

CITY OF JONESBORO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WORKSESSION
June 6th, 2011

The City of Jonesboro Mayor and Council held their Worksession meeting on Monday, June 6th, 2011. The meeting was held 6:00 p.m. at the Jonesboro Police Station, 170 South Main Street Jonesboro, Georgia.

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

Staff present: Chief Franklin Allen, Joe Nettleton - Public Works Director, Tommy Newsome – City Engineer, and Janice Truhan - City Clerk.

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

Public Comments were given by – Rick Yonce. Mr. Yonce stated that the crepe myrtles issue from the railroad irritates him. The City does not get a dime for mowing. If they remove the trees, the City should not mow on their right-of-way. We have gates at crossings that come down when the train is coming. Was South Ave. repaved? Clayton County Water Authority has lots of money to repave. We need to retract ourselves from GMA and ARC. This eats on us. There is limited money. The railroad does not provide anything. Also, the dog ordinance disappeared and the Clerk cannot find it. What does the county do for us?

Mayor Maddox called for the withdrawal of the 2nd item on the agenda as the proposed business had rented property that conforms to needs.

Worksession –

Chatri Novelty, Inc. (DBA Exoctic Pleasures)-

Mr. Jason Feree of Exotic Pleasures said the Mayor made a determination that this is an adult store (video/book). We don't qualify as either one. New York Video posts on its doors 18 or over to enter. They are operating as a video store not an adult store. Diagram New York Video. We should be allowed to do the same. Mr. Feree went over the site plan for the store. We have retained legal services to take action. Councilmember Grider said he doesn't understand. 20% falls under the requirements for floor space. Why are we denying you when you are nowhere close to 20% of floor space? Councilmember Sebo asked why are you interested in Jonesboro. Mr. Feree stated that this is a high traffic area, we like the building and there is room to expand. Councilmember Sebo asked do you have other locations? Mr. Feree said yes, in Columbus, GA. Ms. Sebo

asked if it had the same name. Mr. Feree said Pleasure City and Exotic Pleasures – three locations. Ms. Sebo asked do they have the same layout? Mr. Feree said a little different. No one under 18 is permitted in. Ms. Sebo asked what kind of merchandise would be sold in the store. Mr. Feree stated that there will be body jewelry, smoking paraphernalia, videos, and clothing. Mayor Maddox asked how long the lease is. Mr. Feree stated 3 years. Mr. Mann said we should check the legality with the City Attorney. Mayor Maddox agreed and said that New York Video was placed in zoning prior to zoning changes and was grandfathered in. Mr. Feree said New York Video has ‘no one under 18 allowed’ and has pornographic materials at store, as does the gas stations. Mayor Maddox reiterated to Mr. Feree that the zoning for adult entertainment was M-1 and that the building he had leased prior to being zoning certified is a C2. The Mayor said that the lawyers can argue it.

Irvin St. Project –

Bid project & bid process. Mr. Tommy Newsome of Newsome Engineering presented. Mr. Newsome stated that when we originally put the R.F.P. out for bid, there was only one bidder and the bid was extremely high. The 2nd time in putting out the R.F.P there were 4 or 5 bids. There is CDBG funds of \$320,000. for Phase I (Irvin Street) of the project, and there are two phases - with \$178,000. (Watterson/Irvin Streets) available for the 2nd phase. C.M.E.S. bid on the project a 2nd time. Low bidder (C.M.E.S.) \$348,870., City budget of \$320,000. Clayton County Water Authority (C.C.W.A.) is participating. They have met with us and are willing to help with materials. (Materials in project equal a value of \$37, 345) of which C.C.W.A. will be providing. This is 8 or 9 thousand under budget. The contractor C.M.E.S. rebid the project less the materials made available by C.C.W.A. Mr. Grider asked the date for completion. Mr. Newsome said 6 months. Once the ‘Notice to Proceed’ is sent, construction bids can be taken. Note: a pre construction meeting must occur before the Notice to proceed. C.M.E.S. will complete Phase 1 first. Mayor says yes. This will be complete mid July. They will bring it in on the money. Mr. Newsome suggested that the award be made to C.M.E.S. Mr. Norrington ask if Watterson St. & Irvin St. are combined? Mr. Newsome said Watterson was submitted to Chuck Johnson as Phase II. Down Rd. \$320,000 Phase I, Phase II \$178, 000.

Discussion ensued regarding the Streetscape project. Councilmember Sebo asked if the sidewalk at Arts Clayton is repaired. Mr. Newsome said yes. Have 6 page punch list, drainage issues, and various other fixes – holding rest of funds until C.M.E.S. completes. Councilmember Sebo thanked Mr. Newsome for his hard work and stated that he has gone above and beyond.

Norfolk Southern’s Safety Program –

Mayor Maddox stated that the tree butchers and Joel Harrell from the Federal Railroad administration had contacted him with an inspector. The Railroad has elected to pull out the Crepe Myrtles from the leased property the City leases due to safety reasons. Mayor Maddox stated that they will do what they want but we will be kicking and screaming. Councilmember Grider had suggested that if the Crepe Myrtles were pulled, then the City should no longer mow the lease property. The Mayor stated that the City will suffer if we stop mowing. We have spent 2 million dollars to beautify. We would be cutting off our nose to spite our face. Councilmember Mann asked ‘did we get permission’ to plant the Crepe Myrtles? The Mayor stated yes, according to James Massengale. Mayor Maddox will ask City Hall to find the document.

The Railroad gave permission. You can find information at City Hall. Councilmember Mann stated this is not justified. There have been no accidents. We need to do what we can to preserve our trees. ‘We should put Code Enforcement on it.’ Mr. Cantrell suggested putting in a call to a friend of his, Mr. Bill Lee who was retired from the railroad. The Mayor stated he would look into it. Councilmember Sebo asks if the City Attorney had been contacted? The Mayor stated that he had not contacted him as yet but will do so tomorrow a.m.

Councilmember Sebo stated that Joe Nettleton's department keeps it so well maintained, it is just beautiful. Councilmember Grider asks why are we accepting what Norfolk Southern says. He also suggested that we put liens on property. Councilmember Grider stated that 'I hate it when we treat one group differently than another.'

Councilmember Mann stated that the deadline is 7/1/11. The Mayor suggested a possible injunction. Councilmember Sebo suggested that we appoint a committee to contact all media outlets. Councilmember Grider suggested that Councilmember Sebo be the committee of one, Councilmember Mann said we should adopt the trees and chain them.

Yard Sale Ordinance –

Councilmember Grider stated there are four per year allowed. Councilmember Grider said, 'In my opinion, residents should be able to have yard sales whenever they want'. Mayor Maddox stated that Mr. Ortega, the resident recently cited by Chief Allen, has been here 2 months and had 4 yard sales. He buys the stuff at garage/yard sales and sells the items. Councilmember Grider asked what about Mill St. parking lot? There was supposed to be a monthly sale at the City of Jonesboro public parking lot. Councilmember Grider stated that he felt it was none of the City's business if residents have a yard sale. Mayor Maddox stated that they need to rent a store, and that Council can change the ordinance. Councilmember Grider stated in the form of a question, that 'it won't go into big black hole, that can't be found again? (relating to City Hall being the black hole as documents are sometimes difficult to locate.) Mayor Maddox stated that Code Enforcement and the Police Department can go to those selling at yard sales and ask for their permit and shut them down until they can ensure that they have a permit. The city will start checking for permits and shut them down until they get a permit. Mr. William Wells stated that when persons on North Avenue have yard sales they park on the grass. There is no place to park, or they block you in and drive over your grass. My neighbors have had ten yard sales, and left no parking. They pulled through my front yard. No enforcement from the Police Department. Mayor Maddox advised Mr. Wells to call the Police next time this occurred. Mr. Wells said nobody does anything. This is a nuisance. North Avenue is a rough street. It was suggested that there is an empty parking lot at Mill Street that could be used for Yard Sales. We could charge five dollars and obtain extra revenues for the City. Councilmember Sebo stated that the Farmers Market is coming into Jonesboro and we will have to check for a conflict, and that when City parking was offered, there was no response. The Farmers Market will bring in extra money to the businesses downtown. Get people in to see. The churches have spare space also.

Other discussion-

Councilmember Sebo stated that the website needs some work.

Downtown Parking-

Mayor Maddox referred to the diagram in each packet regarding Broad Street parking. Mayor Maddox asked Mr. Newsome if he is going to re-stripe McDonough St. And Watterson St. and can be done on a Saturday, and if so can we get Broad Street stripped the same day. Mr. Newsome stated yes. Councilmember Wiggins brought up the A.D.A. spaces in the drawing for Firehouse handicapped/elderly parking. Councilmember Mann

stated the spaces, as identified, have got to have for the Firehouse. Mayor Maddox stated the elderly can park across the street in the City parking lot. Councilmember Wiggins stated that only one handicapped parking is required and we could better use the parking space for the elderly. There is not two for Willprint and not two for Clayton House. Mayor Maddox stated that if there was no objection to the diagram, we can notify the businesses after the Regular meeting next week and the attorney's and employees can use the Mill Street parking. Council will need to decide if there is going to be timed parking.

Clayton County Visitors Bureau: Councilmember Grider said we don't need to reserve tourism parking spaces. Mayor Maddox said the city leases the spaced from the Railroad. Council decides whether to remove reserved parking signs. Councilmember Sebo asks how many are designated? Mayor Maddox stated 'as many as any other business.' Resolution, will be created to vote to remove. Councilmember Grider stated that rarely anyone parks there and there is no parking for property owners. Councilmember Norrington said we need to talk to C.C.V.B. Pat Duncan to make a compromise. Councilmember Sebo asked if the signs were placed by Clayton County? Mayor Maddox stated that you cannot reserve handicapped spaces. Employees of local business are parking there. Councilmember Grider stated that two spaces are being gracious. Councilmember Norrington stated that there should be four spaces or left open and let signs be there. Councilmember Norrington stated that a committee needs to be formed. Mayor Maddox said they cannot reserve handicapped spaces. Employees are parking there.

Annexation Process –

Need committee of one. City Attorney has drawn up a petition with legal justification giving the opportunity to those who want to come into the city. Share how to approach us and bypass county. Mayor Maddox-yes as long as continuous. Councilmember Grider stated that this will allow us to bypass County? Mayor Maddox stated yes, as long as it is continuous.

Councilmember Mann stated there are those wanting to come into city.

Mayor Maddox called for other Council concerns.

Wiggins and Mann –No.

Norrington- abandoned shopping

Sebo-Restroom facility? Joe Nettleton is waiting on two return calls. Mayor Maddox stated that the County gave us the original \$10,000. price and then Commissioner Bell placed \$13,000. in labor to up the price to \$23,000. I instructed Mr. Nettleton to obtain three bids from contractors. Is anyone aware of where the City/County is using inmate labor? Councilmember Grider asked how long the Resolution is in effect for. Mayor Maddox stated until it is repealed.

Nettleton-waiting on 2 calls.

Compton – asked for an item to be on the agenda? That all heating and Air Conditioning units are held at: 78 for summer and 68 for winter. Mayor Maddox agreed. Councilmember Compton also stated that they should be 'cut off' when not in use – on weekends and holidays in order to save on Energy cost. Councilmember Grider stated that it sounds like good common sense.

Compton- asked if we can keep the Hotel/motel funds sent to C.C.V.B and Historical Jonesboro (each 3%). Mayor Maddox stated no, state mandate. We keep 2%.

Mayor Maddox asked Council if they had any personnel or legal matters and if they felt an Executive Session

was needed. Response – no.

Motion made to adjourn. Approved. [*Motion: Norrington, 2nd: Grider, Vote: Unanimous*].

END