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From: Patti Lack <pglack@suddenlink.net>  
Sent: Sunday, January 3, 2021 3:35 PM  
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
Subject: Council Meeting on Tuesday/City Budget

To All of The Jonesboro City Council Members:

I know several of you are members of my Facebook 280 page. It's a Public page so anyone on the internet can read it. You have to be a member to make a comment on the page. I know it's just a simple local Community page but currently there's over 1100 members on it that read/comment on the information that is posted. So if you'd like to become a member of 280, we'll approve you! If not, I hope you take a look at it every once in awhile.

Last night when I was going to post on 280 about the agenda for the first City Council meeting this Tuesday, I had to double check what I was seeing!

I am, along with many other Citizens that you all represent, are so disappointed that the proposed 2021 Jonesboro City Budget is being presented as a Resolution (20:044) instead of an Ordinance- and be required to have 3 reading to the Public. I realize that this is a Municipal League recommendation.

Since the budget was late to get to this point, I realize that there could have been 2 readings and then the FINAL Vote and still make the deadline by State Laws to be passed by the end of the first month of the year.

There has been NO appropriate time allowed for the public to review, understand and make any comments or have questions about this proposed 2021 budget.

If you remember that the sound was OFF during MOST of the Finance meeting last Tuesday. Mike Downing said that there was a "glitch" and it couldn't be fixed BUT to continue on with the meeting.

The watching public COULD NOT even call in with a comment or question because they couldn't hear anything that was being said!

If citizens don't have Suddenlink, then they can watch of the City's Facebook page. Guess what? On the facebook page, it was still the same. Not only could they not hear any sound, there is a time lapse of between 1-14 minutes on this page! So even when there's not a glitch and you can hear- by the time they want to ask a question when watching on FB, the Council is on several items ahead of that. So calling doesn't make a difference when watching on FB or even on Legistar.

\*I just received an email from April Leggett stating that 4 of the consent agenda items have been pulled for questions/comments. But, then once the questions are answered, you all will be able to take a vote and pass this budget on Tuesday.

-Passing the budget is not fair to the Citizens of Jonesboro nor is it being transparent to have it heard just one time.

-Especially with Citizens ONLY being able to email or phone in a question versus being present in the Chamber Room.

Thank you,  
Patti