

**From:** Lisa Melton <[ldmelton47@gmail.com](mailto:ldmelton47@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2019 10:07 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>  
**Subject:** Reflections at Thanksgiving

Dear Members of the Council,

It has been on my heart to apologize to each of you for my behavior at the last council meeting. I am sorry for saying that I have lost respect for the council, and for painting with the broadest of brushes when characterizing each of you as having been involved with this process. I do not have evidence of how this thing has unfolded. Further, I know not every member of the council has been involved with the process, and those who were involved were likely trying to do their best given what they knew and when they knew it. We all want peace and unity. Keeping the peace and fostering unity feels different depending upon your vantage point.

I have not lost respect. Plain and simple, I was angry and ashamed. The atrocities committed against people of color whether native, enslaved, or immigrant, sickens and saddens me. I carry the guilt of having descended from the white power structure that at a minimum allowed it to happen and benefited from that structure. I have been this way always and I do not apologize for these values. My temper got the best of me and I did a disservice to all in the room.

Please know this apology will be made public and entered into the record at the next council meeting. When the conviction to apologize finally overtook my self-righteousness, it felt it was time to say I am sorry.

I am grateful to have grown up in this city and to have returned after a 25-year absence to find it better than when I left. I know that is not without committed leadership, so thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Melton