

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD DECEMBER 7, 2021**

10:01 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, and Willie Moore, III, Mayor David P. O'Mary, City Clerk/Administrator Kathy Chambless, and City Attorney Russell B. Robertson

Absent: Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith

Invocation: City Planner Keith Pike

Pledge of Allegiance: Assistant Streets & Grounds Superintendent Billy Wade

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell that the minutes of the regular meeting held November 16, 2021, be approved.

Vote

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

Consider amendments to the agenda. There were no amendments to 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	Absent
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Gary Cowen	Yes

Consider approval of an event permit for CCH Celebration of Life, Comfort Care Hospice, December 10, 2021.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to approve the event permit for Comfort Care Hospice’s Celebration of Life.

Vote

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

Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of a Restaurant Retail Liquor License (for on premise consumption) for JE Jasper OPS LLC d/b/a Jimmy’s Egg, located at 200 Hwy 78 East. Following a public hearing during which no comments were made concerning the license, a motion was considered.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to approve a Restaurant Retail Liquor License (for on premise consumption) for JE Jasper OPS LLC d/b/a Jimmy’s Egg, located at 200 Hwy 78 East.

Vote

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

Consider adoption of Budget Amendment #2021/2022-2.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to adopt Budget Amendment #2021/2022-2.

Vote

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

Introduce Budget Amendment #2021/2022-3. The budget amendment was introduced by the City Clerk and will be considered at the next council meeting.

Consider adoption of a Resolution for expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funds for premium pay bonus.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to adopt a Resolution for expenditure of American Rescue Plan Act funds for premium pay bonus.

Vote

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

Consider adoption of a Resolution to authorize Mayor O’Mary to enter into a permissive use agreement with Walker County Commission related to the use of the Jasper Civic Center.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Gambrell, seconded by Councilmember Short to adopt a Resolution to authorize Mayor O’Mary to enter into a permissive use agreement with Walker County Commission related to the use of the Jasper Civic Center.

Vote

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

Consider adoption of a Resolution to authorize Mayor O’Mary to proceed with the hiring of a Human Resources specialist to study pay matters.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to adopt a Resolution to authorize Mayor O’Mary to proceed with the hiring of a Human Resources specialist to study pay matters.

Vote

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

Presiding Officer Gary Cowen Yes

Consider adoption of a Resolution for Nuisance Abatement for Grass/Weeds.

Motion

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

Vote

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

Consider adoption of a Resolution vacating an unimproved 30' Right of Way located south of 29th Street East and just west of Whitehouse Road. (District Five)

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to adopt a Resolution vacating an unimproved 30' Right of Way located south of 29th Street East and just west of Whitehouse Road.

Vote

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

Consider adoption of 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. After a public hearing was conducted during which no comments were made, a motion was considered.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to adopt 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.

Vote

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

Presiding Officer Gary Cowen

Yes

Introduce an Ordinance rezoning a 2.2 acre +- parcel(s) of land located just north of 501 18th Avenue SW from the B-T (Transition Business) Zoning District to the M-2 (Heavy Industrial) Zoning District for the purpose of operating a computerized numerical control (CNC) shop. (District Four) The Ordinance was introduced by the City Planner and will be considered at the next council meeting.

Comments:

Mayor O'Mary spoke to the council about the operating results of the city for fiscal year 2021. The city operated with a surplus of \$5,136,000. The city's reserves will settle at \$14,501,000. In comparison, in 2016 the city had \$1,400,000 in reserves. He commented that this lays the foundation for the next leadership by preparing for the future. He is optimistic that fiscal year 2022 will be another good year for Jasper.

Executive Director of the JIDB, Michael Ferdinand, thanked the council for moving forward with the vacation of the Right of Way just west of Whitehouse Road.

Consider recessing to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. City Attorney Russ Robertson certified that the reasons for going into executive session are subject to the exception in the open meetings law that permits executive sessions to discuss pending litigation or controversies imminently likely to be litigated.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Moore, to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

Vote

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

10:27 a.m. – meeting recessed to Executive Session.

10:31 a.m. – Executive Session convened.

10:41 a.m. – Executive Session concluded.

Consider adjournment of the meeting.

Motion

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

Vote

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

10:42 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