



City of Jasper
 200 Burnt Mountain Road
 Jasper, GA 30143
 MINUTES | REGULAR MEETING
 Monday, November 6, 2023, 6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Steve Lawrence
 Mayor Pro Tem Kirk Raffield
 Councilmember Jim Looney
 Councilmember John Foust
 Councilmember Folsom C. Proctor

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilmember Anne Sneve

STAFF

Sonia Jammes
 Kim Goldener
 Lindsey Williams
 John Sherrer
 Ian Norton
 Matt Dawkins
 Mike Davis
 Stacy Johnson
 Mary Burgess

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

See Attached

LEGAL COUNSEL

David Syfan

PRESS

Mari Livsey – KnowPickens
 Angela Reinhardt – Pickens Progress

AGENDA ITEM: Call Meeting to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance		PRESENTER: Mayor Lawrence
<p>Mayor Lawrence called on Councilmember Jim Looney to recognize that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Mayor Lawrence called on Councilmember Kirk Raffield to provide the Invocation. Mayor Lawrence called on Councilmember John Foust to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Adopt Agenda		PRESENTER: Mayor Lawrence
<p>Change: Amendment to move Item #9 and place it after Public Hearing Result: Approved Mover: Councilmember Foust Second: Councilmember Looney Ayes: Councilmember Foust, Councilmember Proctor, Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, and Councilmember Looney</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Public Hearing #1		PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess, Planning & Development Director
<p>Request to rezone Parcel 030D 087 located at 654 Philadelphia Road consisting of 4.46 acres to be rezoned to C-2 General Commercial from R-A Residential Agriculture.</p> <p>Presented: Mary Elizabeth Burgess Opened for Public Comment: Mayor Steve Lawrence Public Comment: None</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
No Vote Required	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Public Hearing #2		PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess, Planning & Development Director
<p>Request for Parcel 028 051 which is a land locked parcel located in the vicinity of Cove Road and Grandview Road</p>		

<p>consisting of a total of 34.25 acres to de-annex from the City of Jasper and annex into Pickens County.</p> <p>Presented: Mary Elizabeth Burgess Opened for Public Comment: Mayor Steve Lawrence Public Comment: R. David Syfan, City Attorney asked if the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution approving the de-annexation. Ms. Burgess responded that she reached out to Pickens County and confirmed that they approved the annexation into the County.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
No Vote Required	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Public Hearing #3	PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess, Planning & Development Director	
<p>Request to fix a zoning map error for Parcel JA07 017 located off Pioneer Road consisting of a total of 1.25 acres to be rezoned to R-3, High Density Residential from M-1, General Industry.</p> <p>Presented: Mary Elizabeth Burgess Opened for Public Comment: Mayor Steve Lawrence Public Comment: None</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
No Vote Required	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Public Hearing #4	PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess, Planning & Development Director	
<p>Request to rezone Parcel JA07 099 located at 45 East Church Street consisting of a total of 0.4 acres to be rezoned to C-2 General Commercial from CBD, Central Business District.</p> <p>Presented: Mary Elizabeth Burgess Opened for Public Comment: Mayor Steve Lawrence Public Comment: None</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
No Vote Required	N/A	N/A

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:	PRESENTER: Mayor Lawrence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Report Development Report Fire Report Police Report 		
<p>Result: Approved Mover: Mayor Pro Tem Raffield Second: Councilmember Proctor Discussion: None Ayes: Councilmember Foust, Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, Councilmember Proctor and Councilmember Looney</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: New Business #9 - Appointment of City Manager as Temporary City Clerk.	PRESENTER: Mayor Lawrence	
<p>Request for City Council to appoint the City Manager as Temporary City Clerk for the duration of the recruitment and hiring process for the vacant position.</p>		

Result: Approved		
Mover: Mayor Pro Tem Raffield		
Seconder: Councilmember Foust		
Discussion: None		
Ayes: Councilmember Foust, Councilmember Proctor, Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, and Councilmember Looney		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: New Business #1 - 501C3-First Mountain City Foundation Bank Account	PRESENTER: Lindsey Williams, Finance Director	
<p>Request for City Council to approve opening a new account at United Community Bank for the 501C3-First Mountain City Foundation. Signers on the account will be Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, Councilmember Looney, and City Manager Jammes.</p>		
<p>Result: Approved Mover: Councilmember Foust Seconder: Councilmember Looney Discussion: Councilmember Proctor asked where we were in the process of creating the foundation. Finance Director Williams reported that we had acquired an EIN number and then after setting up the bank account we would move to the next step. Councilmember Looney asked if Finance Director Williams name should be on the bank account also and she responded that it should not. Ayes: Councilmember Foust, Councilmember Proctor, Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, and Councilmember Looney</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: New Business #2 – Perrow Park ARC Grant Bank Account	PRESENTER: Lindsey Williams, Finance Director	
<p>Request for City Council to approve opening a new account at United Community Bank for the Perrow Park ARC Grant. A new account must be set up in order to receive funds. Signers on the account will be Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, Councilmember Looney, and City Manager Jammes.</p>		
<p>Result: Approved Mover: Councilmember Looney Seconder: Councilmember Foust Discussion: None Ayes: Councilmember Foust, Councilmember Proctor, Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, and Councilmember Looney</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Approved	N/A	N/A

AGENDA ITEM: New Business #3 – Ordinance 2023.21 to Rezone Parcel 030D 087 at 654 Philadelphia Road	PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess, Planning & Development Director
<p>Request for City Council to approve Ordinance 2023.21 to rezone Parcel 030D 087 located at 654 Philadelphia Road consisting of 4.46 acres to be rezoned to C-2 General Commercial from R-A Residential Agriculture.</p>	
<p>Result: Tabled Mover: Motion to Table by Mayor Pro Tem Raffield until the Monday, December 4, 2023, Council Meeting Seconder: Councilmember Foust Discussion: None</p>	

Ayes:	Councilmember Foust, Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, and Councilmember Looney		
Nays:	Councilmember Proctor		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Tabled	N/A	N/A	

AGENDA ITEM: New Business #4 – Ordinance 2023.22 to De-annex Parcel 028 051 on Cove Road	PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess, Planning & Development Director		
<p>Request for City Council to approve Ordinance 2023.22 for Parcel 028 051 which is a land locked parcel located in the vicinity of Cove Road and Grandview Road consisting of a total of 34.25 acres to de-annex from the City of Jasper and annex into Pickens County.</p> <p>Result: Tabled Mover: Motion to Table by Mayor Pro Tem Raffield until the Monday, December 4, 2023, Council Meeting Seconder: Councilmember Foust Discussion: Councilmember Proctor made a comment that there has been some concern over this property being adjacent to the City’s main water source and the implications of installing septic systems on top of the mines. He requested that we speak to our engineers in the interim to be more educated about the impacts should there be any at the next meeting. He commented that it was an important part of the equation. Planning & Development Director Burgess indicated that she would reach out to EPD, GSWCC, and Turnipseed Engineers to do due diligence. Councilmember Proctor made mention of a potential new law that may take some of the control away from Municipalities regarding de-annexations. City Attorney Syfan indicated that he would follow-up on that law. Councilmember Proctor recalls specifically language that involves adversely affecting citizens with a de-annexation approval. Ayes: Councilmember Foust, Councilmember Proctor, Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, and Councilmember Looney</p>			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Tabled	N/A	N/A	

AGENDA ITEM: New Business #5 – Ordinance 2023.23 Correction of a Zoning Map error for Parcel JA07 017 located off Pioneer Road	PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess, Planning & Development Director		
<p>Request for City Council to approve of Ordinance 2023.23 to fix a zoning map error for Parcel JA07 017 located off Pioneer Road consisting of a total of 1.25 acres to be rezoned to R-3, High Density Residential from M-1, General Industry. Planning & Development Director Burgess indicated that the request was just to fix an error that had been overlooked when the Updated Zoning Map was adopted.</p> <p>Result: Approved Mover: Mayor Pro Tem Raffield Seconder: Councilmember Looney Discussion: Councilmember Proctor requested that Planning & Development Director Burgess clarify the location of the property. Planning & Development Director Burgess indicated that it was off Pioneer Road adjacent to Jacobs Way and borders the Burnt Mountain Center. Ayes: Councilmember Foust, Councilmember Proctor, Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, and Councilmember Looney</p>			
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	
Approved	N/A	N/A	

AGENDA ITEM: New Business #6 – Ordinance 2023.24 to Rezone Parcel JA07 099 at 45 East Church Street	PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess, Planning & Development Director
<p>Request for City Council to approve Ordinance 2023.24 to rezone Parcel JA07 099 located at 45 East Church Street consisting of a total of 0.4 acres to be rezoned to C-2 General Commercial from CBD, Central Business District. Planning & Development Director Burgess indicated that the gas station at this location would like to be rezoned to include a</p>	

convenience store. Recommendation is approval with conditions.

Result: Tabled
Mover: Motion to Table by Mayor Pro Tem Raffield until the Monday, December 4, 2023, Council Meeting
Second: Councilmember Foust
Discussion: Councilmember Proctor indicated that this request was a conundrum. He commented that land use is an extremely important aspect of a Municipal Government and that it would be good to have that property cleaned up. He commented that the property was non-compliant because gas sales are not allowed in the Central Business District and asked when we would be able to say you can't pump gas on this parcel any longer. Planning & Development Director Burgess answered that when the property has been vacant for two years then it would not be grandfathered into the updated Zoning Ordinance. Councilmember Proctor asked City Attorney Syfan to confirm. City Attorney Syfan indicated that was his understanding, but he would need to re-examine the ordinance and if the ordinance says two years, then he would agree with that. He indicated that part of the problem is that once the use has gone in, you must allow it to have a useful economic life. The ordinance should contain a sunset revision to allow the use to be updated should the business leave the location. Councilmember Proctor said that was all useful information and obviously he would like to see that site cleaned up, but we have worked very hard to make downtown vibrant and he would like to see our CBD actually expanding rather than shrinking in a critical location in our area and he would almost rather see them claim a hardship and stay in the CBD.
Ayes: Councilmember Foust, Councilmember Proctor, Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, and Councilmember Looney

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

AGENDA ITEM: New Business #7 – Purchase of a Fire Apparatus **PRESENTER:** John Sherrer, III – Fire Chief

Request for City Council to consider the acquisition of the 2008 Pierce Contender Pumper for \$60,000 from Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus. This unit is currently in JFD's possession as the loaner apparatus utilized while Engine 1 was out of service. The goal of this acquisition would be to replace Engine 3, which is losing engine power and will not go faster than 58 mph. Engine 3 is a 1998 model with an estimated 170k miles. The funds would come from the funding being set aside for the new pumper apparatus. There is a delay in delivery allowing time for the funding to replenish.

Mayor Lawrence asked specifically what piece of equipment we were buying. Fire Chief Sherrer responded that it would be a 2008 Pierce Contender Engine. Mayor Lawrence asked if this request had gone through committee. Mayor Pro Tem Raffield confirmed that it had been considered and highly recommended by the Public Safety & Judicial Committee. Mayor Lawrence requested confirmation of the price. Fire Chief Sherrer responded that the apparatus will be \$60,000. Mayor Lawrence asked the City Manager where those funds would come from. City Manager Jammes indicated that the funds would be coming from SPLOST funding. Councilmember Proctor indicated that that was an important point that the SPLOST funding that the public voted on and a referendum was done for was approved for Public Safety items such as this. Councilmember Proctor asked Fire Chief Sherrer how much JFD had spent on Engine 3 in the last 3 months. Fire Chief Sherrer responded that we had not spent a lot in recent months because we have had that loaner engine and Engine 3 is at the station, but we are not actively using it because it is losing power and is fading fast. It has to stay idled up to maintain oil pressure.

Result: Approved
Mover: Councilmember Foust
Second: Mayor Pro Tem Raffield
Discussion: None
Ayes: Councilmember Foust, Councilmember Proctor, Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, and Councilmember Looney

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

AGENDA ITEM: New Business #8 – Employee Holiday Bonuses **PRESENTER:** Sonia Jammes, City Manager

Request for City Council to consider the awarding of a holiday bonus to each City of Jasper employee as an appreciation for excellent performance in their respective job areas for the calendar year. The total cost to the City would be \$41,192.00.

City Manager Jammes entertained any questions from City Council. Councilmember Raffield commented that he understands that this is coming from budgeted items that did not use the full amount of the budget lines. City Manager Jammes commented that those funds would be coming from vacant salary lapse for those positions through out the year that had not been filled for the full budget term and that salary had been set aside, and it would also be coming from savings associated with underspent budget lines so areas where we got better deals that what we had originally anticipated on certain operational items those funds would be geared towards the holiday bonuses. And to add to it a lot of those underspent budget lines are as a result of our employees doing such a good job of finding better deals or finding ways to do things that didn't cost the City what we had originally anticipated. Councilmember Looney commented that this was discussed in the Finance & Administration Committee Meeting and is recommended by that committee.

Result: Approved
Mover: Councilmember Looney
Seconder: Councilmember Proctor
Discussion: None
Ayes: Councilmember Foust, Councilmember Proctor, Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, and Councilmember Looney

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

AGENDA ITEM: Committee Reports

DISCUSSION:
 The council provided a brief update. No action was taken from the committee reports.

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

AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn **PRESENTER:** Mayor Steve Lawrence

Mayor Lawrence Adjourned the meeting at 6:52 PM

Result: Adjourned
Mover: Councilmember Looney
Seconder: Mayor Pro Tem Raffield
Discussion: None
Ayes: Councilmember Foust, Councilmember Proctor, Mayor Pro Tem Raffield, and Councilmember Looney

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



 Mayor



 City Clerk