

CITY OF JONESBORO
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
DECEMBER 28TH, 2010 – 5:00 P.M.

Mayor Maddox called the meeting to order and announced that the Public Hearing was for the proposed 2011 budget. Public comments were called for And were given by:

- √° **Mr. Billy Powell who stated what he felt were issues in budgeted amounts and where budget cuts could take place. Councilmember Compton acknowledged Mr. Powell's comments stating that he too had the same numbers.**
- √° **Nancy Reeves addressed the need to have Called Hearings on the City Phone Tree and how she feels downtown looks bad.**
- √° **Beverly Lister stated that the budget process is difficult, on the employees and the community and the citizens.**
- √° **Mr. Rick Yonce said what a great job the Police Department was doing. He then stated that the take home policy needed to be looked at as some of the officers lived past Concord, GA. and said budget was a tuff time.**
- √° **Mr. McBryde stated that he felt the budget meeting was counterproductive. What with the housing market it is a tough time for taxes.**

Mayor Maddox stated that the Mayor and Council have worked on the budget for three months and said that this is the best that can be done with the economic conditions. What with increasing gas-not as cheap as last year. I met personally with all Department heads. The proposed budget is \$2,755,007. for 2011. Mayor Maddox asked for Council comments.

- √° **Councilmember Sebo discussed the millage rate in the past set at zero and the difficulty in moving back to a millage rate and how she felt it should never had gone to zero. She expressed that it should be equitable between Residents and Businesses. The most that most would pay would be between 45 and 65 dollars. Only few would pay \$100. not a lot to ask for with the amenities you receive. She stated that we need to bring the City back to where it used to be. Let's approve this balanced budget and move forward.**
- √° **Councilmember Grider stated that he is opposed to property taxes. That we need to look at furlough days for employees and look at expenses.**
- √° **Councilmember Mann stated that he looked at the budgets several times and that it was confusing how the numbers changed back and forth. He further stated that some are for and some are opposed to taxes, that we should vote our convictions.**

Mayor Maddox stated that in good economic times, there was not a need for a City Tax that is why it was zeroed out. In August of 2011, if revenues increase we may not have to charge a tax. The Millage rate is not voted on until October 2011.

- √° Councilmember Wiggins stated that you pay for what you get and that he agrees with Councilmember Sebo. The City's employees should not carry the budget shortfall on their backs. Mayor Maddox stated his agreement with Councilmember Wiggins.
- √° Councilmember Compton stated that we should vote against this budget.
- √° Councilmember Norrington stated that he is in favor of the budget and that we have to have a balanced budget as it is mandated by law. He feels that all should have to pay and not to put it on the backs of businesses. In the last three years there were zero taxes. We cannot keep taking away from reserves to balance the budget. He agrees with the Referendum – let the people decide. He is for the budget and stated that we need to approve this budget. Taxes have been around since I owned my first house. Let's do it fair and pay our taxes.

Mayor Maddox asked if Council had any further comments. There were none and officially closed the hearing at 5:23 p.m.