

**CITY OF JONESBORO
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
170 SOUTH MAIN STREET
DECEMBER 9th, 2011 - 9:00 a.m.**

The City of Jonesboro Mayor and Council held Public Hearing meeting on Friday, December 9th, 2011. The meeting was held at 9:00 a.m. at the Jonesboro Police Department, 170 South Main Street.

Council Present: Luther Maddox - Mayor
Clarence Mann - Councilmember
Roger Grider - Councilmember
Wallace Norrington – Councilmember - absent
Pat Sebo – Councilmember -absent
Bobby Wiggins - Councilmember
Joe Compton – Councilmember - absent

Staff Present: Joe Nettleton - Public Works Director and Pat Daniel
Administrative Assistant - Assistant City Clerk.

Mayor Maddox called the public hearing to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Hearing regarding the Proposed 2012 City of Jonesboro Budget -

Mayor Maddox called for public comments.

Joy Day stated that the budget looks great and that she sees how the Council arrived at this. She suggested that she would like to see the Local Option Sales bumped up as well as the Fines & Forfeitures. She stated that she would also like to see a line item for the newsletter, and that the newsletter is a great way to advertise the phonetree, suggesting that the City could use a volunteer person to do the newsletter at no cost to the city. She stated there are ways to get this free. She also would like to see the website updated with a more modern look and eventually put it out electronically, we could possibly get a volunteer to update our website. Ms. Day stated that she would like to have the summer concerts back and that the city could seek volunteers to help with this. Ms. Day stated that the budget should have money allotted for education and training since there will be a new Councilmember coming on board. She stated that money can not be spent without the council approval and unexpected situations come up like the lift that is needed for the new councilmember. “We need a line item to use for things we don’t foresee and not have to revise the budget. One year we had a bad storm and cost some money, but it is crazy to revise the budget for tree removal. I believe that we will have more money in Fines & Forfeitures. Mayor Maddox stated that the reason it is the way it is now is because we have not had to use it for the last three years, so we can pull from reserves. Ms. Day stated that we should

not pull from reserves, we should have a line item for small things. Mayor Maddox stated that we would have to come up with that money and it has been there for three years. In an emergency, we would use reserves. We are able to meet within 48 hours. Ms. Day answered that she understood that at the end of the year you have to go to the reserves if you don't have any money. Mayor Maddox said we are on the low side at the end of the year, we could be short because \$37,000.00 was pulled out of reserves in 2010. Ms. Day stated that it looks like we are ahead this year by 2-3% (\$40,000-\$60,000) and this is a good thing. Mayor Maddox stated that he has not had to lay off any employees or cut any services and he thinks the Council has done a good job. Mayor Maddox opened the floor to comments.

Councilmember Grider stated that he noticed there were some employee salary increases. Mayor Maddox stated that there was an increase in the group insurance. Councilmember Grider stated that he did see that worker's compensation had increased from \$2,000-\$6,800, and last year for Fines & Forfeitures, we had to fight to bump them up from \$350,000 to \$450,000. Mayor Maddox explained that is was more than expected. Councilmember Grider asked if the probation fees were down and Fines & Fortfitures? He said he knows that people and being fined, so does this mean they are paying or working it off? Councilmember Grider asked if there are any salary increases? Mayor Maddox said yes, there are two and they were discussed in Executive Session and that these two employees were at the bottom of the spectrum. Councilmember Grider asked what do you think happens to the employee moral when you increase only two employees and not any others. Mayor Maddox explained that these two employees had taken on more responsibility. Councilmember Grider said that others might be willing to do the same for more money. Mayor Maddox replied that he did not know if anyone who would be willing to swap. Councilmember Grider asked if anybody else had been offered the opportunity? Councilmember Grider stated that these raises were given under the cover of night. If we upgrade a position, it should be open for bid. Mayor Maddox called for further comments and there were none. Mayor Maddox called the Public Hearing closed at 9:17a.m.

Mayor Maddox called the hearing closed at 9:17 a.m.

Luther W. Maddox, Mayor

Pat Daniel, Administrative Assistant
/Assistant City Clerk