

My name is Gayle Gibson and I am here tonight to address the Mayor and Council in regard to the Outsourcing of Jonesboro Sanitation. I must admit that I have a selfish motive for my views. My husband Donny is one of the supervisors for that department.

Let me further say that we have not discussed my speaking tonight. I also have not spoken about this matter with any member of the council prior to tonight. I speak only for myself. Donny and I rely on our jobs for our livelihood.

Three hundred and sixty six years are the approximate number of years that the employees in the sanitation department have in service to the citizens of Jonesboro. Forty two employees and their families are as dependant on those jobs as Donny and I are. Those families are as dependant on their jobs as each of you and your families are on your jobs.

As the Mayor and members of the Chamber visit with Captains of Industry and vie for them to locate to Jonesboro, I am sure that the Mayor touts all great things about our city and all the benefits we have to offer as they move their families from across the nation. These fine people that work in the sanitation department are a part of what makes this a great city. The services provided to the citizens of Jonesboro by this department should not be diminished or taken for granted.

Who will be held accountable if outsourcing is considered and option? Promises can be made by anyone and those same promises can be broken. Will citizen concerns be handled in a timely manor and with professionalism? Will the private hauler do the job sloppily and on time? Who will be responsible to monitor this and what would the recourse be? Have there been many complaints about the existing services and the employees of sanitation that perhaps may explain the sudden decision to switch to a private firm? Not all money-saving decisions are wise decisions.

In closing it is my hope that all employees of the city will stand united behind these men and women in the sanitation department. If one department can be outsourced there is no reason for us to think that many city jobs could be up for grabs in the private sector. I also want to encourage the citizens of Jonesboro to call or e- mail the Mayor and Council members in support of this department. Those e-mail addresses and phone numbers can be found on the Jonesboro website.

Thank You