

**CITY OF JONESBORO
WORK SESSION MINUTES
APRIL 2ND, 2012 – 6:00 p.m.**

The City of Jonesboro Mayor and Council held their monthly Work Session on Monday, April 2nd, 2012. The meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. at the Jonesboro Police Station, 170 South Main Street Jonesboro, Georgia.

Council Present: Joy B. Day, Mayor
Clarence Mann, Councilmember
Wallace Norrington, Councilmember
Joe Compton, Councilmember
Pat Sebo, Councilmember
Bobby Wiggins, Councilmember
Randy Segner, Councilmember - Absent

Staff Present: Janice Truhan - City Clerk.

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

WORKSESSION ITEMS:

- Discussed Conditional Use requested by Mr. William B. and Mrs. Sharon T. Clark, for Towing and Recovery business to be held at 208 Turner Road Jonesboro, Ga. 30236. A Town Towing & Recovery, LLC has, requested zoning. Councilmember Wiggins asked Mrs. Clark what the business entailed. Mrs. Clark stated that it would be high end vehicle recovery. Mayor Day asked Mrs. Clark what the business would do with the vehicles after repossessing them. The owner of the business, Ms. Dunn said that they will be held in the buildings awaiting pickup. Councilmember Compton asked what is the building adjacent to. Mrs. Clark answered that this location is beside a junkyard, stating that they have spoken with the neighbors and they are ok with the towing and recovery time being present. Councilmember Sebo asked if there will be security present. Ms. Dunn stated that there will be a camera and lighting on the fence. Councilmember Compton asked how the vehicles would be hauled. Ms. Dunn said that flat beds and roll backs would be used normally, but depends on the condition of the car. Councilmember Sebo asked what is the point of drop off to repair. Ms. Dunn stated no. Councilmember Norrington clarified that this property is 2.10 acres and is sandwiched into M1 zoning behind the Jonesboro junkyard.

Public Comments: Sonja Sleeper asked if there would be tow trucks cutting through the neighborhoods making noise and with lights shining into the neighborhoods. How many cars will there be and no one has asked the elderly people if they are ok with this business being placed there.

- Discussed amendment to Section 42-28 “Creation of a Historic Preservation Commission”. Section 42-28© (1) “All members shall be residents of the city, (reside within the historic district once established). Omit paragraphed phrase only. Mayor Day elaborated on the fact that there are not many residents residing in the Historic District. We need to revise code to seek people who are interested in Historic Preservation. More representative selection. Mayor Day stated that it would be much better to have citizens for this committee. Councilmember Norrington agreed. Councilmember Mann suggested expanding the pool but keep it to the citizens. Mayor Day concurred. Councilmember Sebo agreed that the residents could help establish a committee that is interested in preservation. Councilmember Norrington suggested asking the businesses in the historic district if they would be interested in serving on the committee.

Public Comments: Ms. Sonja Sleeper said that she has no idea where the Historic District is. Ms. Sleeper requested a chart or map. Mayor Day advised Ms. Sleeper that the city codes are online and she can obtain information about the Historic District at City Hall.

- Discussed Construction and Maintenance Easement signed by Mr. Charles Driebe, granting conveyance of land to the City of Jonesboro. Mayor Day stated that she received a letter from David Harris. Mayor Day read the email to clarify for Mr. Driebe. Councilmember Sebo asked if he is selling. Mayor Day stated that she does not know.

Public Comments: NONE.

- Discussed City resolution recognizing Georgia Cities Week. Mayor Day said that she would make a resolution for Georgia Cities Week. Georgia Municipal Association sent posters celebrating Georgia Cities Week.

Public Comments: Mr. Billy Powell asked what the resolution is. Mayor Day read the resolution.

- Discussed issues with Occupational Tax certificates (aka business licenses) and the City Sign Ordinance. Mayor Day read points of discussion and asked for clarification from the Council. Councilmember Wiggins asked if the City conducts audits on the businesses. Mayor Day advised that we had completed several businesses. Councilmember Mann asked what is the city doing to prevent misreporting. Mayor Day answered group audits should give the opportunity to come clean. Councilmember Sebo asked what does the City do if a business refuses to give the amount of their gross receipts. Councilmember Norrington said we should look at the tax records and give them a warning. Mayor Day agreed and stated that it has gotten so bad and is getting worse with different type of businesses. Mayor Day advised that Ms. Truhan can elaborate if needed. Councilmember Mann suggested using a tier method by number of employees using a flat rate. Mayor Day said we would have to change our codes. Councilmember Mann asked can we enforce the code. Mayor Day answered yes. Councilmember Sebo stated that when they open a business, they made this choice and were provided information regarding

the requirements. Mayor Day discussed the Sign ordinance for different zoning requirements. Mayor Day stated that the C2 zoning on Tara Boulevard is hard commercial and that C1 is a softer zoning and that we need to establish different requirements. Flags and Banners require permits so we need to decide if the flags stay the same or be allowed for 90 days. Mayor Day asked for the Council's opinion. Councilmember Wiggins stated that some businesses are having persons to hold signs at the edge of the sidewalks to attract customers and it is dangerous.

Public Comments: Mr. Bill Wells asked if this had been given to the City Attorney because this will open a can of worms.

Mayor Day asked if there were any other issues for discussion. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Wiggins stated that the streetscape benches are worn and need varnish or paint. Councilmember Wiggins also stated that the bricks at the Methodist Church have grass growing up through the bricks and the bricks near the Coffee shop are sinking. Councilmember Wiggins stated that he thinks the Police department should be able to purchase whatever they need to do their jobs such as the Tahoe's. Councilmember Wiggins also stated that he agrees that the variances that are issued to a business, go back to regular zoning if that business leaves.

Councilmember Sebo stated that Comcast cares Day is coming up and volunteers will be needed. Comcast will purchase the plants and the City of Jonesboro will buy paint. Councilmember Compton asked how many volunteers are needed. Mayor Day stated that she did not have an exact figure. The event will be held at Dixon Park across from the Visitor's Bureau/Train Station. T-shirts will be given away and the event will be held on the 21st of April. Mr. Powell asked if Dixon Park is where City Hall used to be. Mayor Day said yes. Councilmember Sebo confirmed that 5 or 6 volunteers would be needed.

Mayor Day called for a motion to adjourn. Approved. [*Motion: Norrington, 2nd: Mann, Vote: Unanimous*].

JOY B. DAY – MAYOR

JANICE TRUHAN - CITY CLERK