

STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF JONESBORO
COUNTY OF CLAYTON

RESOLUTION 2026-___

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF JONESBORO VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT AT LEE STREET PARK AS A PUBLIC PURPOSE PROJECT; PROVIDING THAT THE PROJECT MAY BE ASSISTED BY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.19(b) OF THE CITY CHARTER; RECOGNIZING THE MAYORAL APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILWOMAN CHELSEY CURNEY AS CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN HONOR OF HER SERVICE AS A UNITED STATES NAVY VETERAN AND HER LEADERSHIP IN ADVANCING THE VETERANS MEMORIAL INITIATIVE; ESTABLISHING A FINANCIAL PROTOCOL AND DONATION, REPORTING, AND RECORDKEEPING POLICY FOR THE PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR CITY RECEIPT, SEPARATE ACCOUNTING, AND ADMINISTRATION OF DONATIONS, SPONSORSHIPS, GRANTS, AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PROJECT; ESTABLISHING LIMITATIONS ON ADVISORY AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR FINAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS AND CITY ACTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EIGHTEEN MONTH PROJECT SUNSET UNLESS EXTENDED; AND FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Jonesboro honor and recognize the sacrifices, service, and commitment of veterans and military families connected to the City of Jonesboro and the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of creating a lasting public memorial space dedicated to education, reflection, patriotism, remembrance, and community engagement honoring this nation's military members and veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have identified Lee Street Park as a location for the development of a permanent Veterans Memorial for the benefit of residents, veterans, military families, visitors, and the public; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Veterans Memorial Project at Lee Street Park ("Veterans Memorial Project") serves a public purpose by honoring veterans and military families, promoting remembrance and civic education, and enhancing a public park for the benefit of residents, visitors, and the public; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Veterans Memorial Project Advisory Committee is necessary to assist with planning, public engagement, fundraising recommendations, partnerships, project recommendations, and coordination related to the proposed memorial project; and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Memorial Project Advisory Committee will be comprised of members appointed by the Mayor pursuant to Section 2.19(b) of the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor desires to appoint Councilwoman Chelsey Curney to serve as Chair of the Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee in recognition of her service as a United States Navy veteran and her leadership in advancing this initiative;

WHEREAS, the Mayor will consider and appoint individuals recommended by Councilwoman Curney for service on such Advisory Committee pursuant to the Mayor's committee appointment authority under Section 2.19(b) of the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to establish a transparent and accountable financial administration process for donations, sponsorships, grants, and other contributions made in support of the Veterans Memorial Project, so that such funds are received, deposited, separately accounted for, and expended only in accordance with applicable law, the City Charter, City financial policies, budgetary requirements, and lawful approval processes; and

WHEREAS, unless the Mayor and Council separately authorize a written agreement with a qualified nonprofit partner, fiscal sponsor, or other lawful project partner, all donations, sponsorships, grants, and other contributions intended for the Veterans Memorial Project shall be made payable directly to the City of Jonesboro and separately earmarked for the City of Jonesboro Veterans Memorial Project; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council require the Finance Director to maintain a separate accounting of all funds received for the Veterans Memorial Project, including the source, amount, date received, designation, and expenditure of such funds, and to ensure that such funds are used solely for lawful expenses directly related to the Veterans Memorial Project and not for unrelated City purposes; and

WHEREAS, any Advisory Committee assisting with the Veterans Memorial Project shall serve solely in an advisory capacity and shall have no authority to bind the City, expend or commit City funds, execute contracts, receive, accept, hold, deposit, manage, or disburse donations or other project funds, direct City personnel, or take official action on behalf of the City except as expressly authorized through lawful City processes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Jonesboro, Georgia, that the City of Jonesboro Veterans Memorial Project at Lee Street Park is hereby established as a public purpose project, and that the following financial administration, donation, reporting, recordkeeping, meeting, advisory support, and sunset framework is adopted for the Project:

SECTION 1. PUBLIC PURPOSE AND PROJECT ESTABLISHMENT

- A. The Mayor and Council find that the development of a Veterans Memorial at Lee Street Park serves a public purpose by honoring veterans and military families, promoting remembrance, education, reflection, patriotism, and community engagement, and enhancing a public park for the benefit of residents, visitors, veterans, military families, and the public.
- B. The City of Jonesboro Veterans Memorial Project at Lee Street Park is hereby established as a public purpose project.
- C. The purpose of the Veterans Memorial Project is to support the planning, design, fundraising strategy, public engagement, partnerships, donor recognition concepts, construction planning, installation, maintenance planning, and development of a Veterans Memorial at Lee Street Park.
- D. Final decisions regarding design approval, funding, procurement, contracts, expenditures, donation acceptance, construction, installation, maintenance, and implementation shall remain with the City acting through its lawful governing, administrative, financial, and procurement processes.
- E. This Resolution establishes the City's financial administration, donation, reporting, recordkeeping, meeting, advisory support, and sunset framework for the Veterans Memorial Project.

SECTION 2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUPPORT

- A. The Veterans Memorial Project may be assisted by a Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee (“Advisory Committee”) comprised of members appointed by the Mayor pursuant to Section 2.19(b) of the City Charter.
- B. The Advisory Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity only and may assist with planning, public engagement, fundraising recommendations, partnerships, project recommendations, and coordination related to the Veterans Memorial Project.
- C. Councilwoman Chelsey Curney’s service as a United States Navy veteran, civic leadership, and commitment to honoring veterans are recognized as important qualifications for leadership in advancing the Veterans Memorial Project.
- D. Councilwoman Curney’s Mayoral appointment as Chair of the Advisory Committee is acknowledged in honor of her military service and leadership in advancing the Veterans Memorial initiative.
- E. The Chair may convene Advisory Committee meetings, coordinate meeting logistics with appropriate City staff, assist with preparation of agendas, receive community input, organize the committee’s advisory work, and present committee updates and recommendations to the Mayor and Council.
- F. The Chair may recommend individuals for appointment to the Advisory Committee. All committee appointments shall be made by the Mayor pursuant to Section 2.19(b) of the City Charter.

SECTION 3. ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee may consist of up to seven (7) members for purposes of the advisory support contemplated by this Resolution. To the extent practicable, membership may include:

- Military veterans;
- Representatives of veterans organizations;
- Community members with fundraising, finance, construction, architecture, engineering, landscaping, public art, or project management experience;
- Representatives from the local business community; and
- Residents with an interest in historic preservation, parks, veterans affairs, civic engagement, or community service.

Nothing in this Resolution shall prevent the Mayor from exercising the appointment of members, including filling vacancies pursuant to Section 2.19(b) of the City Charter.

SECTION 4. ADVISORY COMMITTEE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Veterans Memorial Project Advisory Committee may perform the following advisory duties and responsibilities, subject to the limitations of this Resolution and all lawful City processes:

- Develop recommendations regarding the design, scope, and features of the Veterans Memorial;

- Conduct public engagement and solicit community input related to the memorial project;
- Identify and recommend fundraising opportunities, sponsorships, grants, donations, and partnerships to support the memorial project;
- Recommend potential memorial concepts, amenities, landscaping, commemorative features, and educational elements;
- Coordinate with City staff, veterans organizations, community stakeholders, and professional consultants as appropriate and through proper City channels;
- Develop preliminary project budgets, timelines, and phased implementation recommendations for consideration by the Mayor and Council;
- Recommend policies regarding donor recognition, memorial inscriptions, commemorative bricks or pavers, and related fundraising initiatives;
- Provide periodic updates and recommendations to the Mayor and Council regarding the progress of the project; and
- Prepare and submit a final written recommendation to the Mayor and Council regarding the proposed Veterans Memorial Project, including recommended design elements, estimated project costs, funding sources or fundraising status, proposed donor recognition features, implementation considerations, and any recommended next steps for final City consideration.

SECTION 5. MEETINGS, NOTICE, AND RECORDS

The Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee shall meet as necessary to fulfill its advisory purpose.

- A. When a quorum of the Advisory Committee meets as a body to discuss, deliberate, or conduct public business within the scope of this Resolution, such meetings shall comply with all applicable requirements of the Georgia Open Meetings Act.
- B. The Chair shall coordinate with the City Clerk or other City staff assigned by the Mayor regarding meeting notices, agendas, minutes, and records.
- C. All committee records shall be maintained in accordance with applicable City recordkeeping procedures and the Georgia Open Records Act.

SECTION 6. FUNDRAISING, DONATIONS, CITY ACCOUNTING AND LIMITATIONS

- A. The Advisory Committee may recommend fundraising initiatives and may assist with identifying potential donors, sponsors, grants, partnerships, and community support opportunities. No fundraising initiative shall be implemented in the name of the City or the Veterans Memorial Project unless first reviewed for legal, financial, and administrative compliance by the Mayor, City Manager, Finance Director and City Attorney.
- B. Unless and until the Mayor and Council approve a separate written agreement with a qualified nonprofit partner, fiscal sponsor, or other lawful project partner as referenced in Section 7, all donations, sponsorships, grants, and other contributions intended for the Veterans Memorial Project shall be made payable directly to the City of Jonesboro and specifically earmarked for the City of Jonesboro Veterans Memorial Project.

1. All such funds shall be received, deposited, separately accounted for, appropriated, and expended in accordance with applicable law, the City Charter, City financial protocols and policies, budgetary requirements, and lawful approval processes.
 2. The Finance Director is hereby directed to maintain a separate accounting of all funds received for the Veterans Memorial Project, including the source, amount, date received, designation, and expenditure of such funds.
 3. The Finance Director shall maintain financial reports of monies received and expended for the Veterans Memorial Project and shall provide periodic updates to the Mayor and Council, the Chair and the Advisory Committee as appropriate.
- C. Funds received for the Veterans Memorial Project shall be restricted to lawful costs, expenses, improvements, services, materials, professional services, design, construction, installation, maintenance, donor recognition, or other lawful expenditures directly related to the Veterans Memorial Project and shall not be used for any unrelated purpose.
- D. Neither the Advisory Committee, the Chair, nor any committee member shall have authority to:
- Receive, accept, hold, deposit, manage, pledge, receipt, disburse, or expend funds on behalf of the City;
 - Obligate, appropriate, expend, or commit City funds;
 - Execute contracts or agreements on behalf of the City;
 - Open or maintain any bank account or financial account on behalf of the Committee or the City;
 - Direct City employees or interfere with City administrative operations;
 - Approve final design, construction, procurement, vendor selection, installation, maintenance, or project implementation decisions; or
 - Take official action on behalf of the City unless expressly authorized through lawful City processes.

SECTION 7. NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIP OPTION

The City, in its discretion, may use a qualified nonprofit partner, fiscal sponsor, or other lawful project partner for fundraising, donation administration, project support, or related services only pursuant to a separate written agreement approved by the Mayor and Council.

Any such agreement shall include, at a minimum, provisions addressing custody of funds, accounting, reporting, donor restrictions, public purpose, branding, authorized use of funds, disposition of unused funds, audit or inspection rights, compliance with applicable law, and termination.

No nonprofit partner, fiscal sponsor, or project partner shall solicit, receive, hold, administer, or disburse funds for the Veterans Memorial Project unless and until such separate written agreement has been approved by the Mayor and Council.

SECTION 8. GOVERNING PROCEDURES, BYLAWS, AND COMMITTEE CHARTER

This Resolution shall serve as the controlling framework for the Veterans Memorial Project's public purpose, financial administration, donation handling, advisory support, meeting requirements, records, fundraising role, limitations of authority, term, and sunset.

Once in place, any Advisory Committee assisting with the Veterans Memorial Project may adopt internal bylaws or operating procedures to guide meeting order, officer roles, if any, agenda preparation, member participation, recommendations, records, and coordination with City staff.

Any such bylaws or operating procedures shall be procedural only. They shall not expand the authority of the committee, the Chair, or any committee member; create independent financial authority; conflict with this Resolution, the City Charter, the Georgia Open Meetings Act, the Georgia Open Records Act, applicable City financial protocols and policies, or other applicable law; or create duties beyond the advisory role approved by the City.

In the event of any conflict between this Resolution and any bylaws or operating procedures, this Resolution shall control.

SECTION 9. FINAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATION AND CITY ACTION

The Advisory Committee shall submit a final written recommendation to the Mayor and Council for consideration.

The final recommendation may include proposed design concepts, location and layout recommendations, estimated project costs, funding sources, fundraising status, proposed donor recognition features, implementation considerations, and recommended next steps.

The final recommendation shall be advisory only. The Mayor and Council shall not be required to accept, approve, adopt, or implement any recommendation submitted by the Advisory Committee.

The Mayor and Council may accept, reject, modify, defer, return for further review, or take no action on any recommendation submitted by the Advisory Committee.

Submission of a recommendation shall not constitute approval of the Project, authorization to expend funds, acceptance of donations, selection of vendors, approval of contracts, approval of final design, or authorization to proceed with construction, installation, or maintenance.

Final approval of the Veterans Memorial Project, including design approval, budget approval, donation acceptance, donor recognition program, procurement, contracts, construction, installation, maintenance, or implementation, shall remain with the City acting through its lawful governing, administrative, financial, and procurement processes.

SECTION 10. TERM, RENEWAL, OR SUNSET

Unless extended by action of the Mayor and Council, the Veterans Memorial Project framework established by this Resolution shall sunset eighteen (18) months from the effective date of this Resolution. The

Advisory Committee support provisions of this Resolution shall also expire upon the sunset of this Resolution unless extended by action of the Mayor and Council.

The framework established by this Resolution may also terminate before the expiration of the eighteen (18) month period upon the earlier of the following:

- Completion of the Veterans Memorial Project;
- Termination of the Project framework by action of the Mayor and Council; or
- A determination by the Mayor and Council that the public, financial, advisory, or administrative framework established by this Resolution is no longer necessary.

Before the expiration of the eighteen (18) month period, any Advisory Committee assisting with the Veterans Memorial Project may submit a written recommendation to the Mayor and Council requesting an extension if additional time is needed to complete its advisory work. Any extension shall be approved by action of the Mayor and Council and shall specify the additional period of time for which this Project framework may continue.

If the Veterans Memorial Project is completed, abandoned, materially changed, or otherwise discontinued, any remaining donated funds shall be used, returned, redirected, or otherwise disposed of only in accordance with applicable law, donor restrictions, City financial protocols and policies, and further action of the Mayor and Council.

Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit, condition, transfer, or diminish the Mayor's Charter authority to appoint, remove, replace, or reconstitute committees, committee chairpersons, or committee members pursuant to Section 2.19(b) of the City Charter.

SECTION 11. CHARTER CONSTRUCTION

This Resolution shall be construed consistently with Section 2.19(b) of the City Charter.

Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to create, limit, condition, transfer, or diminish the Mayor's Charter authority to appoint committee members or committee chairpersons, or to appoint new members to any committee at any time.

Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to vest appointment authority in the Advisory Committee, the Chair, any committee member, or the Mayor and Council acting jointly, where such appointment authority is reserved to the Mayor by the City Charter.

SECTION 12. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Resolution is held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution.

SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

SO RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Donya L. Sartor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

LaTonya Nix Wiley, City Attorney

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