

THE CITY OF JONESBORO
WORKSESSION MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 6TH, 2010

Mayor Maddox called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Luther Maddox
Councilmembers Wallace Norrington
Joe Compton
Clarence Mann
Bobby Wiggins
Pat Sebo
Roger Grider

Employees present: Janice Truhan – City Clerk; Joe Nettleton – Public Works Director; Franklin Allen – Chief of Police; Sandra Meyers – Finance Officer.

Public Comments were given by:

Joy Day – Ms. Day expressed concern regarding the budget. Issues expressed were regarding the D.D.A., volunteers, lowering the Homestead exemption, solid waste and the actual costs of privatization. Also stated was that the Police Departments fines and forfeitures were down and that there was no need to reduce Police Officers. Ms. Day stated she did not balance the budget on the backs of the employees. Mayor Maddox stated that the \$60,000. Homestead exemption was a result of Joy Day's administration.

Mayor Maddox brought up the proposed City Holidays for 2011 and that January 1st, 2011 will be celebrated on December 31st, 2010.

Mayor Maddox and Council discussed the fact that a Police Officer was out sick due to an injury and a few of the employees wanted to donate time. It had been done before. Council had no objections. Councilmember Sebo brought up sick leave bank which would be overseen by a panel. This is done at the Board of Education. Mayor Maddox asked Councilmember Sebo to bring information. Councilmember Grider questioned if there was a procedure for donating time. Janice Truhan – City Clerk stated that there was not a procedure in place.

Discussion ensued regarding Advalorem tax. Councilmember Mann called for clarification of the budget documents presented – the current document showed \$300,000. Short and he wants to know what is the exact number. Mayor Maddox stated that attached to the copy of the budget is a memo that shows \$209,798. If we made changes, it changes the total. Councilmember Mann stated that he felt Chief Allen was the first Chief to give us an accurate total of Fines and Forfeitures. Ms. Meyers stated that the controversy was with Fines and Forfeitures. Discussion

ensued as to what Fines and Forfeitures should be. Chief Allen discussed how he and Ms. Meyers compared their estimations of what the Fines and Forfeitures should reflect and were very close. Councilmember Mann stated that he wants to add \$150,000. based on projections.

Discussions of different scenarios, budget possibilities, and millage rates ensued. The discussion turned to the possibility of a Referendum and that a Resolution will need to be signed and put before the Legislature. Councilmember Sebo stated that numerous residents on fixed income expressed their willingness to pay for the amenities they receive. Councilmember Sebo stated that it is best to never put the millage rate back to zero. Councilmember Wiggins referred to the previous Friday evening and that he had not received any negative calls regarding the Referendum. Councilmember Mann stated that the Homeowners should vote, that it is not right to force taxes due to the economy. Continued discussion ensued regarding the various possible budget scenarios.

The Mayor stated that Mr. Mann, Sandra Meyers, and Chief Allen, to meet with me to Wilson Outpost Police Department Budget. Councilmember Wiggins asked to be included also.

Councilmember Sebo stated that she wished to commend the Department Heads that it is a difficult time and difficult decisions had to be made.

Mayor Maddox asked if there was anything further. Councilmember Sebo brought up that in April the Taste of Clayton will occur on Main Street in Jonesboro for their annual event.

End