



Monthly Economic Development Report

Reporting Period: September 2026

I. Executive Summary

During September, the Economic Development Department advanced several initiatives from planning into implementation, with a continued focus on small business support, business and downtown engagement, procurement readiness, and development coordination.

Key activities included advancing Phase II of the Southern Cities Economic Inclusion Initiative (SCEI), expanding small business resources through coordination with the UGA Small Business Development Center (SBDC), supporting prospective business and development inquiries, advancing Harvest Fest business participation, and developing clearer restaurant permitting guidance. The Department also continued Economic Development marketing, planning, and technology coordination.

II. September Performance Snapshot

Performance Measure	September 2026
New Business Licenses Issued	6
Business Licenses Terminated/Closed	3
Active Grant Initiatives	1

September business license activity represented a range of industries, including retail, professional and administrative services, arts, beauty services, and automotive services.

III. Key Accomplishments

Business Development & Support: Supported existing and prospective businesses with inquiries related to business resources, facility needs, available locations, and development requirements. Coordinated with Community Development on active business inquiries involving zoning, site requirements, food production, distribution, retail, and other commercial uses.

Small Business Resources & Partnerships: Advanced coordination with the UGA Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to expand small business resources and technical assistance. This partnership resulted in the scheduling of the first Small Business Navigator workshop for November 10, which will provide an opportunity to assess Jonesboro's current small business environment and identify resource and support needs.

SCEI & Vendor Readiness: Advanced the City's SCEI project into Phase II implementation, including preparation for procurement training for City leadership, staff, and elected officials and advancement of the proposed consultant engagement. Continued development of the Vendor Readiness Program and participated in a Tyler ERP Pro 10 demonstration to evaluate vendor



registration, management, and reporting capabilities and discuss capabilities currently available through ERP Pro 9.

Downtown & Business Engagement: Advanced business participation for the November 6 Harvest Fest through development and rollout of the Harvest Passport, which encourages participating businesses to promote a featured item, service, special, or experience to help drive community engagement and business visitation and provided support for the Beautification Committee's Scarecrow Decorating Contest. Conducted direct business outreach and participated in Georgia Main Street programming focused on small business resources, downtown development, and peer collaboration.

Business-Friendly Development Processes: Developed restaurant permitting and grease interceptor guidance in coordination with Community Development, Code Enforcement, and external partners, creating a clearer sequence for prospective restaurant operators navigating the permitting process.

Economic Development Marketing & Planning: Completed proposed updates to the City's Economic Development webpage and developed a draft visual layout for coordination with IT. Continued development of the Economic Development Package for new and existing businesses, consistent with the Community Work Program.

IV. Strategic Initiatives & Next Steps

SCEI & Vendor Readiness: Seek approval of the proposed Phase II consultant agreement and, upon approval, coordinate procurement training for City leadership, staff, and elected officials. Continue development of the Vendor Readiness Program and evaluate how existing procurement systems and processes can support future implementation.

Harvest Fest & Business Engagement: Finalize participating businesses, Harvest Passport materials, and business/vendor coordination in preparation for the November 6 Harvest Fest.

Small Business Resources: Prepare for and promote the November 10 Small Business Navigator workshop in partnership with the UGA SBDC and use the findings to help guide future Economic Development programming and partnerships.

Business Networking Day: Coordinate and prepare for Business Networking Day on November 12 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the Jonesboro City Center, including event logistics, business outreach, registration, and promotional coordination.

Downtown & Business Engagement: Build on Harvest Fest business engagement by strengthening outreach to downtown and North Main Street businesses, identifying opportunities to increase participation in City and seasonal initiatives, and assessing available resources to support holiday lighting and other business engagement activities.