

**STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF JONESBORO
COUNTY OF CLAYTON**

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART II, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VI (CODE OF ETHICS) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, GEORGIA; TO REVISE DEFINITIONS; TO CLARIFY CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND PROHIBITED CONDUCT; TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR AN ALTERNATE PANEL FOR THE BOARD OF ETHICS; TO CLARIFY PROCEDURES FOR COMPLAINT REVIEW AND ADJUDICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR TRAINING AND INDEPENDENT COUNSEL; TO PROVIDE FOR LINKAGE TO STANDARDS OF MEETING DECORUM AS MAY BE ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the duly elected governing authority of the City of Jonesboro, Georgia is the Mayor and Council thereof; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jonesboro has adopted a Code of Ethics to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in the conduct of public officials; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that the continued effectiveness of the Code of Ethics requires periodic review and amendment to address evolving governance practices and to ensure clarity and enforceability; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to clarify and strengthen provisions relating to conflicts of interest, prohibited conduct, and the ethical obligations of elected and appointed officials; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council further find it necessary to refine the procedures governing the filing, review, and adjudication of ethics complaints to ensure fairness, due process, and consistency in application; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that the establishment of a panel of alternate members for the Board of Ethics is necessary to ensure continuity of proceedings, maintain quorum, and avoid delay in the resolution of complaints; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council further find that the provision of training to members of the Board of Ethics and the use of independent legal counsel in adjudicatory matters will promote informed decision-making and safeguard the impartiality of the process; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council recognize the importance of maintaining orderly, professional, and respectful conduct during public meetings and intend to establish standards of meeting decorum by separate ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to provide that material violations of such standards of meeting decorum, once duly adopted, may be subject to review under the Code of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that these amendments are necessary to promote public confidence in the integrity of municipal government and to ensure that public office is exercised in a manner consistent with the highest ethical standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Jonesboro, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Amendment.

Part II, Chapter 2, Article VI (Code of Ethics) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jonesboro, Georgia, is hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth in this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. Severability.

If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. Authority to Conform.

The City Attorney is authorized to make such non-substantive edits, formatting changes, and corrections as may be necessary to conform this Ordinance and Exhibit A to the intent of the Mayor and Council and to applicable law.

SECTION 4. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

IT IS SO ORDAINED this ___ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF JONESBORO, GEORGIA

By: _____
Donya L. Sartor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

LaTonya Nix Wiley, City Attorney

EXHIBIT “A”