

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD AUGUST 3, 2021**

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10:00 a.m. - The meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 400 19<sup>th</sup> Street West, Jasper.

**Present:** Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell, Councilmembers Jed Daniel, Gary Cowen, Jennifer W. Smith, Willie Moore, III, Mayor David P. O'Mary, City Clerk/Administrator Kathy Chambless, and City Attorney Russ Robertson

**Absent:**

**Invocation:** Councilmember Willie Moore, III

**Pledge of Allegiance:** City Planner Keith Pike

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith that the minutes of the regular meeting held July 20, 2021, and the minutes of the special called meeting held July 27, 2021, be approved.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

**Consider amendments to the agenda.** No amendments were made to the agenda.

**Consider approval of the agenda.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Moore that the agenda be approved.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

**Consider approval of event permits for: 1) End the Stigma 64, End the Stigma 64 Rally, September 19, 2021; 2) Unity in the Community, August 14, 2021.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Moore to approve event permits for End the Stigma 64, End the Stigma 64 Rally, September 19, 2021, Unity in the Community, August 14, 2021.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

**Consider approval of overnight travel for narcotics police officers attending a conference in Orange Beach from August 16 – 19, 2021.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Daniel to approve overnight travel for narcotics police officers attending a conference in Orange Beach from August 16 – 19, 2021.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

**Consider a request for permission to purchase a bucket truck from the state surplus properties list.**

Mayor O’Mary explained the city is currently borrowing a bucket truck for use around the city. There is a bucket truck that has recently become available on the state surplus properties list for \$35,000. No action was taken.

**Consider adoption of Budget Amendment #2020/2021-14, by unanimous consent, for purchase of a bucket truck.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith that the rules be suspended and unanimous consent be given for immediate consideration of and action on said Budget Amendment.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes

Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell Yes

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith to adopt Budget Amendment #2020/2021-14.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

**Receive reports on Concrete Pipe and 25' Trailer.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to receive the report of the Purchasing Agent and, based on her recommendation, award the contract for concrete pipe to Harvey Culvert who has met the bid specs.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Daniel to receive the report of the Purchasing Agent and, based on her recommendation, award the contract for a 25' Trailer to Better Built Trailers, Inc. who met the bid specs.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

**Consider adoption of a Resolution to set a policy related to the personal use of telephone and cell phone use by employees during work hours.** City Clerk Kathy Chambless noted the only feedback received to date has been from Police Chief Poe who has submitted a separate policy for the council's consideration, which will be considered at a later meeting. Councilmember Moore went on record to state that he would like all employees to be under a telephone/cell phone policy.

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to adopt a Resolution to set a policy related to the personal use of telephone and cell phone use by employees during work hours.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

**Consider adoption of a Resolution to set cost for Nuisance Abatement.** Following a public hearing during which no comments were made, a motion was considered.

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Smith to set cost for Nuisance Abatement of an unsafe structure.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

**Consider adoption of a Resolution for Nuisance Abatement of Unsafe Structures and Grass/Weeds.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Smith to adopt a Resolution for Nuisance Abatement of an Unsafe Structure.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to adopt a Resolution for Nuisance Abatement of Grass/Weeds.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

**Introduce an Ordinance Rezoning a .26+- acre parcel of land located at Kilgore Street from the R-2 (Single Family Residential) Zoning District to the R-3 (Affordable Housing) Zoning District for the purpose of placing a manufactured home. (District Five)** The Ordinance was introduced by the City Planner and will be considered at the next council meeting.

**Introduce an Ordinance zoning recently annexed property located at the end of Shepherds Loop and near 25379 Highway 69 North from the MR (Municipal Reserve) Zoning District to the R-4 (Urban Dwelling) Zoning district for the purpose of future residential development.** The Ordinance was introduced by the City Planner and will be considered at the next council meeting.

**Comments:**

Mayor O'Mary discussed the U.S. Senate Infrastructure bill. It will be the largest public works project in the U.S. since the interstate highway system. Mayor asked the council to look at the bill so discussions can be had in regards to how the money will be spent. Mayor stated that he is beginning to get some calls about the direction the city might move in regarding COVID-19, and that it is his preference for the council to make any necessary decisions moving forward in response to the increase of COVID-19 cases. He continued, saying he would like the city to do its part in promoting the vaccination. He referred to the U.S. Census stickers that were put on the police cars last year and would like to do something similar to promote the COVID vaccination. He presented an example to the council.

Councilmember Smith suggested the city also put information on the city website with resources.

Councilmember Cowen asked about the city adopting the state's orders regarding COVID-19 and if the governor comes out with new mandates/orders, would there need to be more done in order to enforce the state's directives. Russ Robertson responded that that would only be necessary in the event where there would be Jasper-specific orders or more restrictive orders than the state, which would need to be approved or approve giving the Mayor that authority. He stated that in order to follow and enforce state law, including proclamations of the governor under the Emergency Powers Act, no further action would need to be taken by the council.

Councilmember Smith reminded everyone about Jasper Police Department's National Night Out from 5-9 pm at Jasper High School. She commended the JPD for rallying community supporters. She also reminded everyone of the Hammies races that start at 6 pm at TR Simmons.

Councilmember Moore reminded everyone about the Arc of Walker County auction this Friday at the Natatorium. Doors open at 6 pm and the auction starts at 7 pm. Also, on Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, First Baptist Church on Corona Avenue is having a blood drive.

Councilmember Daniel talked about the COVID-19 vaccine. He understands it is everyone's choice, but he went and got his first shot and stressed that it is better to be safe than sorry.

John Simms spoke to the council. He started by commending the Jasper Police Department for the work they do. He lives on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and complained that there are cars that drag race on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. It happens every day, and he is very concerned that someone will get killed. He asked for help to stop it.

Councilmember Moore thanked Mr. Simms for coming. He has asked for more police presence in his district and has not received it yet.

**Consider adjournment of the meeting.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith to adjourn the meeting.

**Vote**

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

10:38 a.m. – Meeting adjourned.

A P P R O V E D:

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Danny Gambrell, Presiding Officer

A T T E S T:

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Kathy Chambless, City Clerk/Administrator