

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

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

Present: Presiding Officer Gary Cowen, Councilmembers Jenny Brown Short, Dany Gambrell, Jennifer W. Smith, and Willie Moore, III, Mayor David P. O'Mary, City Clerk/Administrator Kathy Chambless, and Attorney Jud Allen

Absent: City Attorney Russ Robertson

Invocation: City Planner Keith Pike

Pledge of Allegiance: Fire Chief Dante Fields

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell that the minutes of the regular meeting held November 9, 2021, be approved.

Vote

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

Consider amendments to the agenda. The agenda was amended to remove the consideration of the adoption of a Resolution to authorize Mayor O'Mary to enter into a permissive use agreement with Walker County Commission relating to the use of the Jasper Civic Center (item #13 on the agenda).

Consider approval of the agenda.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Gambrell, seconded by Councilmember Short that the agenda be approved.

Vote

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

Consider approval of an event permit for the Smith wedding, November 20, 2021. This item was tabled until the end of the meeting.

Consider adoption of Budget Amendment #2021/2022-1.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Short to adopt Budget Amendment #2021/2022-1.

Vote

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

Introduce Budget Amendment #2021/2022-2. The budget amendment was introduced by the City Clerk and will be considered at the next council meeting.

Councilmember Moore arrived and joined the meeting at 10:05 am.

Consider a request for permission to send proposals for Animal Adoption and Pound Services, send bids for security body scans, and to purchase chest compression equipment (3).

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Gambrell, seconded by Councilmember Short to allow the Purchasing Agent to send proposals for Animal Adoption and Pound Services, send bids for security body scans, and to purchase chest compression equipment (3).

Vote

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

Consider approving additional funds for a drainage issue related to Gamble Avenue sidewalk project.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Gambrell, seconded by Councilmember Short to approve additional funds for a drainage issue related to Gamble Avenue sidewalk project.

Vote

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

Consider adoption of a Resolution to increase the rental rate for the Jasper Civic Center.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Gambrell, seconded by Councilmember Short to adopt a Resolution to increase the rental rates by 15% for the Jasper Civic Center.

Vote

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

Introduce an Ordinance rezoning a parcel of land located at and near 2804 9th Avenue from the R-2 (Single Family Residential) Zoning District to the R-3 (Affordable Housing) Zoning District for the purpose of placing a manufactured home. The Ordinance was introduced by the City Planner and will be considered at the next council meeting.

Consider adoption of an Ordinance to amend the leash Ordinance related to impounded dogs.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Moore to adopt an Ordinance related to impounded dogs.

Vote

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

Consider adoption of an Ordinance to amend the sales tax Ordinance.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to adopt an Ordinance to amend the sales tax Ordinance.

Vote

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

Comments:

Mayor O'Mary thanked the council for approving the sales tax Ordinance, saying the 4-point investment plan will result in a \$25 million infusion into the city with the sum total being Jasper investing in Jasper. He shared that the plan involves building a sports complex, renovating Sherer Auditorium with a WPA facade for a new city hall, \$5 million in paving, and support for economic development. The ½ cent sales tax increase will sunset in approximately 9 years. He continued, saying he believes the sports complex will likely serve this city for many years to come. There was \$7 million spent on paving approximately 2 years ago. A plan was developed to pave roads based on need and as a result, according to the engineer, approximately 75% of the roads identified were paved. \$5 million will now be put forth, as part of this plan, to continue to pave the remaining roads based on need. Mayor believes this 4-point plan is the right move for the taxpayers of this city.

Councilmember Smith asked about the time of the tree lighting at the upcoming Festival of Lights. She commented on the 4-point plan saying she is very excited for the Sherer Auditorium renovation, especially because of improved building accessibility, and believes it will be a beautiful building.

Consider approval of an event permit for the Smith wedding, November 20, 2021.**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Moore to approve the event permit for the Smith wedding for November 20, 2021.

Vote

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

Consider adjournment of the meeting.**Motion**

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

Vote

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

10:25 a.m. – Meeting adjourned.

A P P R O V E D:

Gary Cowen, Presiding Officer

A T T E S T:

Kathy Chambless, City Clerk/Administrator