

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD OCTOBER 6, 2020**

10:02 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 City Attorney Russell B. Robertson, Esq.

Absent: V.L. “Sonny” Posey

Invocation: Assistant Police Chief, Paul Tucker

Pledge of Allegiance: Fire Chief, David Clark

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith that the minutes of the regular meeting held September 15, 2020, be approved.

Vote

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

Consider amendments to the agenda. The agenda was amended to remove one item: Consider adoption of a Resolution to allow Mayor O’Mary to enter into an agreement with McGehee Engineering, Inc. to provide for the design fee for a drainage structure at the old Jasper High School.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith 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	Absent
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

At 10:04 a.m. Councilmember Willie Moore, III entered the council meeting.

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	Did Not Vote
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Yes

At this time, Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell turned the meeting over to Councilmember Willie Moore, III to continue conducting the council meeting.

Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of a Retail Table Wine License and a Retail Beer License for off premise consumption for Houchens Food Group, Inc., d/b/a Save A Lot 206, located at 689 Highway 78 West, Jasper, AL. Following a public hearing during which no comments were made concerning the license, a motion was considered.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith to approve a Retail Table Wine License and a Retail Beer License for off premise consumption for Houchens Food Group, Inc., d/b/a Save A Lot 206.

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

Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of a Retail Liquor, Wine & Beer license for off premise consumption for VM, LLC, d/b/a Last Call Jasper, located at 3092 Hwy 195, Suite A, Jasper, AL. Following a public hearing during which no comments were made concerning the license, a motion was considered.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Presiding Officer Gambrell to approve a Retail Liquor, Wine & Beer license for off premise consumption for VM, LLC, d/b/a Last Call Jasper, located at 3092 Hwy 195, Suite A, Jasper, AL.

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

Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of a Retail Table Wine License and a Retail Beer License for off premise consumption for VM, LLC, d/b/a Last Call Jasper, located at 3092 Hwy 195, Suite B, Jasper, AL. Following a public hearing during which no comments were made concerning the license, a motion was considered.

Motion

Moved by Presiding Officer Gambrell, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to approve a Retail Table Wine License and a Retail Beer License for off premise consumption for VM, LLC, d/b/a Last Call Jasper, located at 3092 Hwy 195, Suite B, Jasper, AL.

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 Budget Amendment #2019/2020-09.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to adopt Budget Amendment #2019/2020-09.

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

Introduce Budget Amendment #2020/2021-01. The budget amendment was introduced by the City Clerk and a motion was considered.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Presiding Officer Gambrell that the rules be suspended and unanimous consent be given for immediate consideration of and action on said budget amendment.

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 Presiding Officer Gambrell to adopt budget amendment #2020/2021-01.

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 travel for police personnel to attend a Taser Instructor class in Ozark, AL October 19 – October 20, 2020. The class in October has been canceled. Police personnel have re-enrolled in another class scheduled for December 10 – December 11, 2020 in Decatur, AL.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Presiding Officer Gambrell to approve travel for police personnel to attend a Taser Instructor class in Decatur, AL, December 10 – December 11, 2020.

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 travel for police personnel to attend Tactical Narcotics Techniques in Nashville, TN October 4 – 8, 2020. This class has been canceled; therefore, no vote was taken.

Consider adoption of a Resolution recommending qualifications for the position of Fire Chief.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to adopt a Resolution recommending qualifications for the position of Fire Chief.

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

Conduct a Public Hearing and consider adoption of a Resolution to set cost for Nuisance Abatement.

Following a public hearing during which Sylvester Ivory commented on behalf of his mother in law, Vanella Edwards, and her property at 2405 9th Avenue. He commented that Vanella Edwards broke her hip and had not been living at the property for some time, but was planning on moving back in when possible. Sylvester stated that they were told a certified letter was sent, but claimed a nuisance letter was not received for unsafe structure for this property. He does not believe the house was condemned and is in disagreement that the house should have been torn down. A motion was then considered.

Motion

Moved by Presiding Officer Gambrell, seconded by Councilmember Smith to adopt a Resolution to set cost for Nuisance Abatement with the *exception* of 2405 9th Avenue (Vanella Edwards), District 5, which will be considered at a later time.

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 for Nuisance Abatement of an Unsafe Structure and Grass/Weeds.

Motion

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

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

Comments:

Mayor O’Mary reflected back on fiscal year 2020. It was the best year the city has ever had and was pleased to note that the accomplishments that were made were done so during such challenging times. He noted some bright spots, including C Spire’s fiber loop around the city and WBRC Fox 6’s *Red Rock Tuesday* showcasing Walker County Lake. Mayor shared his excitement about the new year, stating that the city is entering 2021 prepared from a financial perspective, but there is cause to be somewhat concerned about what could happen to the economy.

Councilmember Moore noted Presiding Officer Gambrell’s attendance and offered continued prayers for him and his family.

Consider adjournment of the meeting.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Presiding Officer Gambrell to adjourn the meeting.

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

10:31 a.m. - Meeting adjourned.

A P P R O V E D:

Willie Moore, III, Acting Presiding Officer

A T T E S T:

Kathy Chambless, City Clerk/Administrator