



City of Jasper
 200 Burnt Mountain Road
 Jasper, GA 30143

MINUTES | ADMINISTRATIVE PUBLIC HEARING/SPECIAL CALLED
 COUNCIL MEETING/WORK SESSION
 Teleconference Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87249158436>
 Thursday, September 26, 2024, 6:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT
 Mayor Kirk Raffield
 Dr. Folsom Proctor, III –
 virtually via zoom
 Jim Looney
 Anne Sneve
 Brandon Hannah

STAFF
 Brandon Douglas
 Lorrie Waters
 John Sherrer
 Matt Dawkins
 Kim Goldener
 Lindsey Williams
 Mary Elizabeth Burgess
 Emily Grant
 Greg Chapman

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE
 See Attachment A
 28 guests joined virtually

MEMBERS ABSENT
 John Foust, Jr.

LEGAL COUNSEL
 David Syfan – Virtually via
 zoom

PRESS
 Mari Livsey – KnowPickens

AGENDA ITEM: Call Meeting to Order	PRESENTER: Brandon Douglas – City Manager	
Mayor Raffield called the administrative public hearing meeting to order @ 6:00pm.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Administrative Public Hearing	PRESENTER: Brandon Douglas – City Manager
Public Comments:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tony Davis – Wants an itemized list of expenses and to look at spending cuts. I want to know where you are spending the money before giving you more. 2. Brittney Johnson – Does this affect the residents within the city limits of Jasper, or does it affect the county as whole? What cost reduction measures have been looked at when it comes to insurance? Are there not more spending cuts that could be looked at? Two measures that affect taxes are assessments and millage rates. How will this affect renters, because there are many of them and the landlords will only pass this increase on to them who are already struggling? 3. Chris Tucker – Concerns for wasteful spending – what is being done to mitigate overspending? Where does the bleeding stop? Find ways to stop overspending. 4. Samuel Sly – Usually the budgets are listed on the website and is very appreciative of this type of informational meeting and would like to see additional informational type meetings in the future. 5. Ms. Dicus – Concern for growth and workforce housing – How can you grow if there is not enough affordable housing? What are the long-range plans, especially with the council turning down workforce housing? 6. Dr. Johnson – How many employees are covered by the insurance? 7. Lisa West – Feels this is just bad timing, you just increased our water. Our property taxes are going up and it not just for the millage but the values as well. For us to get behind this we need to see the numbers. 8. Susan Bryant – I have a retired household income, and this is very difficult to take. We were just hit with a large property tax value increase. She wants to know how much the city council members pay for their taxes. Wants to know how invested the council members are in our city. 9. Gayle Ray – Why should the taxes go up, especially with all the growth that has come in? 10. David Terry – Confusion among multigenerational citizens about growth and what that does to taxes. Feels we desperately need a younger generation of service workers. Encourages the city to continue to look for additional job opportunities and housing. He stated that the bad infrastructure was inherited and appreciates these informational meetings that show transparency. 11. Ray Morgan – Wants to say thank you for the public safety and the comfort in feeling safe. Asked about the mistakes that have been made. Is anyone considering increasing the sales tax? 12. McCaleb Blaine – Likes the sales tax increase but noted to exempt groceries from a sales tax increase. 13. Brittany Johnson – We have a lot of new developments, has this potential income been taken into consideration in the calculations for the budget? 14. Ms. Davis – Are there any other ideas to raise money for income that can be discussed and then have a budget meeting? People want to be a part of the budget process. 	

<p>15. Melissa Barkley – What are the City’s long-range plans as it pertains to infrastructure and schools to prevent future tax increases? Mayor provided instructions to those in attendance virtually on how to speak within the meeting.</p> <p>16. Brian Rittenberry – (joined virtually) – What are some additional ways to raise revenue? What about consumption tax? Have any other measures been considered other than raising the millage? Brief loss of internet connections @ 6:51pm.</p> <p>17. David Shouse – (joined virtually) - The city needs to think more how this millage increase will affect small business owners as well as the residential property owners.</p> <p>Conclusion: Mr. Brandon Douglas responded to the public comments as stated below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Budgets are listed on the city’s website. He explained what the budget documents look like including the amended 2024 budget. This shows different line items by departments. Discussed the end of year auditor process. ➤ Attempted to explain how the property tax is calculated. ➤ SPLOST and LOST options are outside of our control. It is negotiations between the city and the county and has state regulations associated with them. These are 10-year term limits. 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn Public Hearing			PRESENTER: Brandon Douglas – City Manager		
Discussion:					
Conclusion: Mr. Brandon Douglas adjourned the meeting @ 7:09pm.					
ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE	
Adjourned		N/A		N/A	

AGENDA ITEM: Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call			PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield		
Mayor Raffield called the council work session meeting to order.					
ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE	
N/A		N/A		N/A	

AGENDA ITEM: Adopt Agenda			PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield		
Discussion:					
Conclusion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilmember Anne Sneve made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilmember Jim Looney provided the second. The motion to approve passed 4 to 0.					
ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE	
Approved		N/A		N/A	

AGENDA ITEM: City Manager’s Office Update			PRESENTER: Brandon Douglas – City Manager		
Discussion: Mr. Douglas provided an update on Jasper City Park and the potential plans to update the small children’s playground.					
Conclusion:					
ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE	
N/A		N/A		N/A	

AGENDA ITEM: Executive Session – Legal & Personnel			PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk D. Raffield		
Discussion:					
Conclusion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion to go into Executive Session @ 7:14pm for discussion of Legal & Personnel. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to approve. Councilmember Anne Sneve provided a second. The motion passed 4 to 0.					

Discussion:		
Conclusion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion to end the Executive Session @ 8:00pm for discussion of Legal & Personnel. Councilmember Brandon Hannah made a motion to approve. Councilmember Anne Sneve provided a second. The motion passed 4 to 0.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn	PRESENTER: Brandon Douglas – City Manager	
Discussion:		
Conclusion: Mayor Raffield called for a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 8:01pm. Councilmember Brandon Hannah made a motion to approve. Councilmember Anne Sneve provided a second. The motion passed 4 to 0.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Adjourned	N/A	N/A



 Mayor, Kirk D. Raffield



 City Clerk, Lorrie Waters



