

**CITY OF JONESBORO  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WORKSESSION  
May 2nd, 2011**

The City of Jonesboro Mayor and Council held their Worksession meeting on Monday, May 2nd, 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 - absent

**Staff present:** Chief Franklin Allen, Joe Nettleton - Public Works Director, Sandra Meyers – Finance Officer, and Janice Truhan - City Clerk.

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

**Public Comments** – Mr. Carl Swenson of C.C.G.O.P, addressed the Council regarding the request of the G.O.P to rent the Firehouse Museum and Community Center for their monthly G.O.P meetings; Rick Yonce stated that he felt public comments should be a the end of the meeting, and reminded the Council that ‘The Grove’ has an existing development agreement. Mr. Yonce discussed the sign permit fees and then stated that he was getting ahead of himself. Ms. Sonja Sleeper stated that the Firehouse museum rental need to be a fair fee with no group excluded.

**- Georgia Grant Writers:**

Terry Lawler of Georgia Grant writers asked Council to advise what type of grants the City is interested in applying for. Mr. Lawler stated that there was a COPS grant through the Department of Justice that was coming up and that it would pay for one officers salary for three years, then the City would have to pick up. Also what was suggested is that they partner up with other cities to develop and share a grant for radios and enter into a collective agreement. There was also a grant from Doctor Pepper for playground equipment. Mayor Maddox stated that recreation equipment, D.O.J. grants, Project safe neighborhoods, transportation enhancement, safe routes to school, tourism, product development, trail program, GDOT Gateway grants all were of interest to the City of Jonesboro. Councilmember Sebo suggested IBM grants for smarter cities/choice neighborhoods, WI FI, internet, etc. Mr. Lawler stated that all these are within the realm of grants offered. Councilmember Norrington asked about Streetscape grants? Mr.

Lawler said yes, there are transportation grants, park grants, we will do what the Mayor and Council ask us to do. Mayor advised that we contact Ms. Truhan.

### **Quarterly Review of Budget –**

This is 25% of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter budget, roughly. Sales tax up (35%), fines and forfeitures up (38%) and there has been collected 31.5% of revenues as of 3/31/11. The first quarter revenues are weighted more heavily due to Occupational Tax Certificates. The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter will give us a better idea. Expenditures are under 25% for Administration, 20% for Public Works and 25% for the Police Department.

Approved. [*Motion: Grider, 2<sup>nd</sup>:Mann, Vote: Unanimous*]. Motion made to resume Worksession meeting. Approved. [*Motion: Mann, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Norrington, Vote: Unanimous*]. Mayor Maddox asked for further questions, Councilmember Wiggins – no, Councilmember Mann? Over 25% in group insurance – monthly. Ms. Meyers stated the quoted amount is a little above. Unemployment is up (rates are based on payroll), Salaries for Council are included. The rates are up – statewide. Councilmember Mann then asked why we had spent so much on Legal notices. Ms. Meyers stated that these were the advertisements for bid on the Irvin Street project. There were two of these are a part of the CDBG requirements. Mayor Maddox asked for further questions – Councilmember Norrington? No. Councilmember Sebo? No. Councilmember Grider? – No. Mayor Maddox thanked the Department Heads for penny pinching.

### **Personal Leave Accumulation Rate –**

Councilmember Sebo discussed how cashing in leave time affects the budget. Best to postpone this discussion until the quarterly report is ready. Discussion ensued concerning creating a policy. Councilmember Sebo commented that she had never heard of an organization that allowed cash in's. Cashing in is allowed in Lake City but only in extreme emergency's. Mayor Maddox stated that he agreed with Councilmember Sebo; there is no budget and no way to foresee in projecting a budget. Councilmember Grider stated that the Mayor has approval – whether emergency when and if clear cut. Mayor Maddox stated that it is up to the Department Heads to approve or deny. Councilmember Wiggins stated that a policy is needed – guidelines. Councilmember Sebo stated that we can create policy or guidelines. Councilmember Grider stated that we have a policy – Department Head and Mayor. Councilmember Wiggins stated that we needed to use common sense. Mayor Maddox stated that the policy is in the employee handbook. Councilmember Mann asked if they can cash in the 360 maximum hours. Mayor Maddox stated that it is up to the Department Head. Councilmember Mann stated that we needed to have a policy and further said 'use it or lose it'. Cash in should only be in case of emergency. Mayor Maddox stated that the Council sets policy. Mr. Nettleton stated that we needed to come up with number of days to cash in by 12/31/11. Estimate days i.e.: 5 days. We can budget for that. It is not fair to judge, to the individual, it is an emergency. Mayor Maddox stated 40 hours per individual per year. Department Heads and Mayor to come up with policy. Councilmember Grider asked if they can cash in still – for emergency? Mayor Maddox stated yes.

### **Rental Agreement for Parks and Museum –**

Discussion ensued regarding rental fees – residents / non residents, deposit fees, and restrictions such as alcohol and firearms. Also discussed how to handle civic and non-profit rentals. Councilmember Grider agreed. Councilmember Sebo stated that there is a difference between Non Profit and Civic groups. Mayor Maddox stated that we would waive or donate to: Boy scouts for the honor banquet. Councilmember Grider stated that we can waive for nonprofit – they can approach council. They will still need to pay the deposit.

### **Irvin Street Project –**

Four contractors placed bids and CMES came in with the low bidder. Mr. Newsome is working with Clayton County and the Water Authority to take off \$40, 000. By doing so, the grant will cover the project 100%.

### **Sunday Alcohol Sales Referendum –**

Decision was made to put this on the November ballot as a Referendum, to be voted on by the residents. All agreed. Councilmember Grider stated that it is up to each business owner, whether to sell on Sunday. Mayor Maddox took a poll – Councilmember’s Wiggins, Mann, Norrington, Sebo, Grider. Citizens are to have the say.

### **Sign Permit Ordinance –**

Councilman Grider said this had previously been decided to not charge for pop-in signs three years ago. Councilmember Wiggins stated that this was not voted on. Councilmember Grider stated that we voted to change the ordinance. Councilmember Mann stated it should not be charged for new businesses. Mayor Maddox stated that this was up to Code Enforcement to take care of. Councilmember Grider stated that what they do with their sign is not the City’s business. Mayor Maddox stated that the Ordinance needed to be changed. Councilmember Mann stated that it was supposed to be changed three years ago.

### **Sanitation –**

Concilmember Wiggins made comment concerning that the Sanitation Service was not paying for itself and reviewed his proposal. Mayor Maddox stated that there were pitfalls in trying to collect it and that we don’t need another person at City Hall, we can make do with what we have. Councilmember Wiggins stated that extra person at City Hall can collect sanitation. Councilmember Mann stated that you are beating a dead dog. \$16.00 per hour for a temporary person. Councilmember Wiggins stated that he had the numbers and a print out to show you. It cannot be done with existing people. Councilmember Grider stated that this is nickel and dime to death. Get tax dollars from county. Councilmember Sebo stated that it will be a bigger burden at City Hall.

**Executive Session:**

Motion made to enter Executive Session. Approved. [*Motion: Grider, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mann, Vote: Unanimous*].

Motion made to resume Regular meeting. Approved. [*Motion: Grider, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Norrington, Vote: Unanimous*].

Councilmember Wiggins stated he had a question regarding annexation and islands on Tara Blvd. and we should not get bogged down in legal procedures.

Mayor Maddox asked if there were any further questions? Councilmember's Mann, Norrington, Grider, and Sebo stated no. Mayor Maddox announced the meeting adjourned.

END