

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD JULY 7, 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, V.L. “Sonny” Posey (by phone), and Willie Moore, III, Mayor David P. O’Mary, City Clerk/Administrator Kathy Chambless, and City Attorney Russell B. Robertson, Esq.

Absent:

Invocation: Police Chief J.C. Poe

Pledge of Allegiance: Brent McCarver, Revenue Compliance Officer

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore that the minutes of the regular meeting held June 16, 2020, be approved.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey	Did Not Vote
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 Cowen that the agenda be approved.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey	Did Not Vote
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Read a Proclamation for COVID-19 Awareness Day. Mayor O’Mary read the proclamation to proclaim July 7, 2020, as COVID-19 Awareness Day to urge citizens to join in paying tribute to those who have recovered and to bring awareness to the importance of good hygiene, respiratory etiquette and physical distancing to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Consider accepting \$1,000.00 donation from the Walker County Humane Society for the dog box on the Jasper Police Department’s Animal Control vehicle.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith to accept a \$1,000.00 donation from the Walker County Humane Society for the dog box on the Jasper Police Department’s Animal Control vehicle.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey	Did Not Vote
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 appoint the City Clerk as the Election Manager for the 2020 Municipal Election.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Smith to appoint the City Clerk as the Election Manager for the 2020 Municipal Election.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey	Did Not Vote
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 donate a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria to Yerkwood Volunteer Fire Department for medical calls.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith to grant permission to donate a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria as said property is unneeded for municipal purposes.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey	Did Not Vote
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 convey a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria to Yerkwood Volunteer Fire Department for medical calls.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Did Not Vote
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 recommend the use of a face cover/mask for public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore to adopt a Resolution to recommend the use of a face cover/mask for public safety in the City of Jasper during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Did Not Vote
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 apply for community development block grant funding for improvements on 19th Street around the old West Jasper School Building. Mayor O'Mary discussed the funding and reported on the status but requested no action until further notice.

Consider adoption of a Resolution to apply for grant funding to replace two F-350 trucks for the Street Department. Mayor O'Mary discussed the funding and reported on the status but requested no action until further notice.

Consider a request for permission to purchase a transit van.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to approve the purchase of a transit van either through the bid process or state contract for the use of transporting animals.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Did Not Vote
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 bids for ballistic vests for the Jasper Police Department.**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Smith to approve the request to send bid invitations for ballistic vests for the Jasper Police Department.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Did Not Vote
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 Unsafe Structures.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Did Not Vote
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Motion

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

Vote

Councilmember V. L. "Sonny" Posey	Did Not Vote
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Introduce an Ordinance rezoning a 1.5 acre +- parcel of land located at 2200 Gamble Avenue from the B-T (Transition Business) Zoning District to the B-1 (Neighborhood Business) Zoning District for the purpose of operating a Public Assembly Facility in District Five. The Ordinance was introduced by the City Planner and will be considered at the next council meeting.

Introduce an Ordinance rezoning a .38 acre +- parcel of land located at and near 1310 22nd Street West from the R-2 (Single Family Residential) Zoning District to the R-3 (Affordable Housing) Zoning District for the purpose of placing a Class B (Singlewide) Manufactured Home in District Five. The Ordinance was introduced by the City Planner and will be considered at the next council meeting.

Consider a request for permission to proceed with the vacation of an alley located between 18th and 19th Streets West and 11th and 12th Avenues. (District Five)

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to grant permission to proceed with the vacation of an alley located between 18th and 19th Streets West and 11th and 12th Avenues.

Vote

Councilmember V. L. “Sonny” Posey	Did Not Vote
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

Comments:

Mayor O’Mary commented on the loss of two Street Department employees. Tom McDonald passed away on Saturday night after testing positive for COVID-19. On Sunday night, Mayor O’Mary received word that Jonathan Duncan had passed away. Family has said that his death is not COVID-related. The City lost two good employees and two friends who will not be forgotten. Mayor O’Mary asked that the McDonald and Duncan families be lifted up in prayer.

Councilmember Smith asked Mayor O’Mary to talk about the fair currently set up in the mall parking lot. Mayor O’Mary explained that the fair organizers bought a business license in early March. The fair is approved by the State Health Department and Walker County Health Department. The fair is also on private property, not city property. The fair organizers have strict guidelines they must follow and the Jasper Police Department will be monitoring to ensure those guidelines are followed.

Russ Robertson explained that once a business license is issued there is attached a property right that can only be removed by due process of law and would at a minimum would be entitled to a hearing.

Brent McCarver reiterated that the fair is approved by the Alabama Department of Public Health, Walker County Health Department and Jefferson County Health Department. Mayor O’Mary and the Council have stated that they will abide by the Governor and public health department.

Councilmember Smith suggested that a statement or live session be recorded in order to explain the reasoning behind allowing the fair to be held at this time.

Councilmember Smith explained that Ervin “Jock” Allen was unable to come to today’s council meeting, but he is interested in possibly coming to the next council meeting to make some comments if possible.

A member of the audience asked about the reopening of parks. Councilmember Smith responded that the parks are no longer under a curfew and are now open under normal park hours.

Consider adjournment of the meeting.

Motion

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

Vote

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

10:43 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