

**CITY OF JONESBORO  
COUNCIL MEETING WORKSESSION MINUTES  
170 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
NOVEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - 6:00 p.m.**

The City of Jonesboro Mayor and Council held the monthly worksession meeting on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. at the Jonesboro Police Department, 170 South Main Street.

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

**Staff Present:** Joe Nettleton - Public Works Director, Chief Franklin Allen and Janice Truhan  
- City Clerk.

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

**Discussed Resolution and contract regarding Norfolk Southern's authorization to allow the City to place underground electrical wiring at the railroad right of way -**

Mayor Maddox discussed the contract and the City Attorney's synopsis. The City Attorney advised not to sign the contract until things are resolved, and we cannot do the wiring until we get an answer from the railroad at the next meeting. Mayor Maddox further stated that we may not have the Crepe Myrtles lit this year, but we hope to have the decorations completed downtown soon. Councilmember Sebo asked about the lighting process that we used before. Councilmember Mann questioned if there is access above ground. Mr. Nettleton stated that he took all the electrical up, and it will cost \$3,300.00 to repair what was torn up. Mr. Nettleton stated that it bothers him why this has to be done. Mr. Nettleton stated Norfolk Southern will not allow him to put it on the ground before Thanksgiving. If the permission comes in before Thanksgiving, I will get the electrical installed. Councilmember Grider asked if we should we go ahead and look at the contractor bids that we have so that we will be ready if permission is given. Mr. Nettleton stated that he will see if he can go ahead and place on top of the ground. Councilmember Compton said this may cause the bid prices to change. Mr. Nettleton said he will look over his information and contact the bid holders to see what the cost change will be. Mayor Maddox stated that he would call Senator Isakson to see if he can help speed up the legal process, and Ms. Truhan will email the City attorney tomorrow concerning this issue.

## Georgia Grant Writers grants and contract -

Discussion ensued regarding the list of grants. Mayor Maddox stated that the city hired Georgia Grant Writers to handle our grants, and that he does not understand why we have not been able to communicate and get any potential grants. Mr. Lawler answered that he has invested a lot of time and effort over the last couple of months on the POGO Grant and that he sent an email on September 22, 2011 referencing the September 6th, 2011 email regarding the POGO Grant. Mr. Lawler stated that he has sent people to the Chattahoochee Nature Center and made two trips to the Department of Natural Resources also. I feel that there seems to be a breakdown of responsibility. "We can't continue to work without compensation". Mayor Maddox requested that Mr. Lawler come in to City Hall and sit down for a conference with the Mayor, Ms. Truhan and Councilmember Wiggins. Mayor Maddox stated that it was his understanding that Georgia Grant Writers would come up with a list of Grants that the City would be eligible for. Councilmember Wiggins asked about the grant concerning the Farmers Market. Mr. Lawler stated that he spoke to the agricultural commissioner to let him know that we may be making an application. Mr. Lawler stated that he sent an email to the City back in September concerning this issue. Mr. Lawler stated that the grants that the city is eligible for, as an example "the COPS Grant" but this ran into a deadline. The City Clerk stated that she does not agree with Mr. Lawler and that she has emails that detail all conversations, attempts to get Georgia Grant Writers to respond to no avail. Councilmember Sebo stated that the city is not on the ARC website as a certified local city government. Ms. Sebo stated that because of this the City will not be eligible for grants of historical nature, State of Georgia Grants, and Historical Preservation Grants. Mayor Maddox stated that Councilmember Sebo is wrong about the city status. Ms. Truhan advised Councilmember Sebo to talk to Rob Lebeau at the Atlanta Regional Commission. Mr. Lawler stated that certified or not, there are still grants that the City may be eligible for, and clearly, we need to find the answer to the question of whether you are certified or not.

Councilmember Wiggins asked for permission to receive money for the employee Christmas breakfast. Mayor Maddox responded that it cannot be approved at this worksession meeting, and it was funded in the 2011 budget. Mayor Maddox stated that a vote will be taken at the Regular Council Meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Mayor Maddox called for a motion to adjourn. Approved. [*Motion: Compton, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Norrington, Vote: Unanimous.*]

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Luther W. Maddox, Mayor

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Janice Truhan, City Clerk