

that's established is not that's formed by Council. It's one that has been done under the administrative powers of the mayor per the Charter.

Councilmember Curney cautioned the Council against taking actions that would diminish /minimize the mayor's authority, noting that similar past efforts led to restraining orders, costly lawsuits (approximately \$300,000.00), and repeated court losses. She emphasized the importance of adhering to the City Charter to avoid unnecessary legal expenses and taxpayer burden, and warned that legal counsel is prepared to intervene if needed.

Councilmember Fox replied that she was not sure where the comment by Councilmember Curney came from and that it went "way left field and was unnecessary." However, she said she does not have a problem with meeting regarding the creation of a newsletter.

Councilmember A. Dixon asked if a plan was in place as it relates to a meeting date and time for the Newsletter Committee. Mayor Sartor replied not yet. Once Mayor Sartor, Councilmember Fox, and Tavis Thomas meet, then they will have a plan regarding the newsletter.

City Attorney Wiley spoke about Ordinance requests that were made last week. She explained that once an ordinance request is received, research is done to determine what is permissible, what limitations apply, and define the parameters of the proposed law. This process often requires more time than a one-week turnaround. She suggested that a 30-day timeframe would be more appropriate. With additional time, she would be able to consult with Councilmembers to address concerns and collaborate more effectively, except in cases requiring immediate action.

XIII. FINANCE REPORT

A. Financial Report as of January 31, 2026 by Karen Slaton-Dixon.

Director Slaton-Dixon stated that the bank reconciliations were up to date. Mayor Sartor wants the Financial Reports completed around the 15th, 20th, or 21st of each month.

Executive Summary:

- Revenues at 17.77% of the budget
- Strong tax and fines & forfeitures performance
- All departments operating below budget
- Revenue Summary:

Category	Budget	Actual	% of Budget
Taxes	\$5,896,196	\$1,256,376	21.31%
License & Permits	\$136,800	\$14,867	10.87%
Charges for Services	\$451,734	\$16,961	3.75%
Fines & Forfeitures	\$1,718,500	\$80,547	4.69%
Investment Income	\$33,150	\$163	<1%
Miscellaneous	\$118,700	\$167,992	141.53%

- Executive Summary
- Revenue Summary
- Department Spending
- Department Expenditures
- Fund Balance Analysis – 2025 Increased by \$1,716,396.00 (\$10,340,556) Unaudited figures (Georgia Fund One Account is like a savings. No withdrawals/transactions in the last 3 years and has gained interest each year)

- All Other Funds:

Fund	275 Hotel/Motel Fund	330 SPLOSTS 21	540 Solid Waste
Revenue	\$2,428	\$234,115	\$146,275
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$3,598

- Cash Accounts (Liquid):

General Fund	Municipal Court	SPLOST 21
\$4,344,535 Truist	\$3,327,355 (a portion of this will be transferred into the General Fund.	\$1,776,594
\$2,843,808 GA Fund 1		

Mayor Sartor shared that the Financial Report will be part of Work Session packet for review and the final report will be in the Regular Council Meeting packet.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council to consider Resolution 2025-15 to amend the FY25 budget to close out the fiscal year.

The Finance Director explained that FY 2025 had to be formally closed (“hard close”) in order to upload the FY 2026 budget, as required by the financial software. During the FY 2023 audit, it was noted that some departmental budgets were over in certain categories, and similar items were anticipated for FY 2024 since those years were already closed. To avoid repeating audit findings, budget amendments were made during FY 2025 closeout. Rather than pulling funds from prior fiscal years, adjustments were made within existing departmental line-items. Because auditors review budget categories rather than individual line-items, funds were reallocated to ensure categories such as personnel and benefits were not over budget. In total, the proposed budget adjustments amounted to approximately \$966,302.00.

These amendments ensured that the Mayor and Council budget, and the overall FY 2025 budget, were no longer over budget. The adjustments were included in the meeting packet for Council review. The Finance Director noted that this type of cleanup is standard at the end of a fiscal year and emphasized that future budget adjustments would be made throughout the year rather than waiting until year-end.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**

MOVER: **Councilmember Curney**

SECONER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**

ABSTAINED: **Councilmember Messick**

B. Council to consider approval of invoices for Juneteenth and July 2, 2026 events.

Shelby spoke regarding Fireworks – need approval up to \$22,000.00 to cover both events (Deep South Fireworks – Quote for Juneteenth \$8,500.00 and July 2nd \$1,250.00 for a 10-minute display (discount rate: \$1,050.00 for a 10-minute display).

Pyro Technico – Quote for \$8,000.00 for Juneteenth (10-minute show) and \$12,500.00 quotes for (12-minute show). Still negotiating the price for a 10-minute show.

Councilmember Messick asked why 4th of July celebration is not being held on July 4th since it is America’s Birthday. Mayor Sartor said everything is higher on July 4th, vendors are limited, it is on a Saturday, and July 3rd is staff’s holiday. Mayor Sartor shared that staff wanted to do July 2nd.

Councilmember Curney said she would like staff to have July 3rd off to spend time with their families and maybe the City can promote Clayton County’s 4th of July event so residence will have a place to go on that specific day.

At this time a conversation took place regarding Freedom Fest and the GMA Convention (June 26-30, 2026). Taylor mentioned there were no availability from vendors and Council would be attending the GMA Convention.

A motion was made for Council to consider approval of Fireworks for both events (Juneteenth and July 2nd) up to \$22,000.00 (with American 250 being slightly elevated) and authorization for Mayor Sartor and City Attorney Wiley to execute both contracts regarding Fireworks.

RESULT: Approved (Vote was unanimous)
MOVER: Councilmember Messick
SECONER: Councilmember A. Dixon

A motion was made for Council to consider approval to execute a contract regarding sound for both events (Juneteenth and July 2nd) not to exceed \$16,200.00.

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

A motion was made for Council to consider approval to spend sponsorship funds up to \$25,000.00 as it relates to entertainment for Juneteenth (from raised funds) and authorization for Mayor Sartor to execute related contracts with City Attorney's review.

Mayor Sartor clarified the \$25,000.00 will not come from the City Events line-item. It can only equal the amount of sponsorship raised for Juneteenth.

RESULT: Approved (Vote was unanimous)
APPROVED: Mayor Pro-Tem Miller
SECONDER: Councilmember Curney

A motion was made to approve up to \$22,000.00 for July 2nd event to come from City Events line-item for entertainment and authorize Mayor Sartor to execute related contracts.

RESULT: Approved (Vote was unanimous)
MOVER: Councilmember Messick
SECONDER: Councilmember Curney

XV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

A. Economic Development Report by Director Cole.

XVI. REPORT OF CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Comments by Councilmember Fox:

- Thanked everyone for staying
- Spoke regarding a comment that was made by Councilmember Curney relating to a past restraining order and its ruling

Point of Order by Councilmember Curney

City Attorney Wiley advised Mayor and Council that Councilmember Fox was allowed to express how she felt about the comment. She told Councilmember Curney that Councilmember Fox had not crossed the line and could not be restricted from commenting regarding the matter.

Councilmember Fox stated, "Again, as I say that my heart is heavy because one minute we're talking about a community newsletter, and the next minute we're talking about a restraining order. And I don't understand how that makes sense in the same sentence."

- **Point of Privilege** was taken to thank former Councilmembers (Billy Powell, Bobby Lester, and Don Dixon) for serving. "It takes courage to serve." "I want to honor everyone that has served in the City of Jonesboro"
- Thanked everyone for attending the Growth Series, the mobile office, etc. Working on community goals (strengthening community between businesses and residents). Shop locally
- Had a great time during Trash Wars (March 8, 2026)
- Support working in collaboration with Mayor and Council