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| <b>Requesting Agency (Initiator):</b><br>Office of the Mayor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Sponsor(s):</b><br>Mayor Donya L. Sartor     |
| <b>Item Title:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Council to consider adopting a resolution creating the City of Jonesboro Charter Review Committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the City Charter and governmental structure. |                                                 |
| <p><b>Requested Action:</b> Request that the City Council approve a resolution creating a temporary Charter Review Committee to conduct an independent and comprehensive review of the City Charter, the City's form of government and related ordinances. The resolution would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a seven-member advisory committee of the City Council.</li> <li>• Provide for all seven members to be appointed by the Mayor, including three persons selected by the Mayor, three persons nominated by the City Council and one member of the local legislative delegation.</li> <li>• Require at least four of the six community members to be City residents while allowing up to two qualified business owners, property owners or other stakeholders with a substantial and continuing connection to Jonesboro.</li> <li>• Direct the Committee to review the City's form of government, the number and composition of the City Council, the method of electing Councilmembers, the City Manager ordinance, the allocation of governmental authority, financial governance, ethics and Charter modernization.</li> <li>• Require comparison with no fewer than six reasonably comparable Georgia municipalities.</li> <li>• Authorize reasonable access to relevant City records through written requests approved by a majority of the Committee.</li> <li>• Require public meetings, public comment, court reporting and verbatim transcripts that will serve as the official minutes.</li> <li>• Require draft recommendations within 150 days and a final report within 270 days after the organizational meeting.</li> <li>• Preserve all final decision-making authority of the Mayor and City Council and require separate action to approve or implement any recommendation.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                 |
| <b>Requirement for Board Action: Approval</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                 |
| <b>Is this Item Goal Related? Yes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                 |
| <p><b>Summary and Background:</b> A comprehensive review would allow the City to identify provisions that are outdated, inconsistent, ambiguous or no longer aligned with current governmental operations. The review would also provide a structured opportunity to determine whether the City's present governmental framework remains appropriate for a municipality of Jonesboro's population, geographic size, service responsibilities and development needs.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                 |

The proposed Committee would evaluate the City's form of government without presuming a preferred outcome. Its assignment includes whether the present strong mayor structure should be retained, clarified or modified; whether another structure would better serve the City; whether the Mayor should remain a voting member of the governing authority; and whether six Councilmembers elected under the present system remain appropriate for a city of Jonesboro's size.

An important part of the review concerns Ordinance No. 2017-08, which established the office of City Manager and assigned that office broad administrative duties. The Charter separately identifies the Mayor as the chief executive officer and assigns executive and administrative responsibilities to the Mayor. The Committee would independently determine whether the Charter and City Manager ordinance are consistent, can be harmonized or require amendment. It would recommend a clear chain of authority among the Mayor, City Council and City Manager.

The Committee would consist of seven members. Three would be selected by the Mayor, three would be nominated by the City Council and one would be a member of the local legislative delegation. All seven would be formally appointed by the Mayor. At least four of the six community members must be City residents. Up to two may be nonresident business owners, property owners or other persons with a substantial and continuing connection to Jonesboro. This approach preserves a resident majority while allowing the City to draw upon qualified stakeholders who contribute to the community.

The Committee would be advisory only. It could conduct research, receive information, invite public officials, subject matter experts, residents and stakeholders to assist and receive public comment. It could not amend the Charter, direct City employees, bind the City, incur obligations or transmit proposed legislation as an approved City position. Requests for City records must be approved by a majority of the Committee before submission through the Chairperson and City Clerk.

All meetings would be public. A certified court reporter or comparable professional would prepare a verbatim transcript, which would become the official minutes after Committee approval. The Committee would compare Jonesboro with at least six Georgia municipalities, publish draft recommendations within 150 days and submit a final report within 270 days.

Adoption of the resolution would begin the review process. It would not change the Charter, the form of government, the composition of the City Council or the City Manager ordinance. Any recommended change would return to the Mayor and City Council for formal consideration. Changes to the form of government require action by the Georgia General Assembly.

**Fiscal Impact:** Committee members will serve without compensation. The City will incur reasonable costs for court reporting and transcription, public notices, copying, meeting materials and any authorized professional assistance. The exact amount cannot be determined at this time. All expenditures are limited to funds lawfully appropriated and must comply with applicable procurement requirements.

**Exhibits Attached: Yes. Resolution.**

**Staff Recommendation:** N/A

**FOLLOW-UP APPROVAL ACTION (Completed by City Clerk)**

|                             |                            |  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Typed Name and Title</b> | <b>Date</b>                |  |
| <b>Signature</b>            | <b>City Clerk's Office</b> |  |