



CITY OF JONESBORO, GEORGIA COUNCIL
Agenda Item Summary

COUNCIL MEETING DATE:
 05/04/26 Work Session

Requesting Agency (Initiator): Administration

Sponsor(s): Administration

Item Title:

Council to review and discuss a draft Intergovernmental Agreement to establish a clear and consistent framework for how the City and the Downtown Development Authority will work together moving forward.

Requested Action: Review and Discussion

Requirement for Mayor & Council Action:

Is this Item Goal Related? Yes

Summary and Background: The City of Jonesboro has prepared a draft Intergovernmental Agreement (“IGA”) to establish a clear and consistent framework for how the City and the Downtown Development Authority (“DDA”) will work together moving forward. This document is a draft only and is being presented for initial review and comment. No final action has been taken.

Purpose of the Agreement:

The Downtown Development Authority is a public entity created under Georgia law to support economic development and revitalization within the City’s downtown area. While the DDA operates independently, it works in coordination with the City on initiatives that benefit the community.

This draft agreement is intended to bring greater clarity and structure to that relationship by outlining roles, responsibilities, and expectations. It is designed to support collaboration while ensuring that public resources are used responsibly and transparently.

Key Features of the Draft:

Structured Collaboration on Future Projects
 The agreement establishes a consistent process for how the City and the DDA will work together on future development efforts. Rather than relying on informal coordination, the draft provides a clear framework that ensures both parties are aligned before moving forward with any project involving City participation.

Council Oversight of City Participation:

Any project that involves City funding, resources, or participation must be reviewed and approved by the Mayor and Council. This ensures that elected officials remain directly involved in major decisions and that each project is evaluated based on its specific merits, costs, and public benefits.

Financial Transparency and Accountability:

The draft includes provisions designed to promote transparency in the handling of DDA funds, particularly where City resources or support are involved. Financial activities are coordinated in a manner that supports accountability, appropriate oversight, and clear reporting, while remaining consistent with applicable law.

Clear Limits on City Financial Responsibility

The agreement makes clear that any financial support provided by the City is subject to approval through the normal budgeting process. It also clarifies that the City is not responsible for the debts,

obligations, or financial commitments of the DDA. This ensures that public funds are used deliberately and with appropriate oversight.

Recognition of Existing Projects and Commitments:

The draft acknowledges that the DDA may have existing projects, contracts, or financial obligations already in place. Those existing commitments are preserved and are not altered by this agreement. At the same time, the agreement establishes a clear structure for how any future modifications or new projects will be handled.

Responsibility for DDA-Owned Property:

The agreement requires the DDA to identify any property it owns and confirms that the DDA is responsible for maintaining and insuring those properties. This provides clarity regarding ownership and responsibility and helps avoid confusion regarding maintenance and liability.

Defined Communication and Coordination Practices:

The draft establishes clear communication channels between the City and the DDA, including how requests for assistance are made and how coordination occurs. It also clarifies the role of City staff, ensuring that staff remain under City supervision while still supporting the DDA as appropriate.

What This Means for the City:

This draft agreement is intended to strengthen the City’s ability to support responsible and effective economic development while ensuring that decisions are made transparently and with appropriate oversight.

By establishing clear processes and expectations, the agreement helps ensure that future development efforts are thoughtfully considered, financially responsible, and aligned with the City’s long-term goals.

Next Steps:

The draft agreement is currently under review by the Mayor and City Council. Following review and comment, the draft will be presented to the Downtown Development Authority for its consideration and input before any final version is brought forward for approval.

Fiscal Impact:

Exhibits Attached: Intergovernmental Agreement

Contact Information and Recommendation: Administration (Review and Discussion)

FOLLOW-UP APPROVAL ACTION		
Typed Name and Title	Date	
Signature		