

John A. Ward III
City Manager

Amie Vaughan
Finance Director

Elizabeth Motes McDonald
City Clerk



Jim Joiner
Mayor

Council Members:
Kathy DuBose
Randall "Bosie" Griffith
C.D. Kidd III
Steve Kinney
Roy W. Plott

Minutes of the City Council Voting Session, March 22, 2010
Jefferson Civic Center

Present: Mayor Joiner, Council Members DuBose, Griffith, Kinney, Kidd, Plott, City Manager J. Ward, Attorney R. Hopkins, City Clerk E. McDonald

1. Call to Order – Mayor Joiner

Mayor Joiner asked the Boy Scouts that are working on their citizenship badge to come forward and introduce themselves.

**2. Approval of Minutes – February 8, 2010 City Council Work Session
February 22, 2010 City Council Voting Session**

Motion by Plott, second by Kinney, vote unanimous to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2010 Work Session and February 22, 2010 Voting Session.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kidd, second by Kinney, vote unanimous to approve the agenda.

4. City Manager – John Ward III

John McKinney Land Use Agreement

Motion by Griffith, second by Plott, vote unanimous to approve the John McKinney Land Use Agreement

Mayor Joiner asked for a motion to go into Executive Session and he stated that he needs to know why Council is going into Executive Session.

Council Member Kidd made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss downsizing. Mayor Joiner stated that this cannot be done. You have to do that in public. Council Member Kidd stated it's to talk about all of the Department Directors. Mayor Joiner asked if Council Member Kidd wanted to discuss personnel. Council Member

City Hall
147 Athens Street
Jefferson, Georgia 30549



706/367-5121
706/367-7207
FAX: 706/367-5134
www.cityofjeffersonga.com

Kidd stated that he wants to talk about Department Directors. Mayor Joiner stated that there are three reasons for Council to go into Executive Session and they are:

To discuss the future acquisition of real estate; to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee; or to consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought, or to be brought, by or against the City or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved. Mayor Joiner stated that those are the three reasons to go into Executive Session. You cannot go into Executive Session to discuss a potential downsizing. If you are going to talk about that you are going to do that in public. Council Member Kidd stated that he would discuss it in public.

Council Member Kidd stated that the reason he wanted to discuss this is that he's been here a long time and the City has taken on a lot of staff because we were thinking about having a lot of growth. The growth is not here now. We hired a lot of staff anticipating we were going to have a lot of growth that we haven't had. I was looking at some of these job descriptions. If we eliminate at least one position it would help the City to defray some of these expenses. The one I wanted to talk about is the Public Works Director. The City could save approximately \$90,000.00. The City has someone in the Water plant, someone in the Sewer plant, and someone in the Street Department that could handle it. They have handled it before a Public Works Director was hired. The City's growth has not been that much. Those supervisors could handle it. The City could save \$90,000.00+ by eliminating this position.

Mayor Joiner asked City Attorney Ronnie Hopkins if the City's charter allows City Council to eliminate a position. Mayor Joiner said that Council can create or eliminate a department. Council Member Kidd stated that Council created this position in lieu of this growth was going to be here. The growth is not here now and the City can save the money. City Attorney Hopkins stated that the Charter provides that if you have a Department you have to have a Department Director. If you create a Department you can do away with a Department. But, if by doing that you have created three more Departments then you have to have three more Department Directors. Council Member Griffith stated that the City has a supervisor for each of those departments. City Attorney Hopkins stated that the charter reads, "There shall be a Director for each Department." Council Member Griffith said that was the way it was before we created the Public Works position. Council Member Kidd stated that the City could go back to the three directors. In the Water Plant Mike Arnold has been doing it for years. He can handle that portion of it. Joe Savage can handle the Street Department and the guy over at the Sewer Plant can handle that one. Call them directors it's nothing but a figure; but, the

City is going to save \$90,000.00. Council Member Griffith stated that there were three directional supervisors at the time that we created this position.

Mayor Joiner stated that he wanted to ask Council Member Griffith something. You remember a conversation you and I had in my office about two weeks ago. Council Member Griffith stated, "Probably." Mayor Joiner stated that what brought that conversation about was that he had heard that you all wanted to visit this issue. I asked you why you wanted to get rid of Jeff Killip. You gave me three reasons. First of all he's not a P.E. For those of you who do not know what I'm talking about P.E. is Professional Engineer. This was not a term of his employment. Mayor Joiner asked Council Member Griffith if he agreed with that. Council Member Griffith said, "Yes." Second of all you said he's not an American citizen. And there are people in the City of Jefferson out of work that are citizens. You said that, right? Council Member Griffith stated, "Yes." Third of all you said he wasn't friendly to you. He wouldn't speak to you. Council Member Griffith stated that he created the position for Jeff Killip. Mayor Joiner stated, you gave me those three reasons. Do you realize, especially that second one, he is protected by Federal law. You have opened yourself up for a lawsuit. Anybody that votes to eliminate him opens themselves up for a lawsuit based on your actions. Mayor Joiner stated, "I'm not the only one you told that to. You have spread it all over town or else I wouldn't have heard about it. So, you keep that in mind. You have opened yourself up for a Federal lawsuit. And anyone that votes along with you has opened themselves up for a Federal lawsuit."

Council Member Kidd said that he asks the City Attorney for advice on this for the betterment of the City. Everyone around here is struggling. Mayor Joiner stated, "C.D, Council Member Griffith wouldn't have told me three times that Jeff Killip was gone if he didn't have three votes. He told me that three times. Jeff Killip's gone." Council Member Plott stated that he's trying to understand what is the reason that you are after Jeff. Council Member Griffith said it will save us \$90,000.00. Council Member Plott stated that the City is in good financial standing. Council Member Griffith stated that we do not know whether we are or not. We have asked for exact figures on the General Fund. What is spent and what is not. John says they cannot give us an exact figure. We asked for the exact figures on the reserve side. Council Member Plott stated that he gets the same financial reports that Council Member Griffith gets and the City is fine. I don't understand this. Is there some vendetta you guys have against Jeff Killip? Council Member Kidd stated that the only thing he wants to do is to make sure that the City does have money. I want to make sure that the citizens get what they are paying for. Two or three people, two directors that I have had a lot of complaints about. One was Jeff. I don't know if he's still doing this - I know he was doing this at the end of the year; but, he was taking the kids to school in the State truck, leaving the job and going back to pick her up in the State truck, I mean the City truck. I know he's working; but, I don't think he should use the City vehicle to do his personal stuff. Council Member Plott said, "So it's

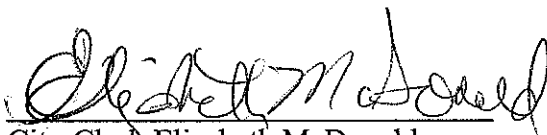
not the \$90,000.00. You don't want him to take his kids in the City truck. This involves something else. It's not about the budget." Council Member Kidd stated that this goes along with it. Council Member Plott stated that it's not about the money. It's a vendetta against Jeff.

City Manager John Ward stated that he could speak about the money. It's a fallacy if you think you are going to save \$90,000.00 because the City will not be able to apply for and secure the grants that we have received that brought hundreds of thousands of dollars to over one million for far since Jeff has taken his position. Also, the City will have to replace that and bring in managers from EMI or another professional engineering firm to manage the projects that Jeff has stepped in and managed. Therefore, the \$90,000.00 is a fallacy. I do not agree with the estimate of what you are looking at.

Council Member Kidd stated that he's gone back and looked at some other things. The City has a part time Mayor, we didn't have a City Manager. We have a City Manager, no Assistant Manager, and some of these Directors, not Public Works Director, but others and we had everything just right. The way I have been looking at things over the two years, you have enough time to do some of this. You do. City Manager Ward stated that he encourages Council Member Kidd to come to City Hall more often and I will be glad to work with you.

Council Member Griffith made a motion to postpone this discussion to a later date. Mayor Joiner said, "I haven't asked for a motion." City Attorney Hopkins said just cut off the talking. Mayor Joiner asked Council Member Griffith if he is suggesting we postpone this to a later date. Council Member Griffith said, "Yes." Mayor Joiner said, "I suggest you think about what you are getting yourself into."

5. Adjourn – Mayor Joiner



City Clerk Elizabeth McDonald



Mayor Jim Joiner