CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

JULY 16, 2026 AT 5:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 1859 CITY CENTER WAY, JONESBORO, GA 30236

MINUTES

I. CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sartor at 5:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The roll was called by City Clerk Jewett.

- Mayor Donya L. Sartor
- Mayor Pro-Tem Asjah Miller
- Councilmember Chelsey Curney
- Councilmember Alfred Dixon
- Councilmember Cameron Dixon
- Councilmember Santia Fox
- Councilmember Tracey Messick
- City Manager, Blue Cole
- City Attorney, LaTonya Nix-Wiley
- City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett
- Code Compliance Officer, Derry Walker - Absent
- Community Development Director, David Allen
- Downtown Development Authority Director, Blue Cole
- Economic Development Director, Faith Akuta
- Finance Director, Karen Slaton-Dixon
- Operation/Human Resource, Maria Wetherington
- Police Chief, Christopher Cato
- Public Works Director – N/A

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council to consider approval and adoption of the Agenda.

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

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council To Consider A Consulting Services Proposal With Alliance Group, Inc. To Develop An Request For Proposal And Provide Procurement Lifecycle Support For An Employee Climate Assessment Project.

The council discussed a proposal from Alliance Group Incorporated to develop an RFP and provide procurement support for an employee climate assessment project. The proposal was estimated at approximately $24,000.00 for managing the RFP process, with an alternative option of about $34,000.00 for Alliance to conduct the assessment directly.

Key discussion points included:

- Several council members expressed concerns about the cost of the proposal and whether it represented a responsible use of public funds.
- Questions were raised about whether city staff could manage the process internally, especially since the city already has RFP templates and experience handling procurement projects.
- The City Manager explained that an external consultant's primary advantage would be taking ownership of the entire procurement process but noted that the project could likely be completed in-house with staff support.
- Council members discussed alternatives, including issuing an RFP directly for employee climate assessment services rather than hiring a consultant to create and manage an RFP.
- There was consensus that the employee climate assessment remains a high priority, but many members preferred pursuing a more cost-effective approach and engaging a provider with no existing relationship with the city to ensure objectivity.

Outcome: The council voted unanimously to table the Alliance Group proposal indefinitely and direct staff to develop the RFP internally. Selected council members will assist staff in preparing the RFP, which may be presented for consideration at a future meeting.

A motion was made to table the item.

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

The above motion was amended to table the item indefinitely.

RESULT: **Approved to table indefinitely (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Curney**
SECONDER: **Mayor Pro-Tem Miller**

Mayor Sartor clarified that select Councilmembers would work on developing an RFP and as soon as that is done (if prior to the August council meeting), it would be shared with the City Manager and Mayor for review. If needed, it could be added to the August agenda.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Council to consider adopting a resolution reconstituting the governing board of the Urban Redevelopment Agency of the City of Jonesboro as an independent board of commissioners and superseding the 2024 designation of the Downtown Development Authority membership as the URA board.

The council discussed re-establishing the Urban Redevelopment Agency (URA) as an independent board, separate from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Members reviewed a previously approved board structure and debated the balance between elected officials and community representatives.

The following key points were discussed:

- Council agreed that the URA should remain independent to better focus on redevelopment projects and leverage outside expertise.
- Concerns were raised about quorum, accountability, and ensuring elected officials maintain strong oversight of redevelopment activities.
- The URA meetings would have to be separate from the Regular Council Meetings.
- Mayor Sartor reiterated, for the record, that Council previously had broaden the distance of applicants to 5 miles outside of the city limits.

At this time, City Attorney Wiley clarified that Mayor and Council had voted at the July 6Th Work Session on a 7-member board (3 elected officials and 4 private members). She further mentioned that the Robert Rules of Order states that it is okay to rescind a motion/vote at the same meeting (July 6th), but not a subsequent meeting. The Robert Rules of Order states if a motion needs to be rescinded during a subsequent meeting, it will have to be advertised on the agenda that we're going to rescind it. The wording on today's agenda would not satisfy that.

Today, Council wanted to rescind the above-mentioned July 6th motion/vote. City Attorney Wiley recommended a motion to suspend the rules to allow the recission to happen so that a new motion/vote could go forward. A 5-member board vs. a 7-member board was discussed.

A motion was made to suspend the rule/waive the requirement to advertise the change of the July 6, 2026 motion/vote as a recission.

RESULT: **Approved to suspend the rule (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Fox**
SECONDER: **Councilmember C. Dixon**

A motion was made to rescind the July 6, 2026 motion/vote constituting the URA Board composition/structure. (Three [3] elected officials and four [4] private members.)

RESULT: **Approved to rescind 7/6/26 motion/vote (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Fox**
SECONDER: **Councilmember C. Dixon**

City Attorney Wiley said state law gives the mayor the appointing authority for the URA. The council determines the number and the terms (which is a legislative decision). However, the mayor nominates the members to the URA and designates who is the chair and vice chair. That is state law and not in Jonesboro's Charter. Mayor Sartor said she is open for suggestions regarding nominations for the second seat. On the other hand, Council have no obligation to accept the nominations. They can send it back and re do it again. The mayor nominates, and council advise and consent.

A motion was made for Council to consider approval of a seven (7) member URA Board of Commissioners to include four (4) elected officials and three (3) private members.

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

A motion was made to set the term of office for elected officials to run the duration of their current term. Non-elected officials will have a two-year term with the option to be reappointed at the end of the two-year term. The 2-year terms would run concurrent and not staggered.

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

A motion was made to accept Mayor Sartor's nominations for the Urban Redevelopment Authority Board: Mayor Donya Sartor; Councilmembers Santia Fox, Cameron Dixon, and Alfred Dixon.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember Alfred Dixon**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Cameron Dixon**

Mayor Sartor designated herself as the chair and Councilmember Fox as the Vice Chair since this specific matter did not require a vote.

The following recommendations were discussed:

- Mayor Sartor recommended Gavin McGuire as a private member.
- Councilwoman Curney recommended Jahmel Williams as a private member.
- Councilman A. Dixon recommended Hazel Barker as a private member.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Miller mentioned having applications for potential board members.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Council to consider entering Executive Session at 6:16 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

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

B. Council to consider reconvening the Special Called Council Meeting at 10:15 p.m.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Mayor Pro-Tem Miller**
SECONDER: **Councilmember A. Dixon**

C. Council to consider any action(s), if necessary, based on decision(s) made in Executive Session.

None

D. Council to consider approval of the Executive Session Affidavit and Minutes.

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

RESULT: **Approved (Vote was unanimous)**
MOVER: **Councilmember C. Dixon**
SECONDER: **Councilmember Fox**

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Dr. Donya L. Sartor, Mayor   Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk