, versus privatizing garbage as we presently do, at a lower rate for citizens.*

*Spending \$125,480 on a truck we cannot use is alright, I suppose, if the good old boys are handling it.*

*When Mr. Maddox, Yonce, Grider, and Mann make a mistake, they are quick to verbalize that "they did not understand." How convenient. Three recent occasions in which they "did not understand," are as follows:*

*City Farmers Market... A called meeting was held the Thursday following our regular meeting because they said they did not understand what they were voting on at the regular meeting, despite a 30 minute work session in which no questions were answered, and discussion was asked for prior to the vote.*

*Annexation... At our last work session, our city attorney, David Winkle discussed his firm handling our annexation efforts and using a consultant that he suggested. The council agreed. I even said, "I will set up a meeting with the Mr. \_\_\_\_ about the annexation process. Ms. Truhan and I will meet with him." Now we have council members coming to city hall saying they did not understand.*

*The City Hall Car... They did not understand. Well, I did not understand that they did not understand. Had I been trying to deceive them, I would never have asked their permission. I would not have gotten bids. I would not have promised to give them a memo regarding each step in the process.*

*I am glad to see the media here tonight. I am aware that one of our council members consulted the media. Let's have a circuit so that we can look like fools. We are already a laughing stock for giving back \$400,000 to the Atlanta Regional Commission, another brilliant decision made by our council this year.*

***Why wasn't the media called when...***

*Our male council members voted to double their salaries? We can't afford a city manager or downtown development director, but we can afford to double our salaries???? I have devoted this city almost 12 years and never asked for a pay raise, yet we have council members who have served less than two years doubling their salaries. I use my own vehicle 99% of the time on city business and receive no expense money. Mr. Yonce, Mr. Maddox, and Mr. Mann are not up for reelections, so they voted to double their salaries, as did two others, Mr. Grider and Mr. Wiggins. Ms. Wenz voted no.*

***Why wasn't the media called when...***

*Our council gave \$500 of city money to an individual for a saw he found by the side of the road, and let him keep the saw because he said it was damaged at the firehouse renovation? This was done directly against the advice and word of Bobby Wiggins, one of our councilmen. These documents are a matter of public record.*

***Why wasn't the media called when...***

*A council member offered a job to an individual at the rate of \$100 per day and told the council and mayor afterwards at a work session? This job was never advertised, formally voted upon, nor did the council member have the authority to hire anyone.*

***Why wasn't the media called when...***

*We were not a certified city... we had no comprehensive plan. I made sure we write a comprehensive plan and updated it as well... we have been a certified city*

***Why wasn't the media called when...***

*We received \$100,000 of non-matching money for playground equipment at Massengale Park.*

***Why wasn't the media called when...***

*We built both Massengale Park and Battleground Park with grant funds and very little city*

money

***Why wasn't the media called when...***

*We came in \$300,000 under budget last year because of wise management of funds?*

***Why wasn't the media called when...***

*We continued to increase our fund balance each year to a total now over \$3,000,000, an amount unheard of in a city as small as Jonesboro, making our city more secure financially each passing year?*

***Why wasn't the media called when...***

*We received \$1,000,000 from the Atlanta Regional Commission for a downtown streetscape?*

*During the past 2 ½ years of harassment that I have suffered, I could not have lived in Jonesboro had I small children. I have endured repeated vandalism to my property, hate mail, screaming on my answering machine, a website with distorted facts and pictures, and the vilest kind of rumors and innuendos. I took an oath, however, to serve to the best of my ability and that I am trying to do. I have not profited from any action; the controversial vehicle belongs to the city and came about as a result of transferring a vehicle to our police department. The council was well aware of the plans, four members of our council agreed in the presence of both our city clerk and the city attorney: But, "they did not understand." Well, obviously neither did I, since I told our finance officer the next morning that the council was Ok with the transfer of vehicles...no subterfuge.*

*I could go on and on with other examples, but let me end with this. The media was called tonight because of a witch hunt. The "Aryan Nation" of Jonesboro is alive and well; it's an exclusive group that feeds on hate without regard to the best interests of our city."*

*Joy B. Day, Mayor*

Mayor Day stated that there will be a covered dish supper this Thursday at the Jonesboro Firehouse Museum. There will also be a free concert at the Courthouse lawn this Saturday evening. August 4<sup>th</sup> will be the annual Back to School parade.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote [*Motion: Day, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mann, Vote: Unanimous*].

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*Joy B. Day - Mayor*

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*Janice J. Truhan – City Clerk*