

Mid-Year Retreat
August 15, 2019
Madison Georgia

The City of Jonesboro held their mid-year retreat at the Madison, Georgia City Hall located at 132 North Main Street. The following were in attendance:

City Manager, Ricky L. Clark Jr.	Mayor Joy B. Day
Director of Public Works, Joe Nettleton	Chief of Police, Clifford Kelker
Director of Community Development, David Allen	Finance Officer, Sandra Meyers
Chief Code Enforcement Officer, Derry Walker	Councilmember Ed Wise
Councilmember Alfred Dixon	Councilmember Bobby Lester
Councilmember Billy Powell	Executive Assistant, Cable Brooks

Welcome, Overview and Introduction by Joy B. Day, Mayor; Goal is to make the best financial use of the City's money.

2019 STATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT UPDATE AND CITY MANAGERS UPDATES

- Business License can be paid online
- Property taxes can be paid online in 2020
- Code Enforcement officer will begin on September 3rd
- Community Development Director working on Abandoned Sign Ordinance
- Want a full-service online service for business license, permits and tax payments
- Public Works equipment
- Serious IT infrastructure problems, computers in the police cars are not under warranty with Sophicity. The contract for IT support will be bided out
- Purchased Golf Cart for City Hall
- Purchased new vehicle for PD
- Will present to Council a plan with Enterprise Fleet to purchase vehicles
- One Street Residential Project is moving forward
- Councils Rules and Procedures: Be mindful of the policy as it related to upcoming elections
- The Farmers Market is a huge success under the direction of Councilmember Sebo-Hand
- Rosenwald School: Mayor Day and Mr. Clark will set additional date to share update everyone.
- City Garden prep should start soon
- Downtown sidewalks expansion is in progress. The final design is not decided. Once complete, the City Manager will bring forth to council for approval

Additional Updates:

- Police Department is aggressively trying to hire officers. Mandate school begins in September
- Police Athletic League has been delayed
- Sanitation: The landfill is getting full and we are losing money on sanitation, we either privatize it or go up on the service cost.

- Restoration of the old firetruck: Very expensive, need good options to repurpose it.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Chief Code Enforcement Officer Derry Walker

- Out of the four projects planned, three have been completed
- City Angels projects to assist the aging community is going well. Two residents have benefited from this program
- Three demolitions completed this year
- Eight abandoned signs have been removed this year
- Written citations have decreased for business license 2018 over 100 citations issued 2019 less than 70
N.E.A.T. program was established, and two businesses have expressed an interested in the adopt-a-road program
- A new code enforcement officer has been hired, Mr. Allen Hardy, his first day of employment will be Tuesday September 3, 2019.

Director of Public Works, Joe Nettleton

- Ongoing maintenance at all parks; fountain, electrical and equipment replacement
- Garbage pick up will go to 2 ½ days due to the latest annexation.
- Will reduce Amenity day from two days to one a year
- See Click Fix request are completed within two business days
- Ongoing maintenance of the right- a-ways in the city, cutting, weed eating and watering the planters downtown
- One employee passed the CDL training
- Ongoing maintenance on the garbage truck – Need a new one, estimate \$147,000.00
- Time for council to consider increasing the rate for sanitation or privatizing it.

Director of Community Development, David Allen

- Sign Ordinance revised March 2019
- Table of Uses revised May 2019
- Conditional Use revised June 2019
- Jonesboro Residential Building Guide complete
- Jonesboro Commercial building guide revision in progress

PROJECT UPDATES

- Clayton IT Building on Poston Road and New Car Wash on Tara Boulevard.

- Firehouse Museum and Broad Street remediations are complete. Construction should begin with one or two months.
- Grove subdivision will start on five new home within the next two months.
- LIDL final plans have been approved
- House of Dawn plans are awaiting final approval
- Supplies Unlimited plans are awaiting final approval
- Slutty Vegan Restaurant corporate office undergoing approvals
- Mexican Restaurant renovation on Main Street are on going.
- Georgia Power renovation at the Smith Street location
- Arts Clayton renovation undergoing approvals

FUTURE GOALS

- Complete the 2017 Zoning code

CHIEF OF POLICE UPDATES

- Crime has doubled due to the newly annexed area
- Developed an effective recruiting strategy have been implemented. Have two candidates in the hiring process right now.
- Community engagement activities that builds relationships and impacts the community; – Police Athletic League, Citizen Police Academy. Encourage everyone interested in join.
- Now utilizing the Georgia Chiefs Association for promotions
- Want to implement training for specialized skills; Active Shooters (ALERRT). Working close with the chiefs and cities in the county
- Prepared readiness for approved city events
- Health and Wellness Activities planned for the year

WHAT COUNCIL EXCPECTS FROM CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Councilmembers like to be informed and like the method the information is shared.

- Better to be informed than not, we are operating on all cylinders
- Chief Kelker wants to ensure he is not overwhelming everyone with too much information

WHAT CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS EXPECT FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Ensure you read and understand the codes you are adopting. Know the impact to the City and organization.
- If there is an item on the agenda that will impact department heads way of operating, share that information ahead of time.
- As a reminder, all agenda items are due the Tuesday before the Work Session
- We capture Action Items only

CAPITAL PROJECTS FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Ed Wall – City Financial Advisor presented the financial impact of the projects we are about to undertake.

- The City of Jonesboro has a small tax digest and is doing more with the least amount of money. Better than a lot of the surrounding cities
- The city has healthy General Fund Balance and SPLOST attributed to a fiscally conservative leadership style.
- We have been fortunate to operate giving employee raises every year, keeping insurance rates down but we have to figure out a way to make money.

CURRENT REVENUE ON HAND FOR PROJECT

Authorize Ed Wall, Financial Advisor to move forward with all the paperwork necessary in the per quiring the line of credit necessary for this project, not to exceed 6 million dollars for the Broad Street Project. The documentation will still need to come back to Mayor and Council for approval.

Mover - Alfred Dixon
Seconder – Pat Sebo-Hand

No financing right now, we will wait until the passing of the March 2020 SPLOST

2019 CITY OF JONESBORO CORE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Highlight on Strategic Initiatives

- Employees are being evaluated on their anniversary dates
- Operational review with each Department
- Employee Incentive Program has not been initiated
- Researching digitizing files
- Upgrading the financial system to streamline the Purchase Order process.

2. Economic vitality to incentivize growth in our community

- Arts and Entertainment Overlay to include the Food Truck Court
- LSI Study
- Municipal Complex
- Yarn Bombing Initiative
- Award of three Façade Grants
- Encouraged three businesses to locate here

3. Beautification Commission full appointments

4. Revision of plans review process and Abandoned Sign Ordinance is complete:

5. Continue to update citizens through social media outlets

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Revenue increase due to annexation
- Raised over 40k in concert sponsorship
- Over 15K raised for the Downtown Street Festival

FY' 20 BUDGET PREPLANNING & MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER ACTION ITEMS

City Manager Recommends move forward with a Flat Budget – No new personnel

Councilmember Lester – None

Councilmember Dixon – Wants to see a succession plan for the employees, more training. (Rebuttal from Mr. Clark – We have an unwritten succession plan, we are training all employees to take on leadership roles)

Councilmember Wise – None

Councilmember Powell – Would like to see more planters on Mainstreet. (City Budget)

Councilmember Sebo-Hand – Would like to see the continuation of advertisement for the Farmers Market. Expand the signs to the entrance of the City.

Mayor Joy B. Day-

Budget for raises for all employees.

Support the City Garden financially. Will research a grant to fund the project

More Downtown Self Watering Pots

Increase the Contingency Fund for 2020

Derry Walker – None

Joe Nettleton

Storage Shed at Lee Street Park

New Garbage Truck

David Allen - None