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From: Patti Lack <pglack@suddenlink.net>

Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 3:20 PM

To: Mike Downing <MDowning@jonesboro.org>; Harold Perrin <HPerrin@jonesboro.org>;
hcopenhaver@my100bank.com

Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>; Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Budget 2021/Citizens input and questions

Good Afternoon,

It's less than a hour before the Finance and Administration Committee meet. And looking at their agenda, most of the resolutions have to do with the City's 2021 Budget.

There was a small write up and announcement of this meeting in the newspaper the other day.

Unfortunately, several important items were missing from this article:

- There was NO mention to the readers of where to go if they wanted to view the proposed Budget before today's meeting.
- There was NO mention of how to submit any questions or comments that you might have concerning the proposed Budget.
- There was NO phone number shown in this article either, just in case you wanted to ask a question/comment.

BUT the article did state- "however, because of the coronavirus pandemic, it will be held mostly online. Residents many view the meeting of Suddenlink Channel 24 or on the city's website or facebook page. Which for your information, there is a 1 to 2 minute time lapse on the website. That doesn't do any good if you are wanting to ask a question on the topic being discussed because chances are the committee has moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Citizens can go to the City Of Jonesboro FB page and watch the video of last week's Finance Working Meeting, but that's not very helpful.

I know I put the 2021 Budget on my 280 page for citizens to view. I downloaded that from legistar.

At the last City Council meeting where Mayor Perrin gave his last farewell presentation, it was in the Council chamber room, instead of on ZOOM. I noticed that there were several other people in attendance in that room. So i assume that the rule of "NO PUBLIC welcome" has expired.

There is no way possible that citizens will be able to effectively get answers to their questions/comments if all they/we can do is call on the phone.

There would be no back and forth conversation, if needed. This is not the way that the public should be getting their answers on how the City is spending their tax dollars.

And certainly not the way to be transparent.

I would like to request you to consider that at the 2 readings next month, knowing that the City has until the end of January to pass this budget, it to allow citizens to be present in the Council Chambers to ask questions/make comments about the proposed 2021 Jonesboro City Budget.

What is the current criteria to be allowed to be present in the Chamber room? Because there appeared to be several citizens allowed to be present in that room last week, during the last City Council meeting. We can all follow the rules that they were told to do- wear masks and social distance.

I know the new administration would like to start out with a positive appearance. Please let me know so I can let the 280 members know.

Thank you.
Patti