

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD MAY 5, 2020**

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 Gary Cowen, Jennifer W. Smith and Willie Moore, III, Mayor David P. O’Mary, City Clerk/Administrator Kathy Chambless, and Russell B. Robertson, Esq.

Absent: Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey

Invocation: City Planner, Keith Pike

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilmember Gary Cowen

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 21, 2020, be approved.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Abstain
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Consider amendments to the agenda. The agenda was amended to add an additional item: Consider adoption of a Resolution to allow Mayor O’Mary to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to construct a public hiking trail and provide maintenance within the Walker County Lake area.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Moore to approve the amendment to the Agenda.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Consider approval of the agenda.

Motion

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

Vote

Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Read Proclamation for Foster Care Month. Mayor O’Mary read the proclamation to proclaim the month of May 2020 as Foster Care Awareness Month.

Consider re-appointment of Evone Evans to the Jasper Housing Authority. Mayor O’Mary nominated Evone Evans for re-appointment to the Jasper Housing Authority Board.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore to re-appoint Evone Evans to the Jasper Housing Authority for a term to expire May 23, 2025.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey	Absent
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 allow Mayor O’Mary to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to construct a public hiking trail within the Walker County Lake area.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to allow Mayor O’Mary to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to construct a public hiking trail within the Walker County Lake area.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Consider accepting \$41,019 in grant funds from the Department of Justice for Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith to accept \$41,019 in grant funds from the Department of Justice for Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding for reimbursement of expenses due to Covid-19 and for additional equipment and supplies.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Absent
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 renew contract for crushed stone at the same terms and pricing.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to adopt a Resolution to renew contract under the same terms and pricing for crushed stone.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Absent
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 declare surplus property unneeded.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to adopt a Resolution to declare 3 hard drives, 1 Ecosys copier/printer, 2 Emerson televisions, 2 monitors, and 4 keyboards as unneeded surplus property.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Absent
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 send bid invitations for Trophies and Awards.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore to approve the request to send bid invitations for trophies and awards.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Consider adoption of Resolutions for Nuisance Abatement of an Unsafe Structure, Inoperative Vehicles, and Grass/Weeds.**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith to adopt a Resolution for Nuisance Abatement of an unsafe structure.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Absent
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 a Resolution for Nuisance Abatement of inoperative vehicles.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Absent
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 Moore to adopt a Resolution for Nuisance Abatement of grass and weeds.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Absent
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Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Introduce an Ordinance rezoning a .58 acre +- tract of land located at 1503 Jones Dairy Road from the AG (Agricultural) Zoning District to the B-T (Transition Business) Zoning District for the purpose of operating a professional office. The Ordinance was introduced by the City Planner and will be considered at the next council meeting.

Comments:

Mayor O’Mary mentioned the foul odor in the city that has been going on for several weeks. The source of the odor has become known and is outside of the city limits. There may be an exit plan materializing in the next week or so and hopefully as a result, the smell will eventually go away.

Mayor O’Mary is continuing to hear about the flooding. We have had a lot of rain and the City continues to work on remedying the effects of the flooding.

Mayor O’Mary stated how proud he is of the people of Jasper and the attitude they have during this pandemic. He hopes there will be some relief soon for those businesses that are still unable to open and for those who are struggling financially. A word of encouragement to the citizens of Jasper would go a long way.

Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith mentioned the NLC discount prescription program intended for people who do not have insurance or whose prescriptions are not covered, potentially saving people an average of 24%. She would like to revisit this in order to offer it to our citizens. She would also like to look into the NLC service line warranty program that covers the outside water and waste lines.

Councilmember Gary Cowen asked Russ Robertson to speak to Birmingham’s facemask law.

Russ Robertson stated that the ability of the state and municipalities is to regulate the health, safety and welfare of the citizens. Within reason, a private landowner may be able to impose virtually any restriction such as requiring consumers to wear a mask when entering a store.

The municipal courtroom was made available to the public to view and participate in the Council Meeting with strict adherence to the guidelines set forth by the State of Alabama during the COVID-19 pandemic; however, no one was present to comment.

Consider adjournment of the meeting.

Motion

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

Vote

Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes

Councilmember Willie Moore, III
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell

Yes
Yes

10:28 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