

**City Council Meeting Minutes
December 23, 2019
Jacksonville, Alabama**

The City Council of the City of Jacksonville, Alabama, met for the Regular Council Meeting on December 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Court Room at the Public Safety Complex, 911 Public Safety Drive, Jacksonville, Alabama. Council President Sandra Fox Sudduth called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following Council Members were present: Jerry Parris, Terry Wilson, Tony Taylor, and Coty Galloway. Mayor Johnny L. Smith, City Administrator Albertha Grant, City Attorney Richard Rhea and City Clerk Brenda Sandoval were present.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES. A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the Minutes from the December 9, 2019 Regular Work Session and Regular Council Meeting. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President Sudduth announced the motion carried.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA.

City Administrator noted there were additions to the Agenda as follows:

Main Agenda:

Delete Item 9: OTHER PERSONNEL ITEMS.

A motion was made by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Taylor, to adopt the Agenda as amended. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President announced the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS. The Council President asked for comments concerning current Agenda items. There were none.

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING NEW ZONING ORDINANCE. Council President Sudduth stated she appreciated all the work done by all parties on the new Zoning Ordinance. Public Hearing started at 7:05 p.m. with Council President asking for comments concerning the New Zoning Ordinance. There was one.

1. Paul Fox, 338 Vann St: Voiced his concerns about the policy that does not allow bunk house trailers on property within the City limits.

Public Hearing ended at 7:10 p.m.

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CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE THAT COMPLETELY AMENDS AND REPLACES SECTION 24 – ZONING, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA. (FIRST READING). A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Taylor, for consideration. This is the first reading; no vote taken.

HEARING TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE REVOCATION OF THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE BUSINESS LICENSE OF SHEDRICK RIDLEY, D/B/A BROTHER’S BAR, LOCATED AT 206 PELHAM RD SOUTH, JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA 36265, ORIGINALLY APPROVED ON JULY 8, 2019.

Council President Sudduth stated to the audience that this was just a hearing to discuss and there would be no voting on this matter at this time. She also requested that anyone coming up to speak should limit their speaking to five (5) minutes or less. Public Hearing started at 7:11 p.m. with the Council President asking if anyone would like to make any comments regarding the revocation of the business license for Brother’s Bar. There were eight (8).

1. Tommy Thompson, 2124 Finley St. Addressing the complaint on the establishment Brother’s Bar. He stated that he is under the impression that they are not following the ABC rules well, no one is counting heads (according to the Anniston Star there were 198 people in the building at the time of the shooting). Wanted to state that Jacksonville does not need a place causing shooting back and forth across a state highway, imagine it happening at 12:00 noon with people driving. Mr. Thompson recommends at least a temporary suspension of the business license until a plan has been submitted to be put into place. There is a no gun/knife sign on the outside of the building but what good is a sign with no one to enforce it.
2. Jose Martinez, 711 W Francis St. Has lived in the Jacksonville area on and off for almost 35 years. Does not know the current owners but he has been to Brother’s since his younger years. Does not claim to know all the facts about the shooting but has read in the newspaper that it was a single out of town rapper who performed and 2 out of town gangs attended. Keep in mind OUT OF TOWN. It is a single shooting by people from another town 36.6 miles away, with no prior history of gun violence for this establishment. Because of this one shooting, you want to punish locals and particularly JSU students of the entertainment provided. Asks that the Council stops any emotional decision and not deprive the City of the tax revenue that this historical establishment brings into the municipality. In his professional expert opinion, there is a police intelligence failure. There was no intel from other Police agencies. These gangs did not start shooting here and this rapper did not become bad here. Stop the knee-jerk reaction to the shooting and do not punish the locals and students for an incident that out-of-towners committed.
3. Robert & Loumen (?) Mack, 411 Church Ave SE. Wants the revocation of the license. They have lived in the City for 15 years and since Brother’s Bar has

opened, it has been a constant nuisance for his family. Patrons have trespassed and parked on his property despite the no parking and no trespassing signs posted. There is a constant shouting of vulgarities and arguing late in the night and early morning hours. Car alarms are being set off, urinating in public, and bottles and trash are left everywhere. He asks that the Council consider revoking the Brother's Bar business license for the safety of the neighborhood and families.

4. Shedrick Ridley, 206 Pelham Rd S. Owner of Brother's Bar. Stated he would like to be given an opportunity to turn this around. He would like it to be taken into consideration that this incident was caused by out-of-towners from Birmingham. He did not personally bring the artist; the venue had been rented and the renter brought the artist. He realizes that he could have denied and if allowed to go forward he plans to take full responsibility of screening the acts better. He does not want anything to happen to anyone and he knows that no one wants to come to a place where they feel it is unsafe. Their number one concern that night was for the customers inside. He understands that outside is his responsibility also and he is willing to take extra steps in protecting the outside along with the inside. He understands the severity of the incident and that the City wants to draw students here. If allowed to move forward, he has already begun the process for hiring an armed security service and plans to put in Hi-Def cameras inside and out. For the record nothing happened on the inside of the establishment. They did everything in their power to stop this from coming inside, including stepping in harms way and would like that to be noted. As far as disturbances, he states the biggest complaint he has received is the trash on the ground. They try their best to keep this picked up and he wishes if there were any issues, the business owners/residents would call him and let him know so that he can handle it. He does not want to bring the City of Jacksonville down and would like the Council to please consider keeping instead of revoking Brother's Bar.
5. Brittany Ridley, 423 Permita Ct. Daughter of the owner of Brother's Bar. She is a registered nurse who frequents and also works alongside her father at the bar. She was at the bar the night of the incident along with her sisters and father. Her father would not want anything to happen to her and her sisters let alone anyone else. She understands that safety is important and wanted to reiterate that they did everything they could to keep the incident outside, including putting themselves in harms way. She started an online petition and was able to get 100 signatures to help Brother's Bar keep their business license. She shared a few of the comments.
 - Anonymous from Jacksonville--always strict on security...did everything they could...bad things happen...good can't always stop the bad...tried their best
 - Heathcock from Heflin--could have happened anywhere....

- Anonymous--keep Brother's going...great music and atmosphere...someone at every door...always felt safe...
 - Byers from Jacksonville--bad things happen...security is strict...don't let people under 19 in and no underage drinking is permitted...do not take away for one incident...
6. Justin Ridley, 206 Pelham Rd S. Brother of the owner of Brother's Bar. The incident was unfortunate. He and his team were running the door. He guarantees there were no weapons in the building (if there had been, the shooting would have occurred inside instead of outside). His team performs pat downs on everyone and if he is not happy they will re-pat someone. The venue has had 15 shows with multiple types of entertainment to include Heavy Metal, Country, R&B, Jazz, Blues, and this was their first Rap show. He takes stacks of fake ID's that he refuses to return. They have asked all PD's in the area to come to the venue at any time, but he realizes there are insurance and liability issues that keep that from happening. That is why they have checked into the costly armed security service and will move forward with this if given the chance to keep their license because safety is their #1 priority and always will be.
 7. Brandi Bright, 150 Hickory Hill Dr. Stated from what she has heard, they are doing a remarkable job keeping the inside safe. But her concern is with the outside. Emphasizing that the shooting took place on the outside and anyone could have been walking/driving by. Thank goodness that the PD was close by and able to get there and under control quickly, but what if that had not been the case. She likes the owner's idea of better screening the acts. But another concern is that the paper stated that they were overly (highly) intoxicated. Are they allowing people to get too drunk and is this something that should also be looked into? Citizens should be able to drive on the streets at any time and be safe. Agrees that there needs to be a place for people to go for entertainment, but this happened in a main thoroughway in the heart of Jacksonville and no one wants to feel unsafe there.
 8. Randall Bright, 150 Hickory Hill Dr. Wanted to piggyback off of Brandi Bright. There were dozens of shots fired, proof in the number of rounds collected. These shots flew in multiple directions and everyone knows, they must come down somewhere. This endangered the lives of the citizens in the area and that is his main concern. This made national news, but is that the kind of attention the city wants? Please consider carefully and take all of these things into account.

RESOLUTION AMENDING PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA.

A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to amend the Personnel Policies and Procedures, Administration Leave for the City of Jacksonville, Alabama. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President Sudduth announced the motion carried.

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 514 VANN STREET, SE, JACKSONVILLE, AL 36265 TO BE UNSAFE. A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to declare the structure located at 514 Vann Street SE, Jacksonville, AL 36265, tax parcel #12-06-13-2-004-054.000, to be unsafe to the extent of being a public nuisance and ordering the structure to be demolished. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President Sudduth announced the motion carried.

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 305 WEST AVENUE, NW, JACKSONVILLE, AL 36265 TO BE UNSAFE. A motion was made by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Galloway, to declare the structure located at 305 West Avenue NW, Jacksonville, AL 36265, tax parcel #12-01-11-1-001-030.000, to be unsafe to the extent of being a public nuisance and ordering the structure to be demolished. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President Sudduth announced the motion carried.

THE PYROTECNICO AGREEMENT, 2020 JAXFEST CELEBRATION, PER THE ATTACHED: A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Pyrotecnico Agreement, for the total cost of \$7,400.00 for the 2020 JaxFest Celebration to be held on July 3, 2020, per the attached. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President Sudduth announced the motion carried.

APPROVE JPWP #20-100, CAST IRON GAS MAIN REPLACEMENT. A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve JPWP #20-100, Cast Iron Gas Main Replacement, in the area along Francis Street, East, between Church Avenue and 8th Avenue, NE, per the attached. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President Sudduth announced the motion carried.

RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AERIAL APPARATUS COMMITTEE AND APPROVE PURCHASE. A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to receive the recommendation from the Aerial Apparatus Committee and approve the purchase of a Sutphen 100' Mid Mount Tandem Axle Aerial Ladder Truck (complete and delivered) from Williams Fire Apparatus, listed on the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program, at a total cost of \$999,964.20 prepaid. Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President Sudduth announced the motion carried.

RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE RESCUE PUMPER COMMITTEE AND APPROVE PURCHASE: A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to receive the recommendation from the Rescue Pumper Committee and approve the

purchase of a Sutphen Heavy Duty Custom Pumper (complete and delivered) from Williams Fire Apparatus, listed on the Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program, at a total cost of \$443,055.40 (to be paid from Fire Tax Funds). Upon vote on the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President Sudduth announced the motion carried.

CONSOLIDATED ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS. A motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to approve the following:

Purchases Over \$5,000.00.

1. Fire:
 - a. \$34,754.56 to Northeast Alabama Regional Communications System for dispatch services for April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019.
2. Library:
 - a. \$5,082.50 to Dell Marketing for the purchase of 10 patron computers. (LSTA Grant).
3. Utility Maintenance:
 - a. \$15,125.00 to Health Consultants for the purchase of a remote methane laser detector.

Disposition of Surplus Property.

1. General:
 - a. Decal No. 06223 – Dell CPU – scrap.
 - b. Decal No. 05546 – Samsung computer monitor – scrap.

Other Personnel Issues.

2. Reclassification:
 - a. Isaac Devontae Vaughan, Firefighter/EMT, Range 11, due to Mr. Vaughan obtaining his EMT License.
3. Retirement Notification:
 - a. James Scott Hodge, Police Sergeant, effective February 1, 2020.

Board/Committees.

1. Appointment:
 - a. Jamie “Red” Etheredge, Industrial Development Board, to fill the unexpired term of Andrew Carden, with term to expire September 2021.
2. Reappointment:
 - a. Joseph Munster, Library Board, with term to expire December 2023.

Upon vote of the motion, the following votes were recorded: Yeas: All; Nays: None. The Council President announced the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR GENERAL ITEMS. The Council President asked for comments concerning general items. There was one.

1. Jose Martinez, 711 W Francis St. Spoke on the city expenditure of \$7,400.00 for fireworks. Council should think about the chemicals that are released and the trash that is left behind after a fireworks show.

COUNCIL MEMBER REMARKS. The Council President asked for comments. There was one.

1. Council Member Galloway wanted to wish everyone Happy Holidays. All other members wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

MAYOR'S REPORT.

- **Christmas Holidays:** Tuesday & Wednesday, December 24-25, 2019, all City Offices will be closed.
- **New Year's Eve Holiday:** Tuesday, December 31, 2019, all City Offices will be closed at 12:00 p.m., Noon.
- **New Year's Day Holiday:** Wednesday, January 1, 2020, all City Offices will be closed.

Mayor wanted to wish everybody a Merry and safe Christmas.

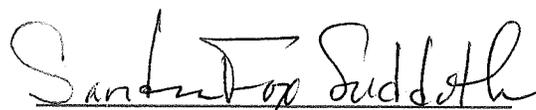
Sandra Sudduth thanked everyone for coming and hoped everyone had a Happy Holiday.

OTHER BUSINESS. The Council President asked if there was any other business. There was none.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by Council Member Galloway, seconded by Council Member Wilson to adjourn the meeting. The Council President announced the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

ATTEST:


Brenda Sandoval
City Clerk


Sandra Fox Sudduth
Council President