

CITY OF JONESBORO
MINUTES OF WORKSESSION MEETING
DECEMBER 17TH, 2010 AT 6:00 P.M.

Attendees: Mayor - Luther Maddox
Councilmember Vis: Pat Sebo
Joe Compton
Wallace Norrington
Clarence Mann
Bobby Wiggins
Absent: Roger Grider

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

Mayor Maddox called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Maddox called for Public Comments. Public Comments were given by: Beverly Lester who expressed concern that there were other areas that needed to be looked at for possible funding i.e.: SPLOST, and unnecessary expense such as the Firehouse Museum, and in using Community Service workers in lieu of Public Works personnel. Joy Day expressed concern over the furlough days and/or pay cuts to employees – some who have been with the City for eight to ten years and a number who have dependents. Ms. Day expressed concern that if these cuts were put in place, the City would lose valuable employees. The Police Department needs to have four Police Officers per shift and we should look at a Canine Officer. When they had a Canine in the department, more drugs were found through searches. Ms. Day also agreed to a reduction in the Homestead exemption and asked Council to admit that they made a mistake in putting Solid Waste service in the City. Mr. Gary Wilson stated that he was a 35 year resident. He believed the City needed to make a choice either growth or decline. Mr. Wilson discussed the reduction in police officers and that we could obtain further revenues through traffic enforcement. Mr. Helton stated that we enjoy a fine Police Department who provide a Shangri-La Island of Safety. He further stated that the Council should give the Chief what he needs to protect the citizens, and that Community Service workers should be used to clean up street and vacant lots.

Mayor Maddox continued the Work session by asking Council their opinions of the budget (currently printed on yellow paper hence known as the yellow budget).

Councilmember Wiggins stated that he feels we should go with the yellow budget. Councilmember Compton stated that he had gone over the budget and feels that there are many line items that need to be reduced. I.E. – Legal Services from \$62,000. to \$45,000.: Software, Gas and Heat bills; close the Firehouse Museum and Community Room or at least reduce the hours; reduce Contingency from \$35,000. To \$5,000. Mayor Maddox asked Councilmember Compton what budget he was looking at – that the current budget was yellow. He stated he picked up his yellow budget just before the meeting. Mayor Maddox stated that many cuts are already in the Yellow budget that was placed in his City mailbox a few days ago.

Councilmember Sebo stated that we have been through this process over and over and that she feels the current (yellow budget) is the best plan at this time. Councilmember Sebo reiterated that the Homestead Exemption needs to be lowered to \$30,000.

END