

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD DECEMBER 15, 2020**

10:00 a.m. - The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Willie Moore, III in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 400 19th Street West, Jasper.

Present: Councilmembers Gary Cowen, Jennifer W. Smith, and Willie Moore, III, Mayor David P. O'Mary, City Clerk/Administrator Kathy Chambless and Russell B. Robertson, City Attorney

Absent: Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell, Councilmember Jed Daniel

Invocation: Revenue Compliance Officer Brent McCarver

Pledge of Allegiance: Purchasing Agent Derleda Abrom

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Moore that the minutes of the regular meeting held December 1, 2020, be approved.

Vote

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Abstain
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Absent

Consider amendments to the agenda. The agenda was amended to remove one item: Consider appointments to the Jasper Industrial Development Board.

Consider approval of the agenda.

Motion

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

Vote

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Absent

Consider a request for permission to renew the contract with Greater Birmingham Humane Society to provide animal pound service.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith to adopt a Resolution to renew the contract with Greater Birmingham Humane Society to provide animal pound service.

Vote

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Absent

Consider a request for permission to send a request for proposals for financing for the purchase of a fire truck and a garbage truck.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith to allow for sending a request for proposals for financing for the purchase of a fire truck and a garbage truck.

Vote

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Absent

Consider adoption of a Resolution to allow Mayor O’Mary to enter into an agreement with Jasper City Schools to enable community use of the old Walker High tennis courts.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith to allow Mayor O’Mary to enter into an agreement with Jasper City Schools to enable community use of the old Walker High School tennis courts.

Vote

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Absent

Consider adoption of a Resolution to set cost for Nuisance Abatement. A public hearing was conducted during which James Lamon spoke in regards to property at 1106/1108 Myrtle Drive in District 1. He commented that he did not believe the property should have been removed because it was not a nuisance in his opinion.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to adopt a Resolution to set cost for property at 1106 11th Avenue for Nuisance Abatement for unsafe structure and *table* the Nuisance Abatement for property at 1106/1108 Myrtle Drive to be considered at a later time.

Vote

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Absent

Consider adoption of a Resolution for nuisance abatement of an inoperative vehicle and grass/weeds.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith to adopt a Resolution for Nuisance Abatement of an Inoperative Vehicle *and* Grass/Weeds.

Vote

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Absent

Consider adoption of a Resolution Vacating an East/West alley lying between lots 2 & 3, Block 189, Map of Jasper (Pinnacle Bank parking lot). A public hearing was conducted during which no comments were made concerning the vacation.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Cowen, seconded by Councilmember Smith to adopt a Resolution vacating an East/West alley lying between lots 2 & 3, Block 189, Map of Jasper (Pinnacle Bank parking lot).

Vote

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Absent

Consider adoption of Ordinance to regulate the tethering of animals. City attorney Russ Robertson briefly outlined the Ordinance prior to a motion. The guidelines of this Ordinance are:

- One dog per tether;
- Must be situated so they cannot get tangled up;
- Must permit free run in two directions;
- A minimum of 225 square feet, with no measurement being less than 10 feet (15 x 15’);
- No dogs tethered less than 6 months old;
- No tethering of unsterilized female dogs; and
- No tethering during natural disasters

The exception is that these guidelines would not apply to dogs at dog shows or contests or in the care of a veterinarian.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Cowen to adopt an Ordinance to regulate the tethering of animals.

Vote

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Absent

Recognize Gene Hyche. Mr. Hyche commented on the need to have 12th Avenue repaved because it is in bad condition. He asked that the Mayor and Council please revisit the repaving discussion early next year. In regards to Eagles Point Park, Mr. Hyche believes if cars are parked at the gate when the park is closed, the cars should not be allowed to remain. He suggested that the gate be moved closer to the road so the cars can no longer be left parked at the gate after hours and pleaded for a solution to prevent this problem.

Councilmember Moore asked if a citation could be written for an unattended vehicle. Attorney Russ Robertson stated that an Ordinance could potentially be passed that prevented leaving an unattended vehicle on park property after hours, but that would apply citywide and deserves discussion.

Councilmember Cowen suggested getting the city attorney together with the police department to discuss the problem and possible resolutions.

Councilmember Moore recommended moving the park gate closer to the road and possibly adding some signage as a short term solution.

Comments:

Mayor O’Mary spoke about COVID and the high number of cases in our area. He mentioned the two Ordinances that were previously adopted to better allow Jasper Police Department to enforce the Governor’s Safer at Home order. Mayor met with Steve Miller, Chairman of Walker County Commission about COVID and plans to meet with him and other senior city and county leadership to proceed in lockstep with the county and other Walker County mayors in hopes to come away with a plan whereby everyone can be more effective in supporting Governor Ivey’s Safer at Home order.

Councilmember Smith asked about when the next work session would be as the next scheduled council meeting is for January 5, potentially resulting in the work session falling on New Year’s Day.

Councilmember Cowen suggested possibly moving the council meeting to another day for more convenience in scheduling the work session.

Consider adjournment of the meeting.

Motion

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

Vote

Councilmember Jed Daniel	Absent
Councilmember Gary Cowen	Yes
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Yes
Councilmember Willie Moore, III	Yes
Presiding Officer Danny Gambrell	Absent

10:43 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