



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING PUBLIC HEARING #2 (MILLAGE RATE)

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 1859 CITY CENTER WAY, JONESBORO, GA 30236

MINUTES

I. CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Miller at 6:12 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by City Clerk Jewett.

- Mayor Donya L. Sartor (Absent)
- Mayor Pro-Tem Asjah Miller (Presiding Officer in the absence of the Mayor)
- Councilmember Chelsey Curney
- Councilmember Alfred Dixon
- Councilmember Cameron Dixon (Absent)
- Councilmember Santia Fox
- Councilmember Tracey Messick (Absent)
- City Attorney, LaTonya Nix-Wiley (Absent)
- City Manager, Blue Cole
- City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett
- Code Compliance Officer, Derry Walker
- Community Development Director, David Allen
- Downtown Development Authority Director, Blue Cole
- Economic Development Director - Faith Akuta
- Finance Director, Karen Slaton-Dixon
- Operation/Human Resource, Maria Wetherington (Absent)
- Police Chief, Christopher Cato
- Public Works Director – N/A

III. PRESENTATIONS

A. Council to review millage rate options for 2026

City Manager Cole presented the proposed 2026 millage rate, explaining that increasing the rate from 9 mills to 10 mills would generate approximately \$377,738 more in property tax revenue than 2025. The additional revenue would largely support six proposed positions totaling approximately \$385,000.00 in salaries, including a grant manager, communications specialist, community life manager, code enforcement officer, probation officer, and human

resources director. These positions are intended to enhance services to residents and City staff.

Council also discussed the potential impact on homeowners, with the City Manager explaining that the increase to 10 mills would result in an estimated annual increase of approximately \$100.00 annually for a \$250,000.00 home and \$96 to \$97 annually for a \$200,000.00 home. It was also clarified that property taxes represent only a portion of the City's overall revenue and that other revenue sources would support the remainder of the proposed budget.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING - NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

Public Hearing Opened

- Former Councilmember Don Dixon (Jonesboro Resident) - Spoke in favor of a 9-millage rate budget. He expressed concerns regarding the City's past budgets and what he considers excessive or unnecessary spending. He questioned the use and transfer of funds, including expenditures benefiting elected officials, and stated that those funds could have been used for other City needs, such as employee compensation and hiring. He also raised concerns about multiple versions of the budget and the lack of ordinances documenting transfers of funds between departments as required by the City Charter. Mr. Dixon concluded by discussing the financial impact of property taxes on residents and recommended that the City maintain the millage rate at 9 mills to help limit the tax burden on citizens.
- Former Councilmember Bobby Lester (Jonesboro Resident) - Expressed agreement with former Councilmember Don Dixon as it relates to concerns about City spending and suggested that some positions may be unnecessary or could be combined. He supported maintaining the current budget and millage rate until the 2025 and 2026 budgets and outstanding audits are completed, allowing the City to better assess its financial position. Mr. Lester also supported having dedicated human resources and grant management personnel, pursuing available grant opportunities, and ensuring grant funds are properly managed. He thanked the Council for its efforts to address the City's financial matters.
- Ashley Brown (Jonesboro Resident) - Expressed appreciation for the opportunity to address Council and shared concerns about communication and responsiveness from the Mayors' Office. In regard to the budget, she encouraged Council to allocate more funding toward community programs and workshops, including financial literacy, computer skills, and AI technology education, particularly for seniors and other residents. She encouraged the City to use local resources and residents to provide these programs. Ms. Brown emphasized her commitment to Jonesboro and her desire to remain in the community while calling for changes that better support and empower residents.

Mayor Pro-Tem Miller advised City Manager Cole to reach out to Ms. Brown.

Public Hearing Closed

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Curney**
SECONDER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**

Dr. Donya L. Sartor, Mayor

Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk