City of Jasper

200 Burnt Mountain Road
Jasper, GA 30143
MINUTES | REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, September 14, 2026, 6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT
Mayor Kirk Raffield
Jim Looney
John Foust
Brandon Hannah
Tony Davis
Steve Lawrence

STAFF
Brandon Douglas
Kim Goldener
Lorrie Waters
Lindsey Williams
Matt Dawkins
John Sherrer
Mary Elizabeth Burgess
Joshua Davis
Carly Glaze

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE
See Attachment "A" & "B"

Attachment "C" - Mr. Ponicki's written statement regarding accessibility needs

MEMBERS ABSENT

LEGAL COUNSEL
David Syfan

PRESS
Mari Livsey – Know Pickens

Dan Pool – Pickens Progress

AGENDA ITEM: Call Meeting to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance	**PRESENTER:** Mayor Kirk Raffield
Mayor Raffield called the meeting to order and asked Council Member Steve Lawrence to confirm the presence of a quorum. Student Pastor Ryan Smith of Living Word Church delivered the invocation, followed by Veteran Angie Miller who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Miller also highlighted the upcoming "Rally Around the Town" veterans' tailgate fundraiser scheduled for September 19th at Hensley Plaza, benefiting the new Pickens Veterans Hall, and thanked the city for a recent $5,000 contribution.	
ACTION ITEMS	**PERSON RESPONSIBLE** / **DEADLINE**
N/A	N/A / N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Adopt Agenda	**PRESENTER:** Mayor Kirk Raffield
Discussion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion to adopt the agenda as distributed.	
Conclusion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Council Member Brandon Hannah made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented and Council Member Tony Davis seconded. The motion to adopt the agenda passed unanimously.	
ACTION ITEMS	**PERSON RESPONSIBLE** / **DEADLINE**
Approved	N/A / N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comments	**PRESENTER:** Mayor Kirk Raffield

Prior to public comments, Mayor Raffield addressed an unauthorized flyer circulating before the meeting that alleged more than 50% water loss and questioned local fire protection and hospital water supply. The Mayor clarified that the city's current water loss sits at 44%, emphasized that the city is working closely with Fire Chief Sherrer on fire protection, and corrected misinformation stating the meeting was held at Chattahoochee Tech. Mayor Raffield then opened the floor to public comment:

1. Trip Smith (Atlanta, GA): Speaking as a commercial real estate representative working with Piedmont Mountainside Hospital, he expressed concern that the city's water crisis has stalled the hospital's desired healthcare facility expansion since February 28. He stated that regional partners (Gilmer, Pickens, and Cherokee counties) have indicated water supply connectivity is feasible and urged the council to schedule an open public town hall to communicate candidly with citizens.
2. Neil Hughes (Clear Creek Communities, Brookhaven, GA): Addressed the council regarding his previously submitted water funding and development strategy. He noted frustration with recurring public remarks regarding a lack of funds and detailed how commercial impact fees and tiered utility systems from high-value commercial corridor projects could raise $6 million upfront and $1.5 million annually. He stated that open collaboration between developers and city officials is crucial to resolving the crisis.
3. Bill Scurry (Jasper, GA): Owner of Jasper Antiques & Things, asked for clarity on the council's core duties and representation, remarking on the visible public frustration over ongoing community issues.
4. Tracy Jones (Jasper, GA): Congratulated Councilmember Brandon Hannah on participating in the "Dancing with the Jasper Stars" charity event. She reported that the community raised nearly $7,000 at the recent

"Unity in the Community" event at the Sharp Top Distillery parking lot, emphasizing that true leadership requires consistent civic engagement and listening to all community members across city and county lines.

5. Dave Terry (Jasper, GA): Commended community engagement and detailed recent public activities at Hensley Plaza (line dancing, fundraisers, blood drives, and student theater). He advocated for pedestrian improvements, ADA-accessible sidewalks, and hourly business parking on Wall Street following its one-way conversion. He also inquired about publicly releasing survey results from the 2045 Comprehensive Plan.
6. Bobby Parish (Jasper, GA): Came forward but declined to offer public comment.
7. Mike Ponicki (Jasper, GA): Submitted a written statement directly into the public record via the City Clerk regarding accessibility needs and disability accommodation. (Attachment "C")
8. Jeffrey Schlaughter Jr. (Jasper, GA): Commended the council for considering formal ADA documents and designating an ADA coordinator. He urged the city to complete a full ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan with an established timeline to inventory barriers and budget for physical fixes (such as vehicle overhang on downtown sidewalks).
9. Samuel Sly (Jasper, GA): Offered several community suggestions regarding water, including building additional water storage tanks to stabilize pressure, installing monitoring stations to detect leaks and illegal hookups, increasing drought conservation restrictions, limiting municipal park watering, and exploring requirements for new developments to deliver 50% surplus water.
10. John Holden (Jasper, GA): Spoke on being denied reactivation of a pre-existing water meter on family property that had been inactive for eight years due to the current connection moratorium. He urged the city to consider collaborative solutions utilizing local blue-collar volunteers, equipment, and private business aid to repair the water distribution system.
11. Henry Grady Goble (Gainesville, GA): Shared his family's historical ties to Pickens and Gilmer counties and referenced a high-capacity commercial well on the Goble family farm in Gilmer County permitted by EPD for 4 to 8 million gallons per day. He questioned why the city and county have not moved more aggressively to pipe water southward rather than spending massive sums on reservoirs or privatizing the utility and asked for a public town hall.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda **PRESENTER:** Mayor Kirk Raffield

1. Minutes from 07.06.2026 Regular Council Meeting
2. Minutes from 08.03.2026 Regular Council Meeting
3. Approval of organizational chart for Jasper Police Department
4. Event Application for Pickens High School Homecoming parade scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2026 @ 6:00pm
5. Event Application for Georgia Premier Wrestling for "Wrestling in Perrow" for two dates, Saturday, October 24th 3:00pm to 9:00pm and Saturday, November 21st 3:00pm to 9:00pm

Conclusion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Council Member Jim Looney made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and Council Member Brandon Hannah seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Public Hearings **PRESENTER:** Mayor Kirk Raffield

Mayor Raffield called for the Public Hearings to be opened @ 6:40pm

Development Director Mary Elizabeth Burgess presented the information as related to each request.

Public Hearing #1
Item Requested: Request by applicant Mark Roland, the owner of approximately 0.75 acres, zoned C-2 General Commercial, located at 0 Old Philadelphia Road known as Parcel 030D 098 01 for a variance from the City of Jasper Zoning Ordinance Sec. 94-117(e)(3): Parking lots shall be paved with concrete, asphalt, or other finished material. Gravel and loose stone parking lots are prohibited.

Applicant Comments: Mark Roland explained the lot will not be used for customer access or paid storage, making full curb, gutter, and asphalt pavement cost prohibitive. He proposed using recycled asphalt millings, ditching for stormwater retention, and a 12-foot paved apron instead of a 50-foot apron.

Staff Report: Development Director Mary Elizabeth Burgess noted the property does not meet typical topographical hardship criteria but presented staff/Planning Commission recommended conditions, including low-impact stormwater design, landscaping buffers, gated entry, a paved driveway apron, and installation of a sidewalk or contribution to the sidewalk-in-lieu fund.

Public Comments: None

Public Hearing #2
Item Requested: Request by Brian Priest on behalf of Brian G & Glen D Priest of Priest Metal Recycling owners of approximately a 3.12-acre parcel located at 183 Cornett Lane South, further identified as Parcel 053D 032 to be rezoned from C-2 (General Commercial) to M-1 (General Industry).

Applicant Comments: Brian Priest explained the machine operates quietly (under 85 dB), is enclosed by earthen berms, and allows direct commercial access to Highway 515.

Staff Report: Development Director Mary Elizabeth Burgess reported the parcel is surrounded by industrial uses and heavy vegetation buffers, with the nearest residence over 1,000 feet away. Recommended approval with conditions including an engineered slab, spill containment, a paved internal transfer route within 18 months, and 7:00am–7:00 PM operating hours.

Public Comments: None

Public Hearing #3
Item Requested: Request by applicant Haley Bower on behalf of Champagne Toasters, LLC, the owner of approximately 2.25 acres, zoned C-2 General Commercial, located at 2101 Waleska Hwy 108 known as Parcel 064 006 for a variance from the City of Jasper Sign Ordinance Sec. 95-22-Monument Signs, to allow a 30° Pie Shaped sign approximately 22' in height and 15.75' wide.

Applicant Comments: Scott Lever explained the parcel sits 30 feet above Highway 515 and 200 feet from the centerline; the angled configuration allows northbound and southbound highway traffic to see the facility.

Staff Report: Development Director Mary Elizabeth Burgess noted that while technical hardship under the sign code was not strictly evident, the Planning Commission recommended approval restricted solely to the angled monument configuration without exempting height, size, or setback rules.

Public Comments: None

Closed @ 6:55pm

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: New Business
#1 Consideration of request by applicant Mark Roland, the owner of approximately 0.75 acres, zoned C-2 General Commercial, located at 0 Old Philadelphia Road known as Parcel 030D 098 01 for a variance from the City of Jasper Zoning Ordinance Sec. 94-117(e)(3): Parking lots shall be paved with concrete, asphalt, or other finished material. Gravel and loose stone parking lots are prohibited. Ordinance No. 2026-07

PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess – Planning & Development Director

Discussion: Council reviewed the proposed conditions. With the applicant's agreement, condition #1 was modified to require a 12-foot-deep paved apron rather than 50 feet.

Action Requested: Approval, Approval w/conditions, Denial

Council Member Jim Looney asked the applicant if they understood and accepted the conditions as presented and applicant agreed.

Conclusion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Council Member Jim Looney made the motion to approve with conditions and Council Member Steve Lawrence seconded. The motion passed 4 to 1 with Council Member Brandon opposing the motion.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: New Item #2 Consideration of request by Brian Priest on behalf of Brian G & Glen D Priest of Priest Metal Recycling owners of approximately a 3.12-acre parcel located at 183 Cornett Lane South, further identified as Parcel 053D 032 to be rezoned from C-2 (General Commercial) to M-1 (General Industry). Ordinance No. 2026-08	**PRESENTER:** Mary Elizabeth Burgess – Planning & Development Director

Discussion: Consideration of Rezoning Request by Brian Priest.

Action Request: Approval, Approval w/conditions, Denial

Council Member Jim Looney asked the applicant if they understood and accepted the conditions as presented and applicant agreed.

Conclusion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Council Member Tony Davis made the motion to approve the rezoning request with conditions and Council Member Steve Lawrence seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS	**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**	**DEADLINE**
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: New Item #3 Consideration of request by applicant Haley Bower on behalf of Champagne Toasters, LLC, the owner of approximately 2.25 acres, zoned C-2 General Commercial, located at 2101 Waleska Hwy 108 known as Parcel 064 006 for a variance from the City of Jasper Sign Ordinance Sec. 95-22-Monument Signs, to allow a 30° Pie Shaped sign approximately 22' in height and 15.75' wide. Ordinance No. 2026-09	**PRESENTER:** Mary Elizabeth Burgess – Planning & Development Director

Discussion: Variance request for a pie shaped sign.

Action Request: Approval, Approval w/conditions, Denial

Council Member Jim Looney asked the applicant if they understood and accepted the conditions as presented and applicant agreed.

Conclusion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Council Member Brandon Hannah made the motion to approve sign variance with conditions and Council Member Tony Davis seconded. The motion to passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS	**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**	**DEADLINE**
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: New Item #4 Consideration of Intergovernmental Agreement for Administration and Enforcement of Animal Control between Pickens County and City of Jasper	**PRESENTER:** Mayor Kirk Raffield

Discussion: City Manager Douglas and Mayor Raffield presented an IGA with Pickens County to streamline animal control operations stemming from SDS discussions. The county will provide enforcement across city limits, and the city will mirror the county's ordinance.

Conclusion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Council Member Jim Looney made the motion to approve the IGA and Authorize the Mayor to present to Pickens County for execution and Council Member Steve Lawrence seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS	**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**	**DEADLINE**
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: New Item #5 Consideration and Approval of ADA Documents	**PRESENTER:** Deputy City Manager – Kim Goldener

Discussion: Deputy City Manager Kim Goldener presented required compliance documents, including an ADA Public Notice, a formal Grievance Procedure and complaint form, and the official appointment of the Deputy City Manager position as the City ADA Coordinator.

Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Schlauder and Mr. Ponicki for their dedication on providing information and their patience as we work through these items.

Conclusion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Council Member Steve Lawrence made the motion to approve the ADA documents and formally appointed the Deputy City Manager position as ADA Coordinator and Council Member Jim Looney seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS	**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**	**DEADLINE**
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: New Item #6 Discussion of Bird City	**PRESENTER:** Mayor Kirk Raffield

Discussion: Council discussed an initiative proposed by Dr. Keller (Atlantic Coast Conservancy) for Jasper to pursue a "Bird City" conservation designation (similar to Decatur, GA). Council members expressed concerns regarding potential regulatory mandates on lighting, building glass, and invasive species enforcement.

Conclusion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Council Member Tony Davis made a motion to table the item for further evaluation and Council Member John Foust seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Raffield assigned the proposal to the Parks & Properties Committee for research and review and to report back to council in approximately sixty (60) days or two regular council meetings.

ACTION ITEMS	**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**	**DEADLINE**
Tabled	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: New Item #7 Discussion of 2026 Millage Rate	**PRESENTER:** Mayor Kirk Raffield

Discussion: City Manager Douglas and Mayor Raffield discussed the preliminary 2026 tax digest. The city's current millage rate is 6.136 mills. Douglas noted that substantial investments were made this year to increase compensation for police, fire, public works, and administrative personnel (costing approximately $500,000 without benefits), with personnel accounting for roughly 80% of general fund expenditures. To preserve budgetary flexibility ahead of three required public hearings, staff calculated advertising options (6.636 for a 0.5 mill increase; 7.136 for a 1.0 mill increase; 7.636 for a 1.5 mill increase). Advertising a higher rate does not obligate council to adopt it, but state law prohibits adopting any rate higher than what is advertised.

Conclusion:

Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Council Member Jim Looney made the motion to set the advertised millage rate at 7.636 mills (a 1.5 mill increase over the current rate) and Council Member Brandon Hannah seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS	**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**	**DEADLINE**
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Committee Report Updates	**PRESENTER:** Council Members

Development & Local Infrastructure – Council Member John Foust and Council Member Brandon Hannah
Discussion Items:

- Councilmember Brandon Hannah reported work is progressing on the Jasper 2045 Comprehensive Plan, with drafts going to the steering committee in October and completion targeted for spring, followed by development impact fee adoption in May 2027. He highlighted the ongoing high school student mural project in Stegall Alley (ribbon cutting October 29 at 4:00 PM), a planned mosaic at Peace Park, and announced an upcoming DDA public community roundtable meeting on November 14 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM at Chattahoochee Tech.

Downtown Development Authority – Council Member Brandon Hannah
Discussion Items:

- None

Finance & Administration – Council Member Jim Looney and Council Member Tony Davis
Discussion Items:

- Councilmember Jim Looney reported that revenues in the general, water/sewer, and sanitation funds are currently tracking ahead of expenses, and finance staff are actively integrating the preliminary tax digest into budget models.

Enterprise – Council Member Jim Looney and Council Member Steve Lawrence
Discussion Items:

- Councilmember Steve Lawrence reported that the enterprise committee meets regularly to address water solutions across multiple avenues, though certain contractual and intergovernmental details cannot yet be discussed publicly.

Parks & Properties – Council Member John Foust and Council Member Tony Davis

- Councilmember Tony Davis praised Mountain City Athletics for rapidly upgrading the municipal ballfields at City Park, commended Public Works Director Josh Davis for cleanup work at the city duck pond, and celebrated the success of the weekend events (Dancing with the Jasper Stars at Perrow Park and Autumn Nights Under Hometown Lights at the Edge/Sharp Top lot).

Public Safety – Council Member Brandon Hannah and Council Member Steve Lawrence

- Councilmember Brandon Hannah noted the seasonal outdoor burn ban lifts at the end of September and urged residents to review Georgia Forestry guidelines. Fire Chief Sherrer reported call volume is currently 12% higher than last year. Councilmember Lawrence commended first responders and public works for their tireless efforts keeping community events safe.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: City Manager Comments **PRESENTER:** City Management

City Manager Brandon Douglas Comments

•Commended Josh Davis, Kim Goldener, Carly Glaze, Chief Dawkins, and Chief Sherrer for managing event logistics and severe weather responses.

•Reminded the community of upcoming fall events: Downtown Live (Sept 19), Art Walk (Sept 26), and the 44th Annual Marble Festival (Oct 3–4).

•Reported that emergency culvert repairs at Indian Forest are nearly complete and undergoing paving, while emergency sewer repairs along Highway 53 near Speed Burger are actively progressing.

•Confirmed the next joint Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) meeting with Pickens County will take place on Thursday, September 24 at 6:00 PM at the Pickens County Library.

•Announced the schedule for the three required millage rate public hearings:

1. Monday, October 5, 2026, at 9:00 AM (City Hall).
2. Monday, October 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM (Regular Council Meeting).
3. Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 6:00 PM (Special Called Meeting ahead of budget work session).

•Water Strategy Clarification: In response to public comments regarding developer proposals, Douglas clarified that city administration and the Enterprise Committee met with Neil Hughes on March 25. He explained that the city is not anti-development but must heed third-party engineering studies showing a 122,000-gallon-per-day water deficit from previously approved commitments. He noted statutory and constitutional limitations preventing Jasper from arbitrarily encroaching into Gilmer County's service delivery territory, explained why Cherokee County's 4-inch interconnect limits imported volume, clarified that water revenue (not taxes) pays for GEFA debt, and detailed the legal and structural realities of tiered water rates, community improvement districts, and development impact fees. He also explained that a new 500,000-gallon water storage tank costs roughly $3 million, which would exhaust the city's remaining $4 million in bond proceeds needed for broader system repairs and upcoming Highway 53 utility relocations.

•Noted that municipal customer service is discontinuing physical coin change; unreturned coin amounts will be

credited directly to customer utility accounts.

Deputy City Manager Kim Goldener Comments: Ms. Goldener reported that results from the triennial lead and copper water testing across diverse residential and commercial properties have all returned well within safe regulatory limits with zero exceedances.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A	N/A

PRESENTER: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM: City Council Comments

Council Member Comments:

•Council Member Tony Davis: Addressed public distrust in government, expressing that council and staff are working daily to solve infrastructure challenges. He stated that recurring adversarial public remarks are discouraging to leaders who care deeply about the community and offered to meet with anyone individually to talk through concerns. He emphasized that sitting on council revealed complexities that are not visible from the outside.

•Council Member Steve Lawrence: Reaffirmed that information is constantly evolving and officials must continually relearn new data provided by engineers and state partners.

•Council Member Brandon Hannah: Suggested citizens research and consider a future T-SPLOST to fund roads and pedestrian infrastructure, noting the city's sidewalk-in-lieu fund currently holds only about $15,000. He also thanked the community for supporting North Georgia Family Partners during Dancing with the Jasper Stars.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A	N/A

PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield

AGENDA ITEM: Mayor Comments

Mayor Raffield Comments:

•Supported exploring a future T-SPLOST, noting that Jasper voters approved it previously because non-residents utilize city transportation corridors daily.

•Emphasized that the city administration remains dedicated to transparency, revealing accurate numbers such as the 44% water loss rather than hiding deficiencies.

•Addressed downtown infrastructure, confirming that automatic ADA door openers were installed at City Hall, curb stops and signage are being installed on Wall Street, and staff are developing a timeline for an ADA self-evaluation and transition plan.

•Reaffirmed commitment to regional dialogue regarding Gilmer County water resources through the official SDS framework, balancing growth with Jasper's unique character.

•Announced that a memorial monument celebrating the state champion Pickens High School baseball team is planned for the upper overlook at Perrow Park.

•Noted ongoing communications with state and federal officials, including representatives from Senator Warnock's office and upcoming sessions with GEFA.

•Formally presented City Clerk Lorrie Waters with her certificate recognizing her graduation from the Georgia Clerks Education Institute as a Georgia Certified Clerk.

•Commended Councilmember Brandon Hannah and Tracy Jones for their respective community fundraising efforts over the weekend.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Executive Session	**PRESENTER:** Mayor Kirk Raffield

Discussion:
Mayor Raffield called for a motion to go into Executive Session @ 8:19pm for discussion of Real Estate and Legal items. Council Member Steve Lawrence made a motion to go into Executive Session. Council Member Brandon Hannah provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Conclusion:
Mayor Raffield made a motion to end Executive Session @ 10:15pm and go back into council session. Council Member Brandon Hannah made a motion and Council Member John Foust provided a second. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS	**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**	**DEADLINE**
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn	**PRESENTER:** Mayor Kirk Raffield

Discussion:

Mayor Raffield called for a motion to adjourn.

Conclusion:

Council Member Brandon Hannah made a motion to adjourn @ 10:15pm. Council Member Steve Lawrence provided a second. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS	**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**	**DEADLINE**
Adjourned	N/A	N/A

Mayor, Kirk D. Raffield

City Clerk, Lorrie Waters



PLEASE SIGN IN

JASPER
City Council Meeting
SIGN IN ROSTER
September 14, 2026

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS/OR BUSINESS AFFILIATION
Matt Dawkins	JPD
Angie Miller	~~[illegible]~~ American Legion / VSO's
MIKE PONICKI	JASPER JUNTION
Audra Bailey	3292 Refuge Rd
Samuel Sly	JPL
Mark Roland	1305 Old Philidelphia Rd
Ralph Fetts	140 Shelby Ln Jasper Appalachian Gun
Kim Fetts	140 Shelby Ln Jasper Appalachian Gun
Neil Hughes	2036 Mondenhall Dr Brookhaven
DREW TUTTON	10510 Hwy 515 Jasper Tutton Group
Ed MASHBURN	26 N. Woods Wy Jasper GA
Bill Scratty	Jasper
Nancy Jones	Jasper
Dave Terry	Jasper
Brian Prust	Prust Recycle
Bill NICKERSON	REMAX Five STAR
Chris Mora	Jasper
Valerie Anstad	Jasper
TRIP SMITH	
DAVID + SUSAN SEARLES	
Douglas Harmon	

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PRINT NAME	ADDRESS/OR BUSINESS AFFILIATION
Gina Johnson	Pontoon Commercial
Brittany Kincaid	
Scott LeFevre	Champagne Tasters, LLC
Josh Dr	Jasper GP
John Holden	Resident
Hank Goble	Goble Family Partnership
Lou PaterNostro	18 Serenity La Jasper 30143
Deb PaterNostro	" " " "
John Nunes	Jasper GA News
Shelby Copeland	
Mary E Burgess	COJ
Brian Rittenberry	19 S. Main

"B"

CITY OF JASPER

PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN UP SHEET

Monday, September 14, 2026

If you would like to make comments during the Public Comment section of this evening's agenda, please print your name below:

Name	Address	Topic of Discussion
Trip Smith	Atlanta	Water
Neil Hughes	Brookhaven	water
Bill Slaughter	Jasper	
Tracy Jones	Jasper	Community
Dave Terry	Jasper	community
Bobby Parish	Maple H. 11	"
[illegible]	Jasper	
Mike Patrick		ADA
Jess Schlander		ADA
Samuel Sly	175 E. Sellers	water
John Holden	144 Talking Rock creek Ln	water
Hank Goble	Church St.	water

*The Mayor will announce the Public Comment section of the agenda. This is not an unlimited public forum.

- Individuals making the comment must state their name and address.
- Comments are limited to City matters.
- Comments are limited to 3 minutes per person; the Mayor has the right to extend time.
- No personal attacks or unwarranted accusations.
- Mayor or presiding officer has the right to end the comment or comments due to violation of rules or length of the agenda.
- Individual commenting can only exercise their public comment section of the meeting once a meeting.
- No individual can allocate or transfer their time for comment to another person.
- No inappropriate language, signs or images.

*The Public Comment period is limited to a total of 30 minutes. Depending on the number of individuals signed up for public comments, there is a possibility that not all will be able to speak this evening.

"C"

September 14, 2026

Re: Request for an ADA Transition Plan and Self-Evaluation — for entry into the public record of tonight's meeting

Dear Mayor Raffield and Council Members:

I am a Jasper resident, a downtown business owner, and I use a wheelchair. Last October I wrote to the City asking for accessible parking and access at City Hall. Tonight I want to start differently — by thanking the Council for taking up ADA compliance. The designation of an ADA Coordinator and the adoption of a public notice and grievance procedure are real steps, and they are appreciated.

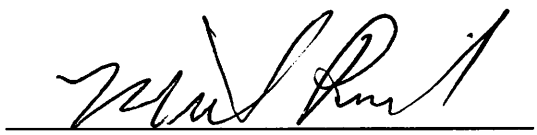
I respectfully ask the City to take the two remaining steps that federal law requires — the ones that make tonight's three meaningful:

1. **A current ADA Self-Evaluation** of the City's programs, services, and facilities (28 C.F.R. § 35.105). The City's most recent self-evaluation is a single-building review from 2002.
2. **An ADA Transition Plan** with a schedule and budget for removing barriers, including curb ramps where walkways cross curbs (28 C.F.R. § 35.150(d)), as required of public entities with 50 or more employees. This is the document that turns good intentions into a plan with dates — the part of the law that puts teeth into compliance.

I ask this as someone who experiences the barriers directly. As one current example: on Wall Street and North East Street, the diagonal parking allows vehicles to pull forward over the sidewalk and block it, which puts me in the roadway. A transition plan is how problems like this get found, scheduled, and fixed — including practical, low-cost measures like wheel stops — rather than handled one complaint at a time.

I want to be part of the solution, and I would be glad to help however a resident can, including reviewing routes and facilities with staff. This request continues what I began with my letter of October 6, 2025, which remains on file with the City. Thank you for your time and for the progress underway, and I ask that this letter be entered into the record of tonight's meeting.

Respectfully,



Michael Ponicki — 770-893-7207