

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
JASPER, ALABAMA, HELD APRIL 15, 2025**

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

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

**Absent:** Councilmember Danny Gambrell

**Invocation:** Police Chief J.C. Poe

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Councilmember Jenny Brown Short

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Gates that the minutes of the regular meeting April 1, 2025, be approved.

**Vote**

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

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

**Consider approval of the agenda.**

**Motion**

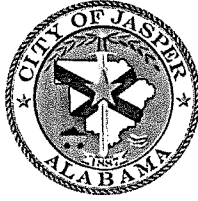
Moved by Councilmember Gates, seconded by Councilmember Short that the agenda be approved.

**Vote**

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

**Present a Proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month.** Mayor Cowen read the Proclamation and presented it to Annalee Rubley of Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center.

(See following page)



# PROCLAMATION

*Office of the Mayor of Jasper, Alabama*

*WHEREAS, there is a proven connection between good mental health and overall personal health;*  
*and*

*WHEREAS, mental illnesses affect almost every family in America; and*

*WHEREAS, people with mental illnesses recover if given the necessary services and support in their communities; and*

*WHEREAS, people with mental illnesses make important contributions to our families and our communities; and*

*WHEREAS, millions of adults and children are disabled by mental illnesses every year; and*

*WHEREAS, only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness seeks treatment for his or her mental illness; and*

*WHEREAS, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and*

*WHEREAS, research shows that the most effective way to reduce stigma is through personal contact with someone with a mental illness; and*

*WHEREAS, good mental health is critical to the well-being of our families, communities, schools, and businesses; and*

*WHEREAS, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Cowen, Mayor of the City of Jasper, Alabama, and on behalf of the Jasper City Council do hereby proclaim the month of May 2025 as **MENTAL HEALTH MONTH**. I also call upon all Jasper citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.*

*In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.*

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*Gary Cowen, Mayor*

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*City Council Meeting Minutes 4/15/2025*  
*Attest: Kathy Chambliss, City Clerk*

*Councilmember Smith arrived at 10:07 a.m.*

**Consider approval of an event permit for Watches and Whiskey requested by Young Jewelers to be held on June 13, 2025, with requested blockages on 19th Street West from 4th to 5th Avenue, and Foothills Festival requested by Jasper Area Entertainment to be held September 12 and 13, 2025, in downtown Jasper with requested blockages on 19th Street from the bridge near 1st Avenue East to 6th Avenue and adjoining Avenues.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Gates to approve event permit for Watches and Whiskey requested by Young Jewelers to be held on June 13, 2025, with requested blockages on 19th Street West from 4th to 5th Avenue, and Foothills Festival requested by Jasper Area Entertainment to be held September 12 and 13, 2025, in downtown Jasper with requested blockages on 19th Street from the bridge near 1st Avenue East to 6th Avenue and adjoining Avenues.

**Vote**

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

**Consider a request for approval of overnight travel for three JPD officers to attend Basic SWAT training May 5-8, 2025, in Anniston, AL, and for Captain Mize to attend the FBI Summer Conference May 18-22, 2025, in Orange Beach, AL.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Short to approve overnight travel for three JPD officers to attend Basic SWAT training May 5-8, 2025, in Anniston, AL, and for Captain Mize to attend the FBI Summer Conference May 18-22, 2025, in Orange Beach, AL.

**Vote**

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

**Consider a request for approval of overnight travel for the Sanitation Superintendent to attend WasteExpo 2025 from May 4-8, 2025, in Las Vegas, NV.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Short to approve overnight travel for the Sanitation Superintendent to attend WasteExpo 2025 from May 4-8, 2025, in Las Vegas, NV.

**Vote**

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

**Receive report and consider a recommendation for jail medical services Request for Proposals.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Gates to accept the recommendation of the Purchasing Agent to reject the bid and negotiate with the sole bidder.

**Vote**

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

**Consider a request for permission to renew the contract for Tree Removal services for another year under the same terms and pricing.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Gates, seconded by Councilmember Short to approve a request for permission to renew the contract for Tree Removal services with Newman Tree Service for another year under the same terms and pricing.

**Vote**

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

(See following page)

## RESOLUTION NO.: 2025 – 27

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Jasper, Alabama has given its permission to send bid invitations for Tree and Stump Removal,

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Jasper, Alabama has received bids from the below listed in the below listed amounts,

BIDDERAMOUNT PER SERVICE CALL

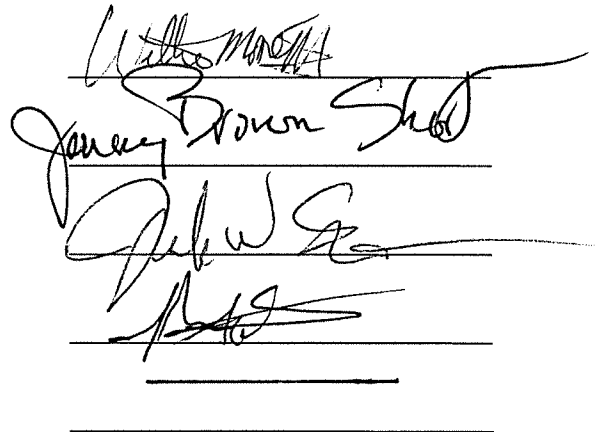
- Newman's Tree Service, Inc.

Per bid

**AND, WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Jasper is desirous of awarding the bid to the lowest responsible bidder who has met bid specifications,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the bid for Tree and Stump Removal Services be renewed under the same terms and pricing to Newman's Tree Service, Inc. in the amount of Per bid.

**ADOPTED THIS THE** 15th **DAY OF** April, 2025.



Handwritten signatures of city council members, including names like "Jamey Brown" and "John E.", over horizontal lines.

**ATTEST:**



Handwritten signature of the clerk, "Kelsey Chubb", over a horizontal line.

**Consider adoption of Budget Amendment #2024/25-15.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Gates to adopt Budget Amendment #2024/25-15.

**Vote**

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

**Introduce Budget Amendment #2024/2025-16.** The Budget Amendment was introduced by the City Clerk and will be considered for approval at the next regular council meeting.

**Consider adoption of a Resolution authorizing Mayor Cowen to enter into an agreement for engineer design work for a second entrance into the Viking Cove subdivision.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Short to adopt a Resolution authorizing Mayor Cowen to enter into an agreement with McGehee Engineering for engineer design work for a second entrance (commercial entrance) into the Viking Cove subdivision.

**Vote**

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

(See following page)

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 28**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Jasper, Alabama, desires to have an engineering firm perform design services for a commercial turnout for Viking Cove commercial development; and

WHEREAS, McGehee Engineering Corp. is qualified to do business in the State of Alabama and has agreed to provide said engineering services to the City of Jasper; and

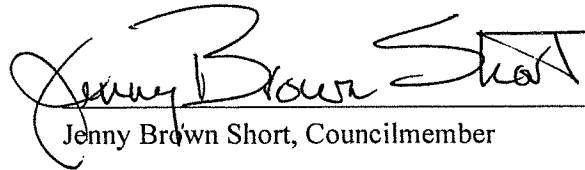
WHEREAS, the City of Jasper and McGehee Engineering Corp. desire to enter into an agreement under which McGehee Engineering Corp. shall provide a scope of services including surveying and basemap, civil design, and coordination for the Viking Cove Commercial Turnout project totaling \$25,500.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Jasper, Alabama, that Mayor Gary Cowen is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with McGehee Engineering Corp. to perform services to complete the commercial turnout.

ADOPTED this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

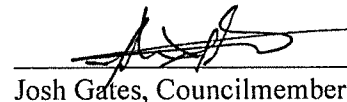


Willie Moore, III, Presiding Officer

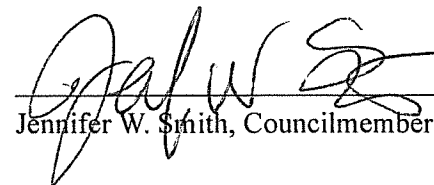


Jenny Brown Short, Councilmember

Danny Gambrell, Councilmember

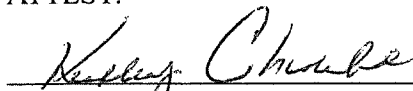


Josh Gates, Councilmember



Jennifer W. Smith, Councilmember

ATTEST:



Kathy Chambless, City Clerk



**Consider approving a streetlight near 406 Eagles Circle.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Smith to approve a streetlight near 406 Eagles Circle.

**Vote**

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

**Consider adoption of Ordinances (2) granting a water and sewer franchise to Jasper Water Works and Sewer Board, Inc.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Gates to table considering the adoption of Ordinances granting a water and sewer franchise to Jasper Water Works and Sewer Board, Inc. until a later meeting.

**Vote**

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

**Comments from public: No comments were made.**

**Consider a motion for a brief recess before conducting Fire Chief interviews.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Short to recess.

**Vote**

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

**The meeting recessed at 10:15 a.m.**

**The meeting resumed at 10:27 a.m.**

**Conduct interviews for Fire Chief.** Eric Naramore was first interviewed by the Council. Chris Uptain was the second and only other candidate to be interviewed by the Council.

**Consider appointment of Fire Chief.**

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Gates to vote for Fire Chief.

**Vote**

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

Voting by Councilmembers and Mayor Cowen were as follows:

Councilmember Jenny Brown Short	Chris Uptain
Councilmember Josh Gates	Chris Uptain
Councilmember Jennifer W. Smith	Chris Uptain
Presiding Officer Willie Moore, III	Chris Uptain
Mayor Gary Cowen	Chris Uptain

**Motion**

Moved by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Gates to appoint Chris Uptain as Fire Chief.

**Vote**

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

**Comments:** Mayor Cowen presented a retirement certificate to David Lockhart who retired from the Fire Department after 28 years. David Lockhart briefly spoke.

Councilmember Smith congratulated Lt. Chuck Henderson for being recognized as a super citizen at Memorial Park Elementary School.

**Consider adjournment of the meeting.**

**Motion**


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

**Vote**


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

10:52 a.m. – Meeting adjourned.

A P P R O V E D:

  
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Willie Moore, III, Presiding Officer

A T T E S T:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Chambers, City Clerk/Administrator

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