

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD JANUARY 21, 2025**

10:00 a.m. - The meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 400 19th Street West, Jasper.

Present: Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III, Councilmembers Jenny Brown Short, Danny Gambrell, Josh Gates, and Jennifer W. Smith, Mayor Gary Cowen, City Clerk/Administrator Kathy Chambless, City Attorney Russ Robertson

Absent:

Invocation: Reverend Carl Dorrough

Pledge of Allegiance: Sanitation Superintendent Carmen Harris

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Gates that the minutes of the regular meeting January 7, 2025, be approved.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

Consider amendments to the agenda. There was one amendment to the agenda: 1) Consider setting a public hearing date of February 4, 2025, for J&M Properties LLC to present an economic development proposal.

Consider approval of the agenda.

Motion

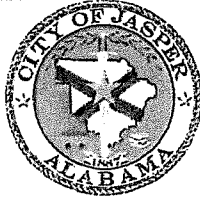
Moved by Councilmember Gates, seconded by Councilmember Short that the agenda be approved.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

Present a Proclamation for Human Trafficking Awareness. Mayor Cowen read the proclamation aloud and proclaimed the month of January Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month in Jasper.

(See following page)



PROCLAMATION

Office of the Mayor of Jasper, Alabama

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a public health issue and crime that harms the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities, often across generations; and

WHEREAS, nearly 25 years after the passing of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, an estimated 27.6 million people are subjected to human trafficking globally, with cases reported in every U. S. state and territory, including throughout Alabama; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking can happen to anyone, but certain populations are at greater risk including people affected by abuse, violence, poverty, unstable living situations, or social disconnect; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is connected to many other forms of violence and exploitation, and often shares common risk and protective factors, such as lack of resources and unsafe environments; and

WHEREAS, strengthening communities requires collective action to reduce the conditions that contribute to exploitation, build resilience, and create environments where people are protected from human trafficking and other forms of violence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jasper is committed to ensuring that those impacted by human trafficking receive services that are trauma-informed and responsive to their individual needs; and

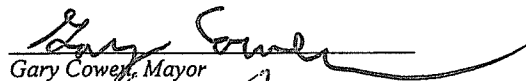
WHEREAS, a successful response to human trafficking requires a coordinated, community-wide response that includes collaboration across sectors and with those who have experienced human trafficking firsthand, to ensure that services and programs are effective and meet the needs of all survivors; and

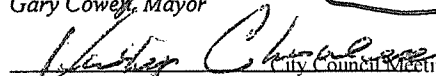
WHEREAS, every individual, family, community, and organization can help raise awareness, prevent trafficking, and support survivors by learning how to take action; and

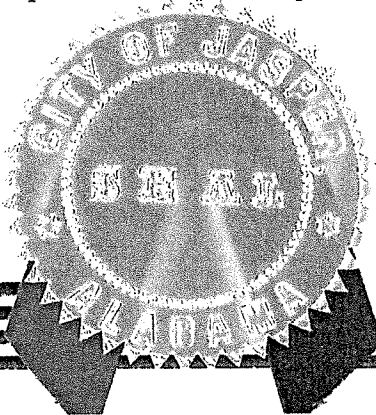
WHEREAS, the City of Jasper supports partnerships to comprehensively address the issues of human trafficking and create Trafficking Free Zones.

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Cowen, as Mayor of the City of Jasper, Alabama, do hereby proclaim January 2025 as **Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month**, reaffirming our commitment to strengthening communities, preventing trafficking by increasing awareness, improving education on human trafficking, making resources available for individuals and communities impacted by human trafficking, and, as a Trafficking Free Zone, building diverse public-private partnerships to support a more coordinated, comprehensive response to prevent and combat human trafficking.*

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed this 21st day of January 2025.


Gary Cowen, Mayor


Attest: Kathy Chambless, City Clerk



Consider an appointment to the Jasper Housing Authority Board. Mayor Cowen recommended Tommy Johnson be appointed to fill an unexpired term.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Gambrell, seconded by Councilmember Short to appoint Tommy Johnson to the Jasper Housing Authority Board to fill an unexpired term.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

Consider adoption of a Resolution to declare surplus property unneeded.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to adopt a Resolution to declare surplus property unneeded.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

(See following page)

RESOLUTION NO.: 2025 – 03

WHEREAS, over the past few years, several vehicles have become obsolete due to the purchase of newer items and age; and

WHEREAS, the Street and Sanitation Departments request authorization to sell, recycle, donate, and/or dispose of these items; using its discretion to determine manner of removal, resale value and the most effective marketplace for sale; and

WHEREAS, the Street and Sanitation Departments are requesting authorization to sell, recycle, donate, and/or dispose of the following unneeded/surplus items:

- 1991 Chevy Kodiak (7789)
- 2000 Ford Crown Vic (2FAFP71W1YX157167)
- 2005 Ford Crown Vic (2FAHP74W55X144955)
- 2009 Ford Crown Vic (2FAHP71V59X1264903)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of City of Jasper, Alabama authorizes the City Purchasing Agent to sell, recycle, donate, and/or dispose of these items; using its discretion to determine manner of removal, resale value and the most effective marketplace for sale.

ADOPTED THIS THE 21st **DAY OF** January, 2025.

ATTEST:

Kathy Chiles

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

Consider a request to accept funds from Blue Line Warriors Calendar Co LLC for calendar proceeds in the amount of \$3,264.00.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to accept funds from Blue Line Warriors Calendar Co LLC for calendar proceeds in the amount of \$3,264.00.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

Consider adoption of Budget Amendment #2024/2025-07 to provide funds for roof repair for the auditorium at the Natatorium facility

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Smith to adopt Budget Amendment #2024/2025-07 to provide funds for roof repair for the auditorium at the Natatorium facility.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

Introduce Budget Amendment #2024/2025-09 for funding for street improvements on Walston Bridge Road and 1st Street N and for the replacement of the Street Department equipment shed.
The Budget Amendment was introduced by the City Clerk and will be considered at the next regular council meeting.

Consider declaring the replacement of the Street Department equipment shed an emergency. Mayor Cowen asked the council to consider declaring the replacement an emergency due to equipment and safety concerns.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Short that the rules be suspended and unanimous consent be given for immediate consideration of and action on said recommendation.

Vote

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Short to declare the replacement of the Street Department equipment shed an emergency.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

Consider extending the deadline to pay garbage fees without a penalty to January 31, 2025.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Gates to extend the deadline to pay garbage fees without a penalty to January 31, 2025.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

Conduct a public hearing and consider adoption of a Resolution to set cost for nuisance abatement property. After no comments were made during the public meeting, a motion was considered.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Smith to adopt a Resolution to set cost for nuisance abatement.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

(See following pages)

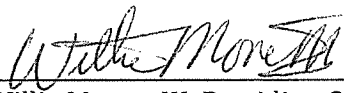
RESOLUTION NO: 2025 - 04

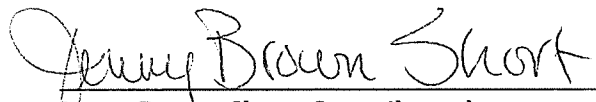
WHEREAS, the Jasper City Council has held a cost hearing on the abatement of nuisances on the following properties as presented in Exhibit "Cost Hearing Report 1/21/25" attached and made a part of this resolution;


WHEREAS, the Jasper City Council has affixed the costs associated with and incurred by the City of Jasper, Alabama as presented in Exhibit "Cost Hearing Report 1/21/25" attached and made a part of this resolution;

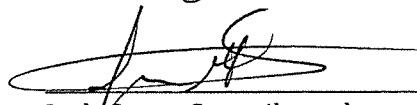
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jasper City Council hereby adopts and approves the setting of said cost of abatement of said properties.

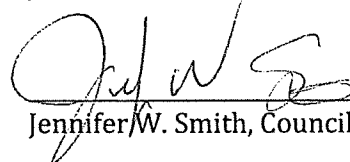
ADOPTED this the 21st day of January 2025.


Willie Moore, III, Presiding Officer

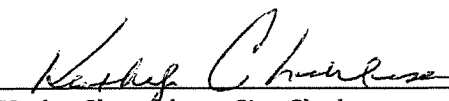

Jenny Brown Short, Councilmember


Danny Gambrell, Councilmember


Josh Gates, Councilmember


Jennifer W. Smith, Councilmember

ATTEST:


Kathy Chambless, City Clerk

**COST HEARING REPORT
1/21/25**

4 & 6 Pine Street (Robert Deason Jr.), District 1

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$8,964.00 | Removal of Unsafe Structure |
| 25.00 | Administrative Fees |
| <hr/> | |
| \$8,989.00 | Total |

2901 Florida Ave (Mary & Burt Bowers), District 5

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$6,500.00 | Removal of Unsafe Structure |
| 25.00 | Administrative Fees |
| <hr/> | |
| \$6,525.00 | Total |

2616 Florida Ave (Catherine Turner), District 5

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$7,520.00 | Removal of Unsafe Structure |
| 25.00 | Administrative Fees |
| <hr/> | |
| \$7,545.00 | Total |

Consider adoption of a Resolution for nuisance abatement for unsafe structures.**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to adopt a Resolution for nuisance abatement for unsafe structures.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

(See following page)

RESOLUTION NO.: 2025 - 05


WHEREAS, the Jasper City Council finds a nuisance for unsafe structure exists at:


1. 212 Miriam Street, Maxwell & Pamela Filkes, District One
2. 1106 11th Avenue, Ben Norris & Jeffery Dylan, District Two
3. 1108 11th Avenue, Ben Norris & Jeffery Dylan, District Two
4. 409 6th Street, Kimberly Michelle & Marcus Sizemore, District Four
5. 2209 13th Avenue, Roverta Sanchez, District Five
6. 1320 20th Street W, Rebecca Miller, District Five
7. 1316 20th Street W, Rebecca Miller, District Five
8. 1408 19th Street, Johnson Renevia, District Five
9. 2817 Florida Ave, Bert & Mary Bowers, District Five
10. Parcel #64-17-05-16-2-202-007.000, Paul (sbell), District Five
11. 1607 William Street, Ray Boyd Hilley, District Five


pursuant to ORD. 2001-718-A; and

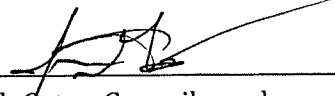
WHEREAS, the Jasper City Council finds that the abatement of said nuisances should be taken.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jasper City Council hereby approves the abatement of said nuisances.

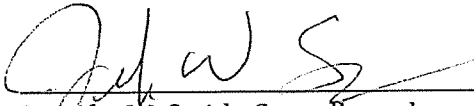
DONE this the 21st day of January 2025.


 Willie Moore, III, Presiding Officer



 Jenny Brown Short, Councilmember


 Danny Gambrell, Councilmember


 Josh Gates, Councilmember


 Jennifer W. Smith, Councilmember

ATTEST:


 Kathy Chambless, City Clerk

Consider waiving the permit fees for a Bevill State Community College project.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Smith to waive the building permit fees for a Bevill State Community College project.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

Conduct a public hearing and consider adoption of a Resolution vacating a portion of Second Place, a/k/a Old Parrish-Jasper Road. During the public hearing, Wade Burton addressed the council questioning if public access would still be possible to his property. After confirmation from the City Attorney and City Planner that public access would remain, a motion was considered.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Smith to adopt a Resolution vacating a portion of Second Place, a/k/a Old Parrish-Jasper Road

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

(See following pages)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 06
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF JASPER, ALABAMA

Fees: \$18.00
 Total: \$18.00
 DML Book: 2814 Pages 326-328
 Recorded In Above Book and Page
 Inst Num: 643474
 1/23/2025 2:14:19 PM
 A. Lee Tucker, Judge of Probate
 Walker County, Alabama

WHEREAS, the City of Jasper has been presented with a proposal to vacate an unimproved portion of 2nd Place South a/k/a Old Parrish-Jasper Road extending from its intersection with Third Avenue South to the northern boundary of Parcel 64-17-05-21-2-000-003.000, currently owned by Brack T. O'Rear, Jr., and Robbie O'Rear, within the city limits of the City of Jasper, Alabama, and located in close proximity to the property occupied by the Mar-Jac plant in the southern portion of the City of Jasper, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Jasper has conducted on this date a hearing on the question of such proposed vacation; and

WHEREAS, having conducted said hearing, and heard from all interested parties who desired to be heard at said hearing, it is the opinion of the City Council of the City of Jasper, Alabama, that it is in the best interests of the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Jasper that such portions of said roads be closed and vacated;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Jasper, Alabama, as follows:

1). The City Council of the City of Jasper, Alabama, does hereby declare that the following portions of the aforesaid roads are vacated:

Second Place South, a/k/a Old Parrish-Jasper Road, extending from its intersection with Third Avenue South to the northern boundary of Parcel 64-17-05-21-2-000-003.000, currently owned by Brack T. O'Rear, Jr., and Robbie O'Rear, all within the city limits of the City of Jasper, Alabama.

2). The names of all owners of abutting property to said portions of said roads vacated herein are as follows:

Mar-Jac Poultry AL, LLC

3). The names of all owners who are cut off from access as the result of this vacation are as follows:

None.

4). In vacating these portions of the aforesaid streets, the City Council of the City of Jasper, Alabama, specifically finds that it is in the interest of the public that such portions of such streets be vacated.


5). This Resolution shall, after execution, be filed in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Walker County, Alabama.

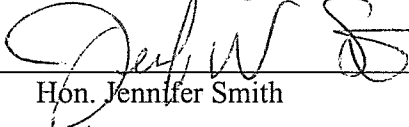
6). Notice and a copy of this Resolution shall be published once in the Daily Mountain Eagle no later than fourteen (14) days following its adoption.


all such notice of the above-referenced hearing as is required by the laws of the State of Alabama.

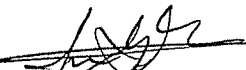
Adopted and approved this the 21st day of January, 2025.

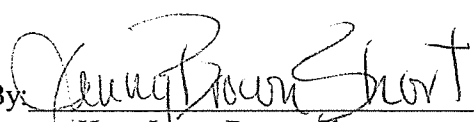
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA

By: 
Hon. Willie Moore
Council Presiding Officer

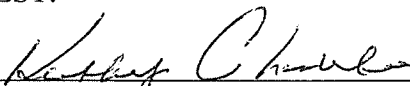
By: 
Hon. Jennifer Smith

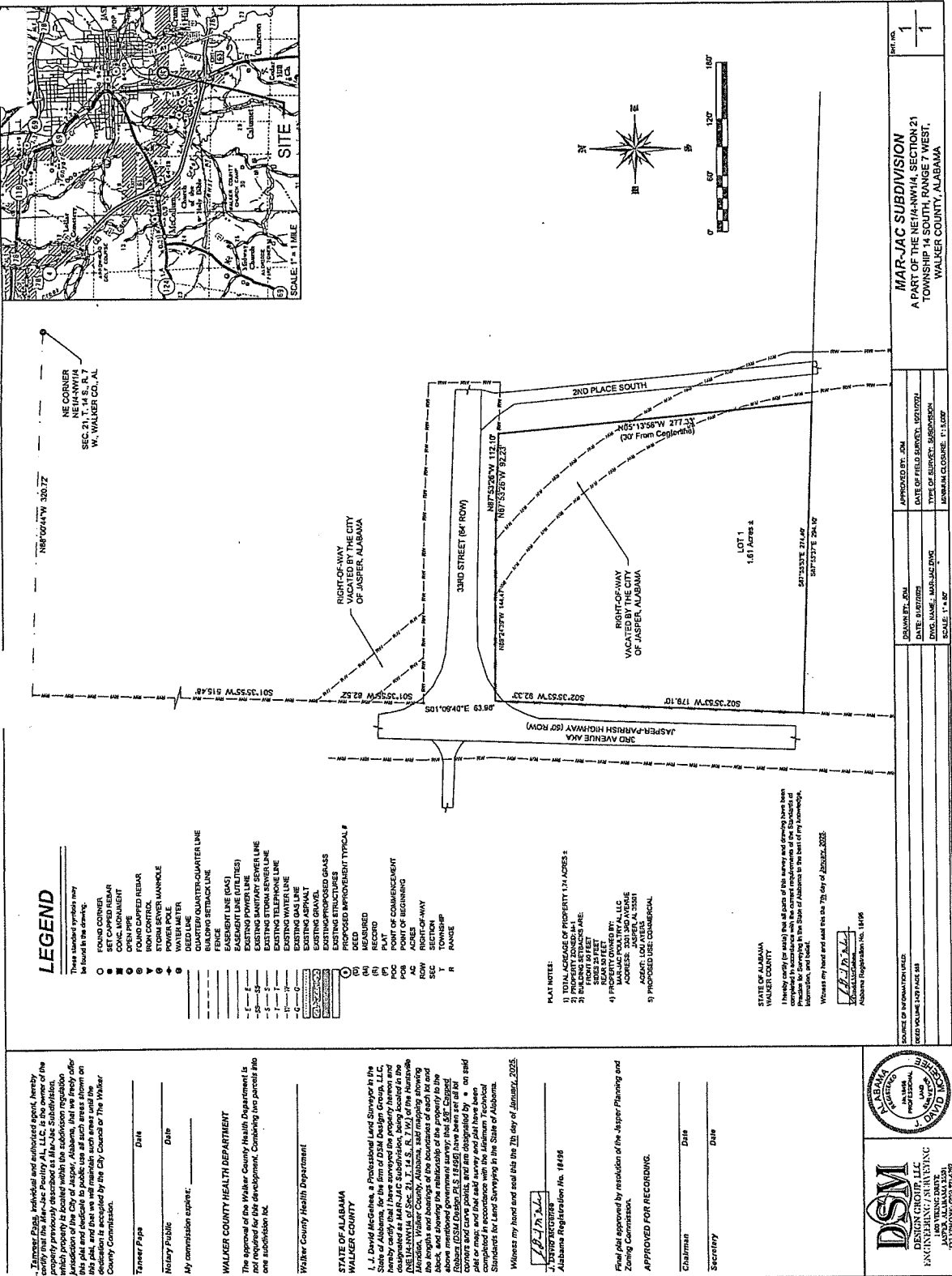
By: 
Hon. Danny Gambrell

By: 
Hon. Josh Gates

By: 
Hon. Jenny Brown Short

ATTEST:

By: 
Kathy Chambless
City Clerk



Consider adoption of an Ordinance to amend the economic assistance Ordinance to increase the investment requirement from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Gates, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to adopt an Ordinance to amend the economic assistance Ordinance to increase the investment requirement from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

(See following pages)

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF JASPER, ALABAMA
ORDINANCE NO.: 2025 – 01**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A POLICY FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE RETAIL DEVELOPMENTS**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Jasper, Alabama, has previously adopted an Ordinance providing for certain guaranteed economic development incentives for projects which exceed a development or redevelopment cost of \$1,000,000.00; and

WHEREAS, due to the passage of time and the increasing costs of materials and labor, it is the opinion of the City Council of the City of Jasper that the threshold amount for the cost of a development or redevelopment should be increased;

BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED, as follows:

1). Section 17-23 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jasper, Alabama is hereby AMENDED to provide as follows:

Sec. 17-23 - City Assistance Available to Qualifying Developments and Developers:

Assistance available from the City to qualifying developments shall be in the following form and subject to the terms and conditions stated herein and elsewhere within this policy:

(1) Building Permit Exclusions – The City will waive the developer's building permit fees for a project which exceeds Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) in Development Costs.

(2) Landfill disposal fees will be waived to qualified developers for the period of time as provided in the development plan. Garbage fees and landfill fees will not be waived once the project begins generating sales revenue in the project area.

(3) Sales and Use Tax Exemption – Development projects that exceed \$2,000,000 in total Developer Improvement Costs will be eligible to receive a Sales and Use Tax Exemption for all construction costs of the Project. The Developer must apply to the City Clerk for the requisite exemption certificate.

(4) City Sales Tax Rebate (New Business) – A rebate of sales tax will be available to the developer for a development project that generates 20 or more new full-time or equivalent jobs within one calendar quarter and which has a development cost of \$2,000,000 or greater. This rebate will be made by way of a refund of sales tax revenues generated and paid to the City from new business(es) located on the Development Property. The Developer shall commit to the City to use commercially reasonable efforts to seek and obtain new and additional businesses for location on the Development Property. Commencing on the grand opening date of the Development Property, which date shall be not later than three months from the first date on which the first business on the Development Property is open for business, the City will rebate to the Developer thirty percent (30%) of the sales tax generated by the new business(es) in the Development Project Area for a

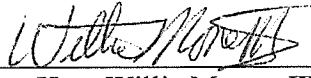
period of five (5) years, and will further rebate twenty percent (20%) of the sales tax generated by new business(es) located within the Development Project Area for the following two (2) years.

(5) City Sales Tax Rebate (Relocated Business) – A rebate of sales tax will be available to the Developer for a development project that generates 20 or more new full-time or equivalent jobs within one calendar quarter and which has a development cost of \$2,000,000 or greater. This rebate will be made by way of a refund of sales tax revenues generated and paid to the City from Relocated Business(es) which relocate into the Project Area. The rebate shall be calculated and paid only on the Excess Sales Tax Revenue received from the Relocated Business. Commencing on the grand opening date of the Development Property, which date shall be not later than three months from the first date on which the first business on the Development Property is open for business, the City will rebate to the Developer thirty percent (30%) of the Excess Sales Tax Revenue generated by the new business(es) in the Development Project Area for a period of five (5) years, and will further rebate twenty percent (20%) of the Excess Sales Tax Revenue generated by new business(es) located within the Development Project Area for the following two (2) years.


2). This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication, as required by Alabama law.

2854
DONE and ORDAINED, this the 7th day of January, 2025.


CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA

By: 
Hon. Willie Moore, III
Council Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


Hon. Kathy Chambless, City Clerk

APPROVED/VETOED


Hon. Gary Cowen, Mayor

Consider setting a public hearing date of February 4, 2025, for J&M Properties LLC to present an economic development proposal.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Gambrell, seconded by Councilmember Short to set a public hearing date of February 4, 2025, for J&M Properties LLC to present an economic development proposal.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

Comments: Mayor Cowen acknowledged and commended the dedicated service of Fire Chief Dante Fields and Deputy Fire Chief – Fire Marshal Heath Smith, who will both be retiring at the end of the month.

Presiding Officer Moore commented that there were some monuments destroyed at Gay Reed Cemetery. Faith Chapel Funeral Home and L&S Monuments have offered their services to repair most of the monuments at no cost to the city. Cemetery Director Mickey Davis offered his department's assistance, however needed.

Consider adjournment of the meeting.

Motion


Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to adjourn the meeting.

Vote

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jenny Brown Short | Yes |
| Councilmember Danny Gambrell | Yes |
| Councilmember Josh Gates | Yes |
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III | Yes |

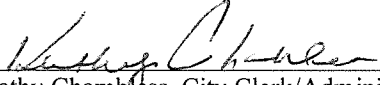
10:35 a.m. – Meeting adjourned.

A P P R O V E D:



Willie Moore, III, Presiding Officer

A T T E S T:



Kathy Chambless, City Clerk/Administrator