

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD OCTOBER 17, 2023**

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

Present: Presiding Officer Jennifer W. Smith, Councilmembers Danny Gambrell, Gary Cowen, and Willie Moore, III, City Clerk/Administrator Kathy Chambless

Absent: Mayor David P. O’Mary, Councilmember Jenny Brown Short, City Attorney Russell B. Robertson

Invocation: Assistant Police Chief Paul Tucker

Pledge of Allegiance: Fire Chief Dante Fields

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell that the minutes of the regular meeting October 3, 2023, be approved.

Vote

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

Consider amendments to the agenda. There was one amendment: Consider adoption of a Resolution for nuisance abatement of unsafe structures.

Consider approval of the agenda.

Motion

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

Vote

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

Present a Proclamation for Alabama College Application Week. Presiding Officer Smith read the Proclamation and presented it to Jasper High School students and JHS Career Coach Monique Lawrence who were present at the meeting.

(See following page)



PROCLAMATION

Office of the Mayor of Jasper, Alabama

WHEREAS, all students must have an opportunity to reach their full potential and to realize their lifelong aspirations; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor estimates 90 percent of our nation's upcoming 21st Century careers will require employees to have postsecondary experience; and

WHEREAS, the college application process may be a barrier that could keep some high school students from pursuing postsecondary education—because of an absence of information or support; and

WHEREAS, obtaining a postsecondary degree is linked to higher income, better health, and even increased community involvement; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate Alabama College Application Week special activities, official proclamation ceremonies, and other events have been planned state-wide; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, only 44 percent of adults in Alabama's working population (between the ages of 25-64) have obtained a two-year or four-year degree or an industry credential; and

WHEREAS, if this current trend continues, it is estimated that about 51 percent of adults in Alabama will hold a college degree in 2025; and

WHEREAS, this year over 200 Alabama's local high schools will be participating in this event, which is focused on preparing students for the exciting opportunities of the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama College Application Week Campaign is designed to increase the number of students that are applying to and ultimately enrolling in college with a particular focus on first-generation and low-income students; and

WHEREAS, in Alabama Achieves a prepared graduate is partially defined as possessing the knowledge and skills needed to enroll and succeed in credit-bearing, first-year courses at a two- or four-year college, trade school, and technical school without the need for remediation; and

WHEREAS, in the Class of 2023, more than half of Alabama high school seniors applied for financial aid services and completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and

WHEREAS, this celebration will also highlight the importance of the "college and career readiness" concept, which focuses on creating a seamless transition between students leaving high school, entering college, and moving into the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the State Superintendent of Education recommends approval; and

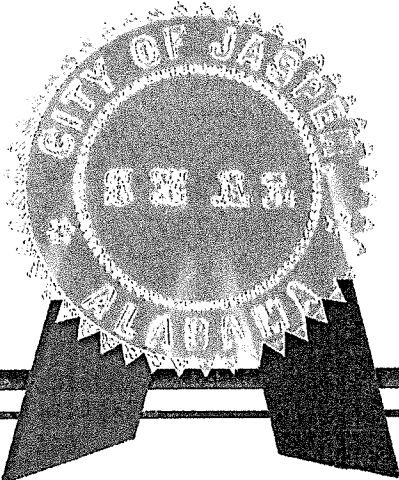
WHEREAS, the Alabama State Board of Education has proclaimed October 16-20, 2023, as Alabama College Application Week and encourages local boards of education, schools, business professionals, and local educational organizations to participate in this celebration through activities that demonstrate the importance of Alabama's students achieving their aspirations of academic excellence and personal achievement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David P. O'Mary, Mayor of the City of Jasper, Alabama, do hereby proclaim the third week in October, as ALABAMA COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK in Jasper and encourage all high school seniors to take advantage of the assistance provided through this initiative.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed this 17th day of October 2023.

[Signature]
 David P. O'Mary, Mayor

[Signature]
 Attest: Kathy Chambless, City Clerk



Consider approval of event permits for:

- a) **Hispanic Festival by Jasper Main Street, November 3, 2023, on a portion of 19th Street.**
- b) **Veterans Day Parade by the VFW, November 4, 2023, normal procession route around downtown Jasper.**
- c) **WCMA Justice for Tony Mitchell Rally by Walker County Mutual Aid, November 4, 2023, courthouse square.**

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Gambrell, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to approve an event permit for Hispanic Festival, Veterans Day Parade, and WCMA Justice for Tony Mitchell rally.

Vote

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

Consider a request for approval of overnight travel for Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith to attend the 2023 Municipal Leadership Institute and League Graduation Ceremonies, November 8-10, 2023, in Orange Beach, AL.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to approve overnight travel for Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith to attend the 2023 Municipal Leadership Institute and League Graduation Ceremonies, November 8-10, 2023, in Orange Beach, AL.

Vote

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

Consider adoption of Budget Amendment #2023/2024-01.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore to adopt Budget Amendment #2023/2024-01.

Vote

Councilmember Jenny Brown Short	Absent
Councilmember Danny Gambrell	Yes
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes

Presiding Officer Jennifer W. Smith Yes

Consider adoption of Budget Amendment #2023/2024-02, by unanimous consent, to support the purchase of a new facility for the Walker County Community Action Agency contingent upon the receipt of an agreement with the WCCAA board, and to provide funding for Coke Oven Park playground equipment.

Motion

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

Vote

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

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to adopt Budget Amendment #2023/2024-02.

Vote

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

Consider adoption of a Resolution to authorize Mayor O’Mary to enter into an agreement with the Walker County Community Action Agency related to the funding for the purchase and/or renovation of a new facility.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore to adopt a Resolution to authorize Mayor O’Mary to enter into an agreement with the Walker County Community Action Agency related to the funding for the purchase and/or renovation of a new facility.

Vote

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

(See following page)

RESOLUTION NO: 2023 - 57

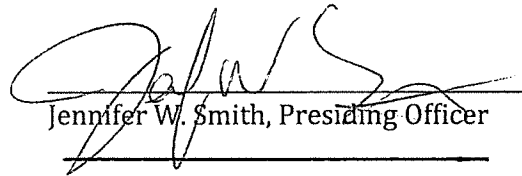
WHEREAS, the Walker County Community Action Agency (WCCAA) has traditionally located its headquarters and administrative offices with the city of Jasper and seeks funds to assist with the purchase and renovation of a new headquarters facility in Jasper; and

WHEREAS, the city agrees to provide funding to the WCCAA for the purchase and/or renovation of the new facility in the amount of \$100,000; and

WHEREAS, WCCAA agrees to utilize the facility to provide services to residents of Jasper and Walker County and to continue to do so at a level which is equivalent to the level of services currently provided to such citizens.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor David P. O'Mary is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Walker County Community Action Agency to provide funds for the purchase and/or renovation of a new facility.

ADOPTED this the 17th day of October, 2023.


Jennifer W. Smith, Presiding Officer

Jenny Brown Short, Councilmember

Danny Gambrell, Councilmember

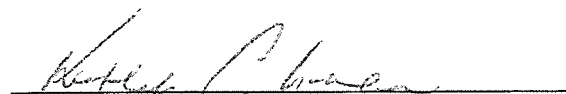


Gary Coates, Councilmember



Willie Moore, III, Councilmember

ATTEST:



Kathy Chambless, City Clerk

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 adopt a Resolution to set cost for nuisance abatement.

Vote

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

(See following pages)

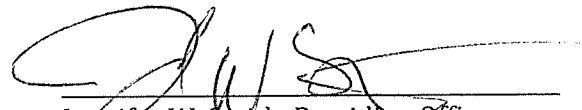
RESOLUTION NO: 2023 - 58

WHEREAS, the Jasper City Council has held a cost hearing on the abatement of nuisances on the following properties as presented in Exhibit "Cost Hearing Report 10/17/23" attached and made a part of this resolution;

WHEREAS, the Jasper City Council has affixed the costs associated with and incurred by the City of Jasper, Alabama as presented in Exhibit "Cost Hearing Report 10/17/23" attached and made a part of this resolution;

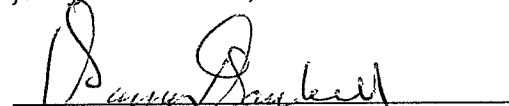
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jasper City Council hereby adopts and approves the setting of said cost of abatement of said properties.

ADOPTED this the 17th day of October, 2023.

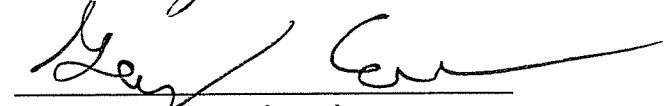


Jennifer W. Smith, Presiding Officer

Jenny Brown Short, Councilmember



Danny Gambrell, Councilmember

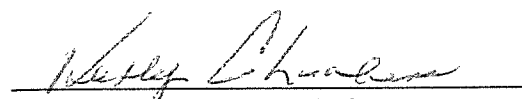


Gary Cowen, Councilmember



Willie Moore, III, Councilmember

ATTEST:



Kathy Chambless, City Clerk

**COST HEARING REPORT
10/17/23**

709 19th Street E (Corey & Cassiday Young), District Five

\$150.00		Cutting Overgrown Grass/Weeds
25.00		Administrative Fees
\$175.00		Total

305 20th Street (Integrity First LLC c/o Brandon Snider), District Five

\$150.00		Cutting Overgrown Grass/Weeds
25.00		Administrative Fees
\$175.00		Total

911 27th Street W (Howard Wells), District Five

\$150.00		Cutting Overgrown Grass/Weeds
25.00		Administrative Fees
\$175.00		Total

3104 6th Avenue (Tamica Webster), District Five

\$150.00		Cutting Overgrown Grass/Weeds
25.00		Administrative Fees
\$175.00		Total

Consider adoption of a Resolution for Nuisance Abatement of unsafe structures.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to adopt a Resolution for Nuisance Abatement of unsafe structures.

Vote

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

(See following page)

RESOLUTION NO.: 2023 - 59

WHEREAS, the Jasper City Council finds a nuisance for unsafe structure exists at:

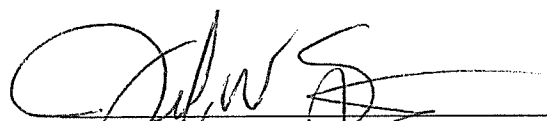
1. 2511 9th Avenue, John Mathis, District Five
2. 1910 14th Avenue, Felipe Ambrosio Lastor & V. Hernandez, District Four
3. 1701 Williams Street, Worship Life International, District Five
4. 3702 3rd Avenue, J R Sherer, District Five

pursuant to ORD. 2001-718-A; and

WHEREAS, the Jasper City Council finds that the abatement of said nuisances should be taken.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jasper City Council hereby approves the abatement of said nuisances.

DONE this the 17th day of October, 2023.

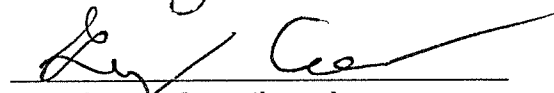


Jennifer W. Smith Presiding Officer

Jenny Brown Short, Councilmember



Danny Gambrell, Councilmember

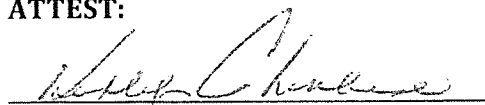


Gary Cowen, Councilmember



Willie Moore, III, Councilmember

ATTEST:



Kathy Chambless, City Clerk

Comments: Presiding Officer Smith enjoyed meeting with the new Walker Baptist Medical Center CEO Sean Johnson recently along with mayor, other councilmembers, and some county commissioners.

Deidre Tatum, Executive Director of the Walker County Community Action Agency, thanked the council and Mayor O’Mary for their support.

Stacy Smothers reminded everyone of the Pooch Plunge at the Natatorium on Saturday at 1:00 pm. All of the proceeds will go to Rescuers United for Fur Babies (R.U.F.F.).

Brent McCarver shared that the city hosted 36,454 people last month for Foothills Festival based on confirmed data. Some businesses experienced up to a 75% increase in revenue over that weekend. Foothills Festival was extremely successful.

Consider adjournment of the meeting.

Motion

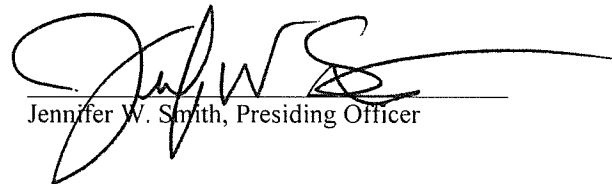
Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore to adjourn the meeting.

Vote

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

10:24 a.m. – Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED:



Jennifer W. Smith, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



Kathy Chambless, City Clerk/Administrator