

From: Iris Stevens <irisstevens@suddenlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 5:28 PM
To: Council Coments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>
Cc: alderman@jonesboro.org
Subject: budget concerns

I am very concerned about this particular Jonesboro city budget. Mayor Copenhaver is apparently asking for \$100,000 to fund a new position which he admits he might not need (reported in the Sun) but wants the money for.

Secondly, I see NO provision for a new fire station in one of the underserved areas that we really need. I've been told that in two years we have an ISO audit and if we are lacking in at least one fire station we could face the consequences of having our rating go down which would impact our insurance rates.

I am very concerned when this audit happens and we are in a serious situation, the city would declare an emergency and ask for a tax increase. This should not happen. We have adequate time now to plan for any additional fire station without it becoming an emergency.

We have had very little time to be able to study this budget and it would be best if passing it were delayed so that everyone's questions could be answered. It also looks like we are into deficit budgeting, something that is never wise.

Also, since in person attendance at the meeting is not allowed, and there is a problem with the tech allowing residents to ask questions, I would like to ask that this budget vote be delayed until such problems are corrected.

Iris Stevens