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Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 11:16 AM

To: Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>; Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Steve Purtee <SPurtee@jonesboro.org>

Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Request at today's City Council meeting

Good Morning to all of you!

I first want to say that I am just like all of you, I want to see Jonesboro become a better place to live for my family. Even though in the past 4 years, Mayor Perrin and I might have had some differences, we always had the same goal. I have respect for the work that all of you do for serving the citizens of our City. Mayor Copenhaver's message throughout his campaign was to be more transparent, be accessible and to bring our community together.

We are fortunate that we have some very smart and talented people already employed by the past administration. I would hope that Mayor Copenhaver takes a grace period to get to know them or know these individuals better and give them a chance to shine in their positions.

Mayor Copenhaver can hire his pick for COO because he will definitely need his "right hand person", just like Mayor Perrin had Mike Downing. Jonesboro is growing but still it's going to be quite awhile before we get back to where we were before this virus. I realize that the City's numbers might look good, but look how many businesses and stores have closed/vacated and not rebuilt.

I would hope for the first year, that with one new position in the mayors office, that would allow Mayor Copenhaver to have a better feel of our City and get to know the current employees. So many of these dedicated employees are the ones that work on City projects, always represent our CITY whether with individuals or with groups in our community and have Jonesboro's best interest at heart. I would think that if Mayor Perrin was able to do such a fantastic job with just having Mike Downing for a year and a half, I would think that Mayor Copenhaver could do the same.

Last year, when Team Jonesboro's Plan did not pass, City leaders found that we have a very divided community when it comes to raising taxes and what is needed/necessary or wanted in our City.

So with all this being said-

-We all know that in ONE vote at the council meeting later today that you can approve the 4 pulled items pulled from the Consent Agenda, that including the 2021 budget with or without any questions from the public.

-We ALSO know that you as City Council members, that were elected to represent the citizens of Jonesboro, would be able to table just Resolution 20:044, the proposed budget until the next City Council meeting on January 19. (Kinda like treating it as an Ordinance!). This would allow the Public to have more time to review how the City wants to spend our money.

State law says that you have until the end of January to pass the budget. So what's the hurry in passing it tonight?

IF you decide to table this one item, the proposed budget, this would start off the New Year knowing that you are helping Mayor Copenhaver meet his campaign goals of becoming MORE transparent and bringing our community back together again.

I hope you all consider tabling Resolution 20:044 until Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

Thanks,
Patti