



City of Jasper
 200 Burnt Mountain Road
 Jasper, GA 30143
 MINUTES | REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
 Monday, January 5, 2026, 6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Kirk Raffield
 John Foust
 Jim Looney
 Brandon Hannah
 Steve Lawrence
 Tony Davis

STAFF

Brandon Douglas
 Kim Goldener
 Lindsey Williams
 Matt Dawkins
 John Sherrer
 Mary Elizabeth Burgess
 Joshua Davis
 Charles Jones

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

See attachment "A"

MEMBERS ABSENT

LEGAL COUNSEL

David Syfan

PRESS

Mari Livsey – Know Pickens
 Angela Reinhardt – Pickens Progress

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| AGENDA ITEM: Call Meeting to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance | | PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield |
| Mayor Raffield called the meeting to order. Mayor Raffield called on the Councilmember Jim Looney to confirm a quorum was present. Mayor Raffield called on Councilmember Tony Davis to provide the Invocation. Mayor Raffield called on Councilmember Brandon Hannah who led the Pledge of Allegiance. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| None | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: Adopt Agenda | | PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield |
| CONCLUSION: Mayor Raffield called for a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Brandon Hannah made a motion to approve. Councilmember Steve Lawrence provided a second. The motion to approve passed unanimously. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: Public Comments | | PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield |
| Mayor Raffield opened the Public Comment section of the agenda. We had one person who signed up. 1. Mr. Sterling McNeal who resides at 346 Graystone Road, Talking Rock, GA 30175. Mr. McNeal discussed his concerns and need for water at his business located at 21 Airport Rd. He has a tenant wanting to move in but can't because of the need for water. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| N/A | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda | | PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield |
| 1. Minutes from 11.03.2025 Regular Council Meeting | | |
| CONCLUSION: Mayor Raffield called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to approve. Councilmember John Foust provided a second. The motion to approve passed unanimously. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: Public Hearings | | PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess – Planning and Development Director | |
| <p>1. Request by applicant SDH Atlanta LLC on behalf of Donald J. Silvers, Danny W. Silvers, and David Blent, the owners of approximately 48.65 acres zoned Pickens County AG Agricultural District located at 773 Fairview Road (Parcel 065 065) to annex the property into the City of Jasper. The applicant is processing a concurrent application to rezone the property to City of Jasper SFA Single-Family Attached Residential district upon annexation. APPLICANT REQUEST TO WITHDRAW</p> <p>2. Request by applicant SDH Atlanta LLC on behalf of Donald J. Silvers, Danny W. Silvers, and David Blent, the owners of approximately 48.65 acres located at 773 Fairview Road (Parcel 065 065) to rezone the property from Pickens County AG Agricultural district to City of Jasper SFA Single-Family Attached Residential district. The proposed development is a single-family-attached residential community comprised of 220 units. APPLICANT REQUEST TO WITHDRAW</p> | | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| N/A | | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: Unfinished (Old) Business | | | |
| <p>#1 Consideration of Request by applicant SDH Atlanta LLC on behalf of Donald J. Silvers, Danny W. Silvers, and David Blent, the owners of approximately 48.65 acres zoned Pickens County AG Agricultural District located at 773 Fairview Road (Parcel 065 065) to annex the property into the City of Jasper.</p> | | PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess – Planning and Development Director | |
| <p>Discussion: Applicant's request to withdraw, without prejudice, their application to annex approximately 48.65 acres located at 773 Fairview Rd.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to accept the applicant's request to withdraw their application without prejudice. Councilmember John Foust provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> | | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: Unfinished (Old) Business | | | |
| <p>#2 Consideration of Request by applicant SDH Atlanta LLC on behalf of Donald J. Silvers, Danny W. Silvers, and David Blent, the owners of approximately 48.65 acres located at 773 Fairview Road (Parcel 065 065) to rezone the property from Pickens County AG Agricultural district to City of Jasper SFA Single-Family Attached Residential district.</p> | | PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess – Planning and Development Director | |
| <p>Discussion: Applicant's request to withdraw, without prejudice, their application to rezone approximately 48.65 acres located at 773 Fairview Rd.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Councilmember Brandon Hannah made a motion to accept the applicant's request to withdraw their application without prejudice. Councilmember Steve Lawrence provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> | | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: New Business | | | |
| <p>#1 Consideration of Mayor Pro Tempore</p> | | PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield | |
| <p>Discussion: Mayor Raffield asked for council to nominate a councilmember to act as the Mayor Pro Tempore and who would serve in his absence.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Councilmember Steve Lawrence made a motion to nominate Councilmember Jim Looney as Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilmember John Foust provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> | | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: New Business | | PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield |
| #2 Consideration of Committee Appointments | | |
| <p>Discussion: Mayor Raffield proposed Councilmembers for the following committees and called for action.</p> <p>Committees</p> <p>Development & Local Infrastructure - Councilmember John Foust and Councilmember Brandon Hannah</p> <p>Finance & Administration – Councilmember Jim Looney and Councilmember Tony Davis</p> <p>Enterprise - Councilmember Jim Looney and Councilmember Steve Lawrence</p> <p>Parks & Properties – Councilmember John Foust and Councilmember Tony Davis</p> <p>Public Safety – Councilmember Brandon Hannah and Councilmember Steve Lawrence</p> | | |
| <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to approve the committee appointments. Councilmember John Foust provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: New Business | | PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield |
| #3 Consideration of 2026 Tourism Development Services Agreement with Pickens County Chamber of Commer | | |
| <p>Discussion: As you are aware, the City enters an agreement with the Pickens County Chamber of Commerce annually for Tourism Development Services and for the allocation of the two-thirds of the six percent hotel/motel tax collection by the City to the Chamber. The 2026 agreement is unchanged from the 2025; however, it is the expectations to review in concert with our state legislators, county partners, etc. to determine if the percentage as collected needs to be modified which will come back to all parties for review but would not be in effect until 2027 at the earliest if action is taken.</p> | | |
| <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to approve 2026 Tourism Development Services Agreement with Pickens County Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember Brandon Hannah provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: New Business | | PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield |
| #4 Consideration of the 2026 Calendar | | |
| <p>Discussion: Mayor Raffield and Brandon Douglas wanted to point out that there is one meeting date that we would like direction on. That meeting is the September 7th meeting which falls on Labor Day this year. The two proposed dates are Monday, August 31st or Monday, September 14th. This date was set for Monday, September 14th.</p> | | |
| <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to approve 2026 City Calendar. Councilmember Brandon Hannah provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: New Business | | PRESENTER: Kim Goldener – Deputy City Manager |
| #5 Consideration of Long-Term Watershed Monitoring for 2026 | | |
| <p>Discussion: As a part of the City's Watershed Protection Plan and our National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Wastewater Pollution Control Plant, we are required to perform annual water quality monitoring activities. Turnipseed Engineers is our consultant for our annual watershed reporting and they coordinate the required monitoring for the City as a pass-through cost. Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) will be performing the monitoring activities. For FY 2026, the total cost will be \$16,335.00.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Councilmember Steve Lawrence made a motion to approve the Long-term Watershed Monitoring. Council Member Jim Looney provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: New Business | | PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess – Planning and Development Director |
| #6 Consideration of Alcohol license to sell beer and wine by the drink for Umami Tavern | | |
| <p>Discussion: We received an application on behalf of Umami Tavern to obtain an alcohol license to sell beer and wine by the drink. The applicant submitted all the required paperwork and cleared the required background check with no disqualifying factors.</p> <p>One sign was displayed along the property frontage for 30 days and a legal ad was run for four consecutive weeks in the Pickens Progress.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Councilmember Brandon Hannah made a motion to approve Alcohol License to sell beer and wine by the drink at Umami Tavern. Councilmember Steve Lawrence provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: New Business | | PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess – Planning and Development Director |
| #7 Consideration of Alcohol license to sell beer and wine by the package for AKBAR Enterprises Inc. | | |
| <p>Discussion: We received an application on behalf of AKBAR Enterprises Inc. to obtain an alcohol license to sell beer and wine by the package. The applicant submitted all the required paperwork and cleared the required background check with no disqualifying factors.</p> <p>One sign was displayed along the property frontage for 30 days and a legal ad was run for four consecutive weeks in the Pickens Progress.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Councilmember Brandon Hannah made a motion to approve the Alcohol License for AKBAR Enterprises Inc. Councilmember Jim Looney provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: New Business | | PRESENTER: Mary Elizabeth Burgess – Planning and Development Director |
| #8 Consideration of Alcohol license to sell beer, wine, and distilled spirits by the drink for RARE Hospitality International Inc. | | |
| <p>Discussion: We received an application on behalf of RARE Hospitality International Inc. to obtain an alcohol license to sell beer, wine and distilled spirits by the drink. The applicant submitted all the required paperwork and cleared the required background check with no disqualifying factors.</p> <p>One sign was displayed along the property frontage for 30 days and a legal ad was run for four consecutive weeks in the Pickens Progress.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion. Councilmember Steve Lawrence made a motion to an Alcohol License to sell beer, wine and distilled spirits by the drink for RARE Hospitality International, Inc dba Longhorn's Restaurant. Councilmember Brandon Hannah provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: City Manager Comments | | PRESENTER: Brandon Douglas – City Manager |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations to the two newly elected officials • Charles and Josh worked together to fix a water main that was damaged by an external contractor • Good job to DDA for all of the Christmas Decoration. Thank you to the DDA and Carly for their hard work. • Lindsey William, Finance Director, just wanted to give kudos for all her hard work on the budget and end-of-year processes. Government Finances are six month budget and six month audit. • We have an upcoming pre-construction meeting for the Master Lift Station project • January 13th will be the GDOT Public Open House @ the County Administration Building from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. • Reminder that we will be closed on Monday, January 19th for MLK Day | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| N/A | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: City Council Comments | | PRESENTER: Councilmembers |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councilmember Jim Looney wanted to note that the financials are in the council packet. • Councilmember Brandon Hannah wanted to remind everyone to drive safely. These three pillars are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be present and keep your eyes up ○ Be patient – don't chance it on yellow lights ○ Be predictable and never trust green lights | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| N/A | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: Mayor Comments | | PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Lindsey and her team for all they do. • Councilmember Jim Looney, do you understand the conditions of Mayor Pro Tempore? Councilmember Jim Looney confirmed that he did understand. • The staff is working with the elections office to note the roads and streets so that they can confirm those inside and outside the city. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| N/A | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: Executive Session - Legal | | PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield | |
| <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion to enter Executive Session @ 6:33pm. Councilmember Jim Looney made a motion to approve. Councilmember Brandon Hannah provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mayor asked for a motion to return to Regular Council Meeting to amend the agenda and allow the requested party to have their three minutes to speak under Public Comments. Councilmember Steve Lawrence made a motion to return to regular council meeting. Councilmember John Foust provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Returned to regular council meeting to amend the agenda to allow for the requested party, Ms. Jessica Cantrell to have her three minutes to make her comments.</p> <p>Ms. Jessica Cantrell asked Council if the decision of her client's request would be done in public?</p> <p>Ms. Jessica Cantrell inquired about the process of her client's request in executive session. She further discussed her client's history with the property and past water service. Ms. Jessica Cantrell asked council to reconsider her client's request for water service.</p> <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion to return to Executive Session @6:58pm. Councilmember Jim Looney made the motion to return to Executive Session. Councilmember John Foust provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Mayor Raffield made a motion to end Executive Session @ 8:37pm and go back into council session. Councilmember John Foust made a motion to end the Executive Session. Councilmember Brandon Hannah provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.</p> | | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Approved | | N/A | N/A |

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| AGENDA ITEM: Adjourn | | PRESENTER: Mayor Kirk Raffield | |
| <p>Mayor Raffield called for a motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Councilmember Steve Lawrence made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Brandon Hannah provided a second. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.</p> | | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Adjourned | | N/A | N/A |


 Mayor, Kirk D. Raffield


 City Clerk, Lorrie Waters
 Interim City Clerk
 2-2-26



PLEASE SIGN IN

JASPER
City Council Meeting
SIGN IN ROSTER
January 5, 2026

PRINT NAME **ADDRESS/OR BUSINESS AFFILIATION**

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Samuel Sly | JPC |
| Bill Nickerson | BigDope - REMAX Five STAR REALTY |
| Phil Hanna | Starn |
| Kim Goldener | COT |
| Mitch Harrison | Lanham Steakhouse |
| Penny Dicus | Jasper |
| Marguerite King | Jasper |
| Sterling McNeal | Jasper |
| Craig Bryans | Jasper, Grandview |
| Jessica Cantrell | Underwood Prognosis, LLC |

