

**CITY OF JONESBORO
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 3rd, 2012 – 6:00 p.m.**

The City of Jonesboro Mayor and Council held a Work Session on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2012. The meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. at the Jonesboro Police Station, 170 South Main Street Jonesboro, Georgia.

Council Present: Joy B. Day, Mayor
Clarence Mann, Councilmember
Wallace Norrington, Councilmember
Joe Compton, Councilmember
Pat Sebo, Councilmember
Bobby Wiggins, Councilmember
Randy Segner, Councilmember

Staff Present: Joe Nettleton- Public Works Director, and City Clerk – Janice Truhan.

Mayor Day called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Day asked everyone to stand and say the Lord's Prayer.

WORKSESSION ITEMS:

- Discussed Rezoning request of Beatrice White-Roberts – 325 West Avenue, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236, from “R4” to “O & I”. Mayor Day stated that all information necessary to make this decision is included in the Council’s packets. Mayor Day stated that O & I is a softer zoning than commercial. It will be more accessible for offices, Lawyers, etc. Mayor Day stated that this issue will be voted on Monday, January 9th, 2012.
- Discussed Conditional Use request for Marius Pierre – 27 Lee Street, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236, to operate a Convenience Store, zoned C-1. Mayor Day stated that Mr. Pierre bought the property and it was previously a convenience store. This location now will need to have a conditional use permit and this is not guaranteed, it is not grandfathered in. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Segner asked if they will be selling alcohol? Ms. Pierre answered no. Councilmember Compton asked if this location was previously a meat store and groceries, and then stated that Mayor Day had just answered his question. Councilmember Sebo questioned if this location is zoned for a restaurant? Mayor Day stated that the Restaurant a permitted. Mr. Pierre stated that there are two suites, A & B. Mayor Day stated that the council will vote on this issue on Monday, January 9th, 2012.
- Discussed reappointment of City of Jonesboro employees for 2012. Mayor Day read the names of the employees as listed and presented by all departments, stating all the names and advising that the City employees 36 people. Mayor Day stated that she

would call for a motion to reappoint all the employees at the meeting Monday, January 9th, 2012. Councilmember Wiggins questioned if all positions were filled. Mayor Day stated that there are two reserve officer positions, one probation officer and a records clerk position open, and Chief Allen stated that there are two Police Officer positions open. Councilmember Compton inquired if evaluations are given to the employees. Councilmember Norrington stated that the employees are reappointed every year by law, and Mayor Day agreed. Councilmember Norrington stated that he agreed that employees should have evaluations to receive raises. Councilmember Segner asked if the recommendation is based on evaluations and Mayor Day said that the Police Department has been doing them but City Hall and Public Works has not done so as of yet. Councilmember Mann stated that he was unaware of the two open Police Officer positions, and Mayor Day said she would look into the matter and get back to the Council before the next meeting. The Mayor stated that the City has an employee handbook with stop gap measures and that it helps the employees with employment guidelines. Councilmember Mann inquired about the two Police positions that are open. Mayor Day stated that she would get clarification. Mayor Day stated that they have been budgeted for but was previously told to hold off on hiring.

- Discussed proposed 2012 holiday schedule. Mayor Day read the list of proposed holidays and addressed the fixed floating holiday which will be hooked on to Labor Day this year, and then Mayor Day called for questions or discussion. There were none. Mayor Day stated that this issue will be voted on Monday, January 9th, 2012.
- Councilmember Wiggins commented on where the public comments for the meetings should be placed. Mr. Wiggins stated that five years ago they were at the end of the meetings and now have been placed at the beginning which has led to many complaints from the citizens. Mayor Day stated that this will be changed for the worksession to the end, but needs to be at the beginning for the regular meetings to allow the public to voice their opinion before votes are taken. Councilmember Compton stated that we need to allow discussion during the worksession and thinks that this was voted on. Mayor Day replied that we would not be following Roberts Rules of order, having discussion going on during the Regular meetings, discussion can occur after the meeting. Mayor Day stated that there has to be order in the Regular meeting but can be more open in worksession.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments were given by: Carl Helton, James Cantrell, John Swiney, Bill Wells and Billy Powell.

Mr. Helton offered congratulations relating to public comments at the meetings. Mr. Helton also inquired as to when the adult shop Exotic Pleasure's was voted for; they presented themselves differently, and stated that Code Enforcement needs to visit the business. Mr. Helton said there are adult toys and drug paraphernalia there. This business is not what it claimed to be. Mayor Day stated that she will have this checked out. Mr. Helton stated that if there are police officer positions budgeted, they need to fill them.

Mr. Cantrell asked about the zoning request on West Avenue. He inquired as to what was going in there before the zoning request was asked for. Councilmember Sebo answered that at this time the property owner does not have any one in mind, he just wants to widen his options. Mr. Cantrell stated that the people need to hear before the Council votes to rezone because almost anything can go in O&I. Mayor Day stated that it would mostly be offices. When the City made changes to the zoning, Churches would be required to have a big lot size and permits for doctor's offices would need necessary parking. Mayor Day asked Mr. Cantrell to come by City Hall for further discussion on this topic. Mr. Cantrell requested more sidewalks in the city, stating that he had been promised for fifty years that there would be a sidewalk on Fayetteville Rd.

Mr. Swiney asked if he needed to be at the meeting on January 9th, 2012 for the vote regarding the Condition Use Permit for 27 Lee Street. Mayor Day stated yes.

Mr. Wells asked if there is a new ordinance for alcohol sales with restrictions regarding schools and churches. Mr. Wells also inquired if the councilmember's have regular hours so that appointments could be made with them for conferences with the residents. Mayor Day stated that you can make arrangements to meet the Councilmembers at City Hall. Councilmember Sebo stated that at this time we do not have any liquor stores or restaurants that sell alcohol. Mayor Day stated that there have been beer and wine sales in the City for years and liquor by the drink was approved by the voters, and state law mandates the distribution of liquor. Mayor Day stated that Sunday alcohol sales were approved by the voters. Mayor Day advised that the city is moving toward voter approval of liquor sales, but the adult book store is a different story. There are many laws that override what the city can do. Mayor Day asked the Council Members to visit the adult establishment.

Mr. Powell stated that the state regulates liquor stores by population; the City of Jonesboro could have two stores per population of 1-2,500. The Sunday sales have no influence on churches or schools. Mr. Powell stated that Roberts Rules does not apply to the worksession, questions can be asked in any portion of the meeting. Mayor Day stated that she is willing to let the people speak but there has to be order and it will not be out of order on her watch.

Mayor Day called for a motion to adjourn. Approved. [*Motion: Mann, 2nd: Norrington, Vote: Unanimous*].

JOY B. DAY – MAYOR

JANICE TRUHAN - CITY CLERK