

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD JANUARY 6, 2026**

10:02 a.m. - The meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer Jenny Brown Short in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 121 17th Street West, Jasper.

Present: Presiding Officer Jenny Brown Short, Councilmembers Lincoln Moody, Sam Watts, Jennifer W. Smith, and Willie Moore III, Mayor Josh Gates, City Clerk/Administrator Kathy Chambless, City Attorney Russ Robertson

Absent:

Invocation: Police Chief J.C. Poe

Pledge of Allegiance: Assistant Police Chief Paul Tucker

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Moody that the minutes of the regular meeting held December 16, 2025, be approved.

Vote

Councilmember Lincoln Moody	Yes
Councilmember Sam Watts	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore III	Yes
Presiding Officer Jenny Brown Short	Yes

Consider amendments to the agenda. There were no amendments.

Consider approval of the agenda.

Motion

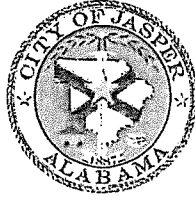
Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Watts that the agenda be approved.

Vote

Councilmember Lincoln Moody	Yes
Councilmember Sam Watts	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore III	Yes
Presiding Officer Jenny Brown Short	Yes

Present a proclamation for Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Mayor Gates read the proclamation aloud and presented it to Kristin Kiefer Huddleston, Assistant Walker County District Attorney. She then commented on human trafficking prevention and the need for continued community collaboration to raise awareness.

(See following page)



PROCLAMATION

Office of the Mayor of Jasper, Alabama

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a public health issue and crime that harms the health and well-being of children, individuals, families, and communities, often across generations; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking can happen to anyone in every community; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is connected to many other forms of violence and exploitation, and often shares common risk factors, such as lack of resources and unsafe environments; and

WHEREAS, strengthening communities requires collective action to prevent, recognize and reduce the conditions that contribute to exploitation and to create environments where people are protected from human trafficking and other forms of violence; and

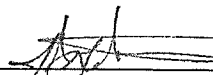
WHEREAS, a successful response to human trafficking requires a coordinated, community-wide response that includes collaboration across sectors and with those who have experienced human trafficking, to ensure that services and programs are effective and meet the needs of survivors; and


WHEREAS, every individual, family, community, and organization can help raise awareness, prevent trafficking, and support survivors by learning how to take action; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jasper would like to be designated as a Trafficking Free Zone showing our commitment to action and awareness and partnerships to comprehensively address the issues of human trafficking.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Josh Gates, as mayor of the City of Jasper, Alabama, and on behalf of the Jasper City Council do proclaim January 2026 as **Human Trafficking Prevention Month**, and reaffirm our commitment to human trafficking awareness, training and education activities, strengthened resources for those impacted by human trafficking; and to being designated a Trafficking Free Zone supporting a more coordinated, comprehensive response to prevent and combat the crime of human trafficking.*

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed this 6th day of January 2026.


Josh Gates, Mayor


Attest: Kathy Chambless, City Clerk

City Council Meeting Minutes 1/6/2026



Recognize Chief Poe to recognize Trevor Hudson and Steven Haynes. Chief Poe recognized Trevor Hudson and Steven Haynes as the two newest additions to the police department.

Consider a request for permission to send bids for dual wall polyethylene pipe.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Moody to send bids for dual wall polyethylene pipe.

Vote

Councilmember Lincoln Moody	Yes
Councilmember Sam Watts	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore III	Yes
Presiding Officer Jenny Brown Short	Yes

Consider adoption of a resolution to authorize Mayor Gates to enter into an agreement with LaBella Associates for landfill property survey and staking.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Watts to adopt a resolution to authorize Mayor Gates to enter into an agreement with LaBella Associates for landfill property survey and staking.

Vote

Councilmember Lincoln Moody	Yes
Councilmember Sam Watts	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore III	Yes
Presiding Officer Jenny Brown Short	Yes

(See following page)

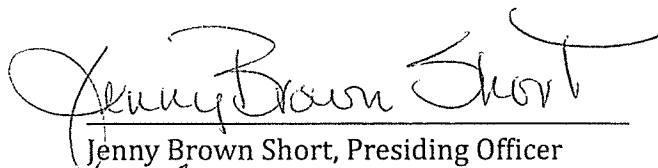
RESOLUTION NO.: 2026 – 01

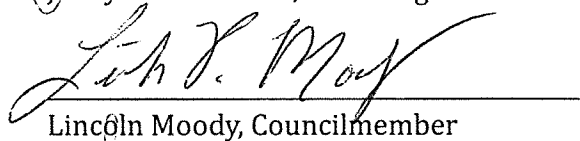
WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Jasper, Alabama, wishes to retain professional consulting services for property survey and staking at the landfill; and

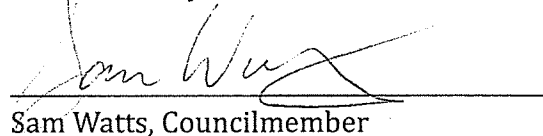
WHEREAS, the City of Jasper intends to enter into an agreement with LaBella Associates, D.P.C. (LaBella) under which LaBella will provide property boundary and topography and staking at the landfill.

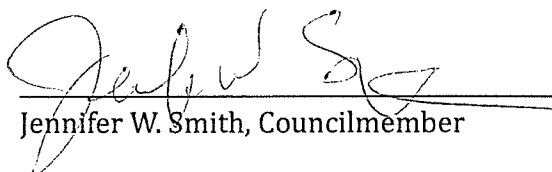
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Jasper, Alabama, that Mayor Josh Gates is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with LaBella for professional services for property survey and staking at the Jasper landfill.

ADOPTED this the 6th day of January 2026.


Jenny Brown Short, Presiding Officer

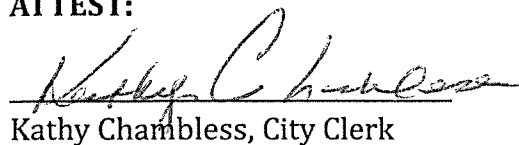

Lincoln Moody, Councilmember


Sam Watts, Councilmember


Jennifer W. Smith, Councilmember


Willie Moore III, Councilmember

ATTEST:


Kathy Chambless, City Clerk

Consider adoption of a resolution to request an Opinion of the Attorney General concerning an employee matter.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Moore to adopt a resolution to request an Opinion of the Attorney General concerning an employee matter.

Vote

Councilmember Lincoln Moody	Yes
Councilmember Sam Watts	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore III	Yes
Presiding Officer Jenny Brown Short	Yes

(See following page)

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF JASPER, ALABAMA**

Resolution No. 2026-02

WHEREAS, the City of Jasper has been presented with a situation wherein an employee who intends to retire from service with the City of Jasper, Alabama, avers that he was promised indirectly by the then-mayor of the City that he could continue to participate in the City's health insurance program following his retirement; and

WHEREAS, this participation includes, inter alia, the City's payment of a significant portion of the monthly premium for such health insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, such promise, assuming that it was made, is/was contrary to the existing Policy concerning retiree participation in the City's insurance program at both the present time and at the time that the promise is reported to have been made; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Jasper, Alabama, desires to obtain the Opinion of the Attorney General of Alabama relative to the legality of fulfilling the promise which was reported to be made, and relative to whether the City is obligated to honor the promise, assuming, again, that the same was made;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, that an opinion of the Attorney General of the State of Alabama is requested on the following issues:

1). Whether the City may legally pay a portion of the employee's health insurance premium following his retirement, which payment would be contrary to the provisions of the City's policy concerning health insurance premiums for retired employees, but which payment would be consistent with the promise which was reportedly made to the employee; and

2). Whether, assuming the promise was made, the City is legally obligated to pay its portion of the employee's health insurance premium from the time of his retirement until the time that he becomes eligible for Medicare.

ADOPTED and APPROVED this the 6th day of January, 2026.



Hon. Jenny Brown Short
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Kathy Chambless, City Clerk

Introduce an ordinance rezoning a .20 acre+- parcel of land located at 701 27th St W, Jasper, AL (Parcel # 64-17-05-16-3-000-110.000) from the R-2 (Single Family Residence) Zoning District to the R-3 (Affordable Housing) Zoning District for purpose of placing a manufactured home located in district five. The ordinance was introduced by the City Planner and will be considered for approval at the next regular council meeting.

Comments: Mayor Gates commented on the city's recent press release outlining efforts to address homelessness, noting that it serves as an introduction and starting point to help focus the city's work and strengthen coordination across the community. He welcomes ideas and feedback from the public. He also shared that the city continues to move forward with park expansion and improvements, with updates to be provided in the coming months. Lastly, he noted that work is underway on the city's strategic plan, along with the development of a community calendar.

Police Captain Daryl Atkins thanked Police Chief J.C. Poe, Mayor Gates, and the council for their support during his time serving as Assistant Police Chief during Paul Tucker's absence.

Chief Poe thanked Captain Atkins for filling in for Assistant Police Chief Tucker over the past 14 months.

Consider adjournment of the meeting.

Motion

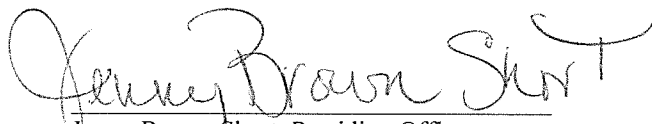
Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Moody to adjourn the meeting.

Vote

Councilmember Lincoln Moody	Yes
Councilmember Sam Watts	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore III	Yes
Presiding Officer Jenny Brown Short	Yes

10:22 a.m. – Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:


Jenny Brown Short, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


Kathy Chambliss, City Clerk/Administrator