

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

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

Present: Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell, Councilmembers Jenny Brown Short, Gary Cowen, Willie Moore, III, Mayor David P. O'Mary, City Clerk/Administrator Kathy Chambless, and City Attorney Russ Robertson

Absent: Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith

Invocation: Police Chief J.C. Poe

Pledge of Allegiance: City Planner Keith Pike

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Cowen that the minutes of the special called meeting held August 27, 2021, be approved.

Vote

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

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Cowen that the minutes of the regular meeting held September 14, 2021, be approved.

Vote

Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Absent
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 Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore that the agenda be approved.

Vote

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

Present a Proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness. Mayor O’Mary read the proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness, proclaiming October Breast Cancer Awareness month in Jasper.

Consider appointment of District One Councilmember.

Councilmember Moore nominated Jenny Brown Short to fill the vacancy for District One.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore that the nominations be closed.

Vote

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

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to appoint Jenny Brown Short to the position of District One Councilmember.

Vote

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

Honorable Judge Jim Brakefield then proceeded to administer the Oath of Office as follows:

OATH OF OFFICE

I, Jenny Brown Short, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alabama, so long as I continue a citizen thereof; and that I will faithfully and honestly discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter, to the best of my ability, so help me God.

This the 21st day of September, 2021.

Councilmember Short then joined the Councilmembers on the bench.

Consider appointment of Fire Chief.

Presiding Officer Gambrell opened nominations for Fire Chief.

Councilmember Moore nominated Dante Fields for Fire Chief.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore that the nominations be closed.

Vote

Councilmember Jenny Brown Short	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Absent
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Short to appoint Dante Fields to Fire Chief.

Vote

Mayor O'Mary	Yes
Councilmember Jenny Brown Short	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Absent
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Presiding Officer Gambrell announced that Dante Fields has been hired as Fire Chief

Chief Fields briefly spoke, thanking Mayor, his department, Sherry Clark, and Captain Heath Smith.

Police Chief J.C. Poe congratulated Chief Fields.

Consider a request for approval of travel for Revenue employees attending the Fall Revenue Training Institute in Tuscaloosa from October 6-10, 2021.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore to approve travel for Revenue employees attending the Fall Revenue Training Institute in Tuscaloosa from October 6-10, 2021.

Vote

Councilmember Jenny Brown Short	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Absent
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Consider a request for approval of travel and seminar expenses for a City Prosecutor to attend the Alabama League of Municipalities Fall Conference October 21-23, 2021.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to approve travel and seminar expenses for a City Prosecutor to attend the Alabama League of Municipalities Fall Conference October 21-23, 2021.

Vote

Councilmember Jenny Brown Short	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Absent
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Consider adoption of Budget Amendment #2020/2021-16.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to adopt Budget Amendment #2020/2021-15.

Vote

Councilmember Jenny Brown Short	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Absent
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Introduce 2021/2022 budget. The 2021/2022 budget was introduced by Mayor O'Mary and will be considered at the next regular council meeting.

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 Cowen to set cost for Nuisance Abatement of grass/weeds.

Vote

Councilmember Jenny Brown Short	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Absent
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

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

Motion

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

Vote

Councilmember Jenny Brown Short	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Absent
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Consider a request for permission to vacate a portion of 23rd Street West and 7th Place for New Bethel Church of God in District Five.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to grant permission to start the process of vacating a portion of 23rd Street West and 7th Place for New Bethel Church of God in District Five.

Vote

Councilmember Jenny Brown Short	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Absent
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Comments:

Mayor O'Mary thanked Jenny Brown Short for her willingness to join the council. He looks forward to working with her.

Presiding Officer Gambrell, Councilmembers Cowen and Moore congratulated Councilmember Short.

Councilmember Moore congratulated Dante Fields on being hired as Fire Chief. He also congratulated Eddie Miller for being inducted into the Alabama Sports Officials Hall of Fame and recognized Jasper City Schools Superintendent Dr. Jackson for being in attendance.

Consider adjournment of the meeting.

Motion

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

Vote

Councilmember Jenny Brown Short	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Absent
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

10:35 a.m. – Meeting adjourned.

A P P R O V E D:

Danny Gambrell, Presiding Officer

A T T E S T:

Kathy Chambless, City Clerk/Administrator