

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

10:01 a.m. - The meeting was called to order by Presiding Officer Gary Cowen in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 400 19th Street West, Jasper.

Present: Presiding Officer Gary Cowen, Councilmembers Jenny Brown Short, Danny Gambrell, Jennifer W. Smith, and Willie Moore III, Mayor David P. O'Mary, City Clerk/Administrator Kathy Chambless, and City Attorney Russell B. Robertson

Absent:

Invocation: Chief of Police J.C. Poe

Pledge of Allegiance: Revenue Compliance Officer Brent McCarver

Approval of Minutes:

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Moore that the minutes of the regular meeting held January 18, 2022, be approved.

Vote

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

Consider amendments to the agenda. There were no amendments to the agenda.

Consider approval of the agenda.

Motion

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

Vote

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

Presiding Officer Cowen announced a Special Called Meeting for Friday, February 4, 2022, at 12:00 pm to consider approving the issuance of the 2022 Warrants.

Consider changing two regular scheduled 2022 council meeting dates: from July 5 to July 12, and from September 6 to September 13.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Moore to change two regular scheduled 2022 council meeting dates: from July 5 to July 12, and from September 6 to September 13.

Vote

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

Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of a Retail Beer License and Retail Wine License (for off premise consumption) for SALI LLC d/b/a Commerce Grocery, located at 300 19th Street East. Following a public hearing during which no comments were made concerning the license, a motion was considered.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Moore, seconded by Councilmember Smith to approve a Retail Beer License and Retail Wine License (for off premise consumption) for SALI LLC d/b/a Commerce Grocery, located at 300 19th Street East.

Vote

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

Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of a Retail Beer License and Retail Wine License (for off premise consumption) for SALI 2 LLC d/b/a RJs, located at 1206 Highway 69 South. Following a public hearing during which no comments were made concerning the license, a motion was considered.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Gambrell to approve a Retail Beer License and Retail Wine License (for off premise consumption) for SALI 2 LLC d/b/a RJs, located at 1206 Highway 69 South.

Vote

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

Consider a request for approval of overnight travel to attend a Landfill Operating class February 8, 2022, in Andalusia, Alabama.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Moore to approve overnight travel for Co-Sanitation Director Carmen Harris to attend a Landfill Operating class February 8, 2022, in Andalusia, Alabama.

Vote

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

Consider appointments to the Library Board. Presiding Officer Gary Cowen opened the floor for nominations.

Councilmember Gambrell nominated Christy Moody to be reappointed to the Library Board for District 2.
Councilmember Moore nominated Christye Medlock to be appointed to the Library Board for District 5.

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Gambrell, seconded by Councilmember Short that the nominations be closed.

Vote

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

Motion

Moved by Councilmember Gambrell, seconded by Councilmember Short to reappoint Christy Moody for District 2 and appoint Christye Medlock for District 5 to the Library Board.

Vote

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

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith | Yes |
| Councilmember Willie Moore, III | Yes |
| Presiding Officer Gary Cowen | Yes |

Introduce Budget Amendment #2021/2022-04. The budget amendment was introduced by the City Clerk and will be considered at the next council meeting.

Comments: Mayor talked about the financial report, saying revenues are up over 10%; however, inflation is something to be cognizant of as decisions are made moving forward. He mentioned the grants the city recently received and shared a letter from Governor Ivey. Jasper’s project was one of 32 projects (out of 67 applicants) chosen for ATRIP II funding. Mayor reflected on the decision last year to hire Sain Engineering on an as-needed basis, noting the money the city has saved as a result, and pointing to their relationship with the State of Alabama playing a role in receiving the grant.

Councilmember Smith welcomed Carmen Harris as co-Sanitation Director.

Barbara Skok addressed the council about masking in city schools. Her family recently moved to Jasper because of optional masking, however, masks are now required. She is disappointed that her children cannot attend school without a mask and questioned why the public does not elect the school board members.

Consider adjournment of the meeting.

Motion

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

Vote

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

10:20 a.m. – Meeting adjourned.

A P P R O V E D:

Gary Cowen, Presiding Officer

A T T E S T:

Kathy Chambless, City Clerk/Administrator