



CITY OF JONESBORO, GEORGIA COUNCIL
Agenda Item Summary

COUNCIL MEETING DATE:
02/02/26 Work Session

Requesting Agency (Initiator): Council

Sponsor(s): Councilmember Chelsey Curney

Item Title: Council to discuss and/or consider a Proposed Amendment to Ordinance Code Section § 46-8 (Possession of Marijuana – Less Than One Ounce).

Requested Action: The purpose of the item is to discuss a proposed ordinance amendment revising the City of Jonesboro’s regulation of possession of less than one ounce of marijuana by replacing the current criminal penalty framework with a civil, non-criminal enforcement model.

Requirement for Board Action:

Is this Item Goal Related? Yes

Summary and Background: Under the current City Code, possession of one ounce or less of marijuana is subject to the City’s general penalty provision, which authorizes fines of up to \$1,000 and up to 180 days of incarceration. This penalty structure differs from approaches adopted by Clayton County and several nearby and similarly situated Georgia municipalities.

In recent years, Clayton County, the City of Atlanta, and neighboring metro-Atlanta cities have revised their ordinances to eliminate incarceration for low-level marijuana possession while maintaining the illegality of such conduct under state law. These jurisdictions have instead adopted capped civil fines and non-custodial dispositions.

The proposed ordinance would:

- Retain the prohibition on possession of less than one ounce of marijuana;
- Reclassify the violation as **civil and non-criminal** under City ordinance;
- Establish a **maximum civil fine of \$100**, with an option for **community service in lieu of payment**;
- Eliminate incarceration as a penalty under City ordinance;
- Preserve a defendant’s statutory right to request transfer of the case to state court; and
- Clarify that the City’s general penalty provision does not apply to this offense.

Policy Rationale for Discussion

- Align Jonesboro’s ordinance with Clayton County and nearby metro jurisdictions;
- Preserve law enforcement and court resources for higher-priority offenses;
- Promote proportionality and consistency in local enforcement; and
- Reduce incarceration exposure for low-level, non-violent conduct while maintaining compliance with Georgia law.

Fiscal Impact:

Exhibits Attached: A draft of the proposed Ordinance

Staff Recommendation: (Type name, Title, Agency and Phone number.)

Councilmember Chelsey Curney

FOLLOW-UP APPROVAL ACTION (Completed by City Clerk)

Typed Name and Title	Date	
Signature	City Clerk's Office	