

ARTICLE II. - JONESBORO YOUTH COUNCIL

Sec. 33-2. - Youth council created.

- (a) There is hereby created a youth council by the City of Jonesboro and shall be referred to hereafter as the "Jonesboro Youth Council."
- (b) The purpose of the Jonesboro Youth Council is to provide an opportunity for the youth of the Jonesboro area to:
 - (1) Acquire a greater knowledge and appreciation for the political system through active participation in local government.
 - (2) Learn how local municipal government works and how municipal services are provided.
 - (3) Provide a means by which the city's youth can be heard and share their perspective on issues affecting the lives of young people in areas of social, educational, recreational, cultural, and law enforcement.
 - (4) Assist the mayor, city council and city staff in policy and decision-making, problem solving, and accomplishing community goals.
 - (5) Provide leadership development and experience that will enable the youth to become productive citizens and leaders in the community.
 - (6) Participate in City of Jonesboro and youth council sponsored service projects, programs and special events.
- (c) The Jonesboro Youth Council shall be composed of eight members.
 - (1) Each member shall be appointed by the mayor and city council from a selection of qualified applicants.
 - (2) All members shall be appointed for a term of one year. An appointment to fill any vacancy shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of office of the seat vacated.
 - (3) Removal. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, a member may be removed by a majority vote of mayor and city council for any reason, including, but not limited to, failure to meet the qualifications of a member, failure to attend meetings, engaging in conduct which is unbecoming of or reflects negatively on the city and/or the council, including acts which constitute criminal offenses.
 - (4) Qualifications. In order to be qualified, all members shall be residents of the City of Jonesboro and/or unincorporated Clayton County. Priority for membership of the Jonesboro Youth Council shall be first given to qualified members who are residents of the City of Jonesboro, Georgia. Members shall be a current eighth grader, a rising ninth, tenth, or eleventh grader, or a current twelfth grader in public, private, charter, or home school. They shall be in good

standing with their respective public, private, charter, or home school in which they attend; confirmation of good standing may be provided by a letter from the member's respective school administration. Members shall also be someone with an interest in the betterment of the youth within the community.

(5) Five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(c) The Jonesboro Youth Council shall elect one of its appointed members as chair. The elected chair shall serve for one year or until re-elected or a successor is elected.

(1) At the first meeting of each year, the chair shall appoint another appointed member of the Jonesboro Youth Council as vice-chair and that person shall serve for one year or until re-elected or a successor is elected. The vice-chair shall only act as chair in the event of the chair's absence at a scheduled meeting.

(2) At the first meeting of each year the Jonesboro Youth Council shall appoint a secretary, who may be an officer or an employee of the city or a member of the Jonesboro Youth Council. The secretary shall be responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings of the council.

(d) The Jonesboro Youth Council shall establish an annual meeting schedule and meeting place. This schedule may be altered due to unforeseen circumstances at the discretion of the chair. The chair may call special unscheduled meetings as needed in accordance with procedures established by the Jonesboro Youth Council. All meetings of the Jonesboro Youth Council shall be noticed on the City of Jonesboro's webpage and open to the public.

(e) The Jonesboro Youth Council shall establish and follow by-laws for the conducting of business. The Jonesboro Youth Council shall maintain a record of its activity and the record shall be a public record.

(f) The Jonesboro Youth Council shall have the following powers and duties:

(1) Prepare and recommend for adoption each year by the mayor and city council for the City of Jonesboro, Georgia a curriculum for the youth participating in the council.

(2) Establish procedures for youth in the City of Jonesboro and unincorporated Clayton County to apply to participate in the Jonesboro Youth Council.

(3) Review, evaluate, and select youth candidates for participation in the council; subject to ultimate approval by the mayor and city council.

(4) Prepare a detailed and itemized annual budget for submittal to the city manager and mayor and city council, as requested by the city manager.

(5) Monitor and provide oversight of the Jonesboro Youth Council throughout the year.

(6) Ensure that the Jonesboro Youth Council is a good steward of the money budgeted for their activities and purpose.

(7) Maintain and keep adequate records of spending of the Jonesboro Youth Council which shall be made available upon request to mayor and city council and city manager.

- (g) The city manager and/or city clerk may assign city employees to assist the Jonesboro Youth Council and provide such services as deemed appropriate and as available by the city manager. All city staff shall, upon request and within a reasonable time, furnish to the Jonesboro Youth Council such available information as the Jonesboro Youth Council may require for the performance of its work.
- (h) The City of Jonesboro's annual budget shall be amended to include a line item to accommodate specific funding for the Jonesboro Youth Council. The Jonesboro Youth Council shall operate under the City of Jonesboro's 501c3 status. The City of Jonesboro shall annually provide a minimum base amount and a maximum amount not to be exceeded, for the operating budget of the Jonesboro Youth Council. The budget shall not be exceeded in any amount except by a majority vote of the mayor and city council of the City of Jonesboro. Beyond the minimum base amount, the remaining annual funding for the Jonesboro Youth Council shall be met by sponsorships, partnerships, and donations. Donations shall be accepted by the city council for the City of Jonesboro, Georgia.

(Ord. No. 2023-005, 7-10-2023; Ord. No. 2023-013, 11-6-2023)