

COLIN BAENZIGER  ASSOCIATES
EXECUTIVE RECRUITING

Section 6

Julian L. Jackson

*Islamorada Village Manager
Candidate Report*

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Cover Letter and Resume

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February 17, 2022

Colin Baenziger and Associates
2055 South Atlantic Avenue, Suite 504
Daytona Beach Shores, Florida 32118

RE: Village Manager, Islamorada, Village of Islands, Florida

Dear Mr. Baenziger:

Please accept this letter as my application for the position of Village Manager, Islamorada, Village of Islands. My resume is attached for your review.

Thank you for your careful consideration. Please call if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Julian Jackson

JULIAN L. JACKSON-PROFESSIONAL RESUME



JULIAN L. JACKSON

4819 Martinique Court, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034

678-591-1030

Publicsolutionsga@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Local Government Finance Specialist, PeeDee Regional Council of Governments Florence, South Carolina (January 2021 to Present)

Serve and assist the Economic Development Director in conducting financial analyses of local governments, identifying and addressing vulnerabilities, and facilitating the capital improvement planning process. Responsible for the completion of Capital Improvement Plans for local governments and a comprehensive assessment of the financial vulnerabilities of region governments. Assist in determining the effect of COVID19 and other natural or manmade disasters on local government finances and the means for increasing local governments' resiliency during future disasters.

Interim City Manager, Stonecrest, Georgia (March 2019 to February 2020)

Served as the chief administrative officer for a metro-Atlanta community of 54,000 residents. Newly created city with an incorporation date of May 1, 2017. Responsibilities include the coordination of the day-to-day activities of all operating departments. Services provided directly include planning, zoning, code enforcement, recreation and transportation. Police, Fire, EMS, and Stormwater are provided through Intergovernmental agreements (IGA's). Prepare policy and program recommendations for City Council consideration and ensure the implementation of its policy decisions.

City Manager, Peachtree Corners, Georgia (October 2012 to November 2016)

Served as the chief administrative officer for a metro-Atlanta community of 41,000 residents. Newly created city with an incorporation date of July 1, 2012. Responsibilities include the coordination of the day-to-day activities of all

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operating departments. Services provided directly include planning, zoning, code enforcement, solid waste, and transportation. Police, Fire, EMS, Stormwater and Public Works are provided through Intergovernmental agreements (IGA's). Prepare policy and program recommendations for City Council consideration and ensure the implementation of its policy decisions. Prepared and administered annual operating and capital budgets of totaling \$15 million. Other responsibilities and accomplishments are listed below.

Administration

Supervised the preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Served as the City's chief budget officer. Responsibilities include all aspects of budget preparation, submittal, and enforcement.

Assisted the Mayor and Council in formulating financial policies which have resulted in the elimination of property taxes in the city's second year of existence.

Served as Chief purchasing officer, approving all expenditures up to \$10,000.

Assisted in the organization of the Mayor and Council's annual goal setting sessions. Organized and facilitated the Mayor and Council's annual planning retreat.

City Administrator, Monroe, Georgia (March 2000 to October 2012)

Served as the chief administrative officer for a suburban community of 13,234 residents. Responsibilities included the coordination of the day-to-day activities of seven operating departments with over 225 employees. Services included electric, natural gas, water, sewer, cable TV, internet, telephone, solid waste, police, fire, planning and zoning, finance, airport, and transportation. Prepared policy and program recommendations for City Council consideration and ensure the implementation of its policy decisions. Prepared and administered an annual operating and capital budgets of totaling \$44 million. Other responsibilities and accomplishments are listed below.

Finance

Supervised the preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Responsible for establishing a standard of reporting which resulted in the City receiving the Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting from The Government Finance Officers Association in 2002, and continuing through the most recent fiscal year.

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Served as the City's chief budget officer. Responsibilities include all aspects of budget preparation, submittal, and enforcement.

Established the City's initial general obligation bond rating at BBB+. Recently received an upgrade to A. Revenue Bonds were upgraded from BBB+ to A-.

Assisted the Mayor and Council in formulating financial policies which have resulted in the adoption of the Roll-Back millage rate for the past eleven consecutive years.

Served as Chief purchasing officer, approving all expenditures in excess of \$1,500.

Administration

Assist in the organization of the Mayor and Council's annual goal setting sessions. Organized and facilitated the Mayor and Council's annual planning retreat for the past twelve years.

Reorganized the City's utility department into two separate operating departments which resulted in better efficiency and cost effectiveness. Secured property annexations for the City in excess of 3,000 acres, which have increased the City's geographic area by 50 percent.

Coordinated the financing and assisted with the planning of \$5 million City Hall, the renovation of an old high school into a \$1.3 million community center, the renovation of the prior City Hall into professional office space \$1 million, the renovation of county offices into police department headquarters and a city court facility, and the construction of a solid waste transfer station \$1 million.

Secured funding and supervised a transportation master plan which has resulted in the resurfacing of all city streets over the last nine years. (In excess of \$7 million)

Supervised the preparation and implementation of a sidewalk master plan.

Intergovernmental Affairs and Community Development

Secured funding through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for three Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) totaling \$1.5 million.

Secured funding through the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for land purchases and improvements and expansions to the Monroe/Walton Airport in the amount of \$4.5 million.

Secured funding through the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for a Livable

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Centers Initiative (LCI) which provided for a town center study that was completed in 2007. Recently secured an award from ARC for a supplemental LCI to update the City's zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations. In 2011 the ARC awarded the city \$1,600,000 in LCI funds for additional streetscape improvements.

Supervised and administered the construction of a downtown streetscape project totaling \$1 million. Funding was secured through a Transportation Enhancement grant from GDOT. In 2008 and 2010 \$1,000,000 in Transportation Enhancement funds were awarded by GDOT to extend this project in order to enhance and enlarge the downtown area.

Human Resources

Implemented pay and classification plan prepared by the Mercer Group. Updated all job descriptions. Preside over all employee appeals and grievances. Received Certified Human Resource Manager designation from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

Adjunct Professor, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia (October 2011 to December 2014)

Serving as a part-time faculty member teaching senior level Political Science courses. Courses taught include POLS 4620 Public Finance Administration, POLS 4650 Intergovernmental Relations, and PADM 7250 Local Government Management.

Assistant City Administrator, Roswell, Georgia (October 1997 to March 2000)

Served as the assistant chief administrative officer for a suburban community of approximately 80,000 residents. Services included water, solid waste, police, fire, planning and zoning, finance, recreation, and transportation. Directly responsible for human resources, court services and facilities divisions. Assisted in the preparation of policy and program recommendations for City council consideration and the implementation of its policy decisions. Assisted in the preparation and administration of annual operating and capital budgets in excess of \$50 million. Other responsibilities and accomplishments are listed below.

Administration

Assisted in the organization of the Mayor and Council's goal setting sessions. Served as the City's Y2K coordinator. Reorganized and updated the City's

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information technology division which included staffing and purchasing. These efforts were accomplished with the help of the University of Georgia. Supervised all property annexations for the City, resulting in the annexation of over 3,200 acres, and 17,000 residents. Implemented pay and classification studies which were prepared in conjunction with the Atlanta Regional Commission. These efforts included updating all job descriptions, and establishing the City's first performance review system.

Community Development

Served as interim director of the Community Development Department for a period of approximately nine months. Directed the department's seven divisions which included, planning, zoning, code enforcement, engineering, economic development, historical and cultural affairs, and business licensing.

City Manager, Woodruff, South Carolina (April 1994 to October 1997)

Served as the chief administrative officer for a community of approximately 4,400 residents. Responsible for coordinating the day-to-day activities of all operating departments with over 30 employees. Services include sewer, solid waste, police, fire, planning and zoning, finance, and transportation. Prepared policy and program recommendations for City Council consideration and ensured the implementation of its policy decisions. Prepared and administered an annual operating and capital budgets of totaling \$1.5 million.

City Administrator, Hardeeville, South Carolina (May 1992 to July 1993)

Served as the chief administrative officer and zoning administrator for a community of approximately 1,500 residents. Responsible for coordinating the day-to-day activities of all operating departments with over 30 employees. Services include water, sewer, police, fire, planning and zoning, finance, recreation and transportation. Prepared policy and program recommendations for City Council consideration and ensure the implementation of its policy decisions. Prepared and administered an annual operating and capital budgets of totaling \$1.5 million.

Town Manager, Rincon, Georgia (June 1991 to May 1992)

Served as the chief administrative and financial officer for a community of approximately 3,000 residents. Responsible for coordinating the day-to-day activities of all operating departments with over 25 employees. Services include water, sewer, police, fire, planning and zoning, finance, recreation and transportation. Prepared policy and program recommendations for City Council consideration and ensure the implementation of its policy decisions. Prepared and administered an annual operating and capital budgets of totaling \$2 million.

Finance Director, Perry, Florida (May 1988 to June 1991)

Served as the chief financial officer for a community of approximately 8,000 residents. Directly responsible for the management of all aspects of purchasing, human resources, information technology, treasury operations, financial management, budgeting and financial reporting. Services included natural gas, water, sewer, solid waste, police, fire, planning and zoning, finance, recreation and transportation. Assisted in the preparation of policy and program recommendations for City Council consideration and the implementation of its policy decisions. Assisted in the preparation and administration of annual operating and capital budgets of totaling \$6 million. Supervised the preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Responsible for establishing a standard of reporting which resulted in the City receiving the Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting from The Government Finance Officers Association in 1989, and continuing through the present day.

Financial Services Accountant, Florida State Board of Administration, Tallahassee, Florida (September 1986 to April 1988)

Responsibilities included preparation of bank reconciliations and financial statements. Also carried out general staff accountant duties.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Public Administration Valdosta State University 2010
Master of Public Administration Valdosta State University 1990
Bachelor of Arts-Accounting University of West Florida 1984

HONORS AND AWARDS

ICMA Credentialed Manager 2002-2016
Local Government Administrator of the Year-Northeast Georgia Regional Commission 2011

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS

Life Member-International City/County Management Association (ICMA) 2017 to Present
Member-International City/County Management Association (ICMA) 1991-2017
Member Georgia City/County Management Association (GCCMA) 1997-2017
Member South Carolina City/County Management Association (GCCMA) 1994-1997
Member Georgia City/County Management Association (GCCMA) 1991-1992
Member American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) 1991-2012
Member the Academy of Political Science 1991-2012
Member the Government Finance Officers Association 1988-2012

HONORARY POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP

President City Managers Section-Georgia Municipal Association 2011-2013
Member Board of Directors – Georgia Municipal Association 2011-2014
Associate Member Board of Directors – Northeast Georgia Regional Commission 2009-2012
Member Board of Directors – Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center 2005-2009
Chairman Board of Directors-DC/DC Pension Fund Georgia Municipal Association 2014-2016
Vice-Chairman Board of Directors-DC/DC Pension Fund Georgia Municipal Association 2012-2014
Member Board of Directors-DC/DC Pension Fund Georgia Municipal Association 2010-2016
Past President Georgia City/County Management Association 2013-2014
President Georgia City/County Management Association 2012-2013
Vice-President Georgia City/County Management Association 2011-2012
Secretary/Treasurer Georgia City/County Management Association 2010-2011
Member Board of Directors/Northeast District Director – Georgia City/County Management Association 2008-2010
Member Board of Directors – Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia 2007-2013
Secretary/Treasurer-Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia 2013
Former Board Member-Woodruff Area Council Spartanburg County Chamber of Commerce 1994-1997

Candidate Introduction

Julian Jackson

EDUCATION

Doctor of Public Administration, Valdosta State University (GA)

Master of Public Administration, Valdosta State University (GA)

Bachelor of Accounting, University of West Florida

EXPERIENCE

Management Consultant	2017 – present
Interim City Manager, Stonecrest, GA	2019 – 2020
City Manager, Peachtree Corners, GA	2012 – 2016
City Administrator, Monroe, GA	2000 – 2012
Assistant City Administrator, Roswell, GA	1997 – 2000
City Manager, Woodruff, SC	1994 – 1997
City Administrator, Hardeeville, SC	1992 – 1993
Director of Finance, Perry, FL	1988 – 1991
Financial Services Accountant, St. of FL	1986 – 1988

BACKGROUND

Peachtree Corners, Georgia is a metro-Atlanta community of 41,000 residents. A newly created city with an incorporation date of July 1, 2012. Services provided directly include planning, zoning, code enforcement, solid waste, and transportation. Police, Fire, EMS, Stormwater and Public Works are provided through Intergovernmental agreements. Peachtree Corners' general fund budget was \$15 million in 2016 but I am sure it has grown since then. The city had 25 employees as of 2016. Only 3 were actual city employees however, as the rest were employed by private contractors.

The three most significant issues facing the City are:

- Frankly, Peachtree Corners is a wealthy Atlanta suburb that has less challenges than most communities. The City has invested millions to create a downtown type destination for itself. Establishing a unique identity is their biggest challenge and probably number one goal.
- Roadways. The City has several major arterial roads in need of various improvements. Traffic is a major concern.
- Economic Development. The City created a business incubator in 2015. It has had limited success.

Julian Jackson

GENERAL, MANAGEMENT STYLE AND EXPERIENCE

Peachtree Corners is a wealthy, well-educated community with citizens who are highly engaged and very concerned about their community and their investment in it. The City provides innovative development opportunities, jobs, culture, recreation, public safety and core infrastructure. Islamorada, Village of Islands consists of four Florida Keys whose citizenry could be described in much the same way as Peachtree Corners. The Village provides essentially the same services. I believe I can provide a unique combination of experiences that the Village could benefit from at the highest levels.

A flexible management style has served me well most of my career. Peachtree Corners, Stonecrest and Roswell are all urbanized metro-Atlanta communities where the manager is anonymous to the general public. In these cities the public is a very engaged and sophisticated when they do decide to become involved or some event brings them to city hall. Conversely, the Communities of Monroe, Georgia, Woodruff and Hardeeville, South Carolina as well as Perry, Florida are cities that are smaller and more rural, and the manager is recognizable to everyone. I believe Islamorada is a community that would be well served by a manager who can be successful from both of these perspectives. I have demonstrated the ability to be successful in both environments. In every organization where I have been employed, I have found people must be managed differently. Some department heads like to operate with minimal direction while others want to have more input from the manager. I try to create the best possible environment for each department head to be successful. Over the course of my career I have taken almost every personnel action possible and managed to avoid litigation at least for the last 24 years.

The employees I have worked with have taught me many things. I have mentored employees at every opportunity during my career. Not all employees want to be mentored. Most would say that I always stand up for the employees as much as possible. Organizations are constantly changing thus making a flexible management style the most effective. Maintaining consistency requires such actions as: compensation and classification plan implementations, budget amendments, reorganizations, and performance-based terminations. I have completed these types of actions in my career.

The elected officials I have served would likely say that I am an honest, ethical, resourceful, fair, dedicated, and strategically decisive. Staff would say they appreciated my availability, clarity, consistency, support, team approach, and recognition. Both groups would see me as someone who can get it done.

My greatest strength is building consensus. It all started with my grandparents. I utilize any means necessary to bring together the community and its stakeholders. One such initiative involved a successful general obligation bond referendum which included several major projects including the construction of a solid waste transfer station, the purchase of a ladder fire truck and the renovation of three old abandoned public buildings for current and future public use.

Julian Jackson

Additionally, the city was able to purchase the equipment necessary to resurface and maintain its own roads and streets.

My biggest weakness is being too friendly sometimes. My tendency is to think everyone is glad to see me all the time. This can be a weakness. Time has taught me to remain silent and listen as much as possible.

I was fortunate to be selected by the University of Georgia to travel to three provinces to teach Chinese local government official about the methods and practices used in the United States. The program I designed and presented was very well received by the government officials. The experience gained from the sixteen day excursion has been immeasurable. A successful collaboration such as this brings to mind the reasons why I have always been in public service.

In terms of misgivings, I regret not being able to complete a truck bypass transportation project in Monroe, Georgia. The community desperately needed and supported this project, but due to a number twists and turns, it was never built despite years of design and effort. As a result, traffic in downtown Monroe continues to be an issue to this day.

The challenges I see facing the Village are:

- Rate of Growth Ordinance (ROGO). It seems that the community will have a tough journey relative to this law. Explaining and resolving the issue of six to eight hundred property owners not being allowed to build on their lots is going to take all the skills and positive attributes the next Village Manager can muster.
- Maintaining the quality of life and protecting the valuable natural resources the community has while respecting and satisfying everyone involved.
- Finding the funding for the infrastructure needs associated with the above.

During the first six months I would:

- Meet with staff, elected officials, citizen groups, and to some extent county/state officials to assess city operations, concerns, positions, and dynamics
- Learn the Council's goals and objectives and begin formulating the appropriate strategies for their execution
- Assess the Village's financial position and review anticipated future trends and needs
- Study the Village's code of ordinances and other plans currently in place
- Mostly Listen

I have always maintained quality relationships with representatives of the media. This ensures accurate, quality coverage for the community. Education of the media is very important relative to the Village's operations and programs. I can take the lead role with the media if necessary.

Julian Jackson

I would use appropriate staff resources for all social media communications.

I do not anticipate anyone contacting the Village about me.

In my spare time, I enjoy traveling and spending time with my family.

SIX ADJECTIVES OR PHRASES I WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE MYSELF

Experienced
Approachable
Accessible
Resourceful
Honest
Flexible

REASON FOR DEPARTING CURRENT POSITION

Having earned full retirement from the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS), in 2012 I took advantage of the opportunity that was offered by Peachtree Corners. Since my retirement in 2016 I have been consulting as requested. My current engagement will need to be wrapped up in order for me to be available for the long term commitment sought by the Village.

CURRENT / MOST RECENT SALARY

PeeDee COG \$55.00 per hours as billed.
Stonecrest-Jacobs Engineering \$4,000.00 per week
My final compensation at Peachtree Corners was \$177,000 plus a \$500 a month vehicle allowance. Additionally I was receiving 17% of my salary in deferred compensation.

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CB&A Background Checks

**Background Check Summary for
JULIAN LAVAL JACKSON III**

Criminal Records Checks:

Nationwide Criminal Records Search	No Records Found
County	
Nassau County, FL	No Records Found
Florence County, SC	No Records Found
DeKalb County, GA	No Records Found
Gwinnett County, GA	No Records Found
Walton County, GA	No Records Found
Lowndes County, GA	No Records Found
State	
Florida	No Records Found
South Carolina	No Records Found
Georgia	No Records Found

Civil Records Checks:

County	
Nassau County, FL	No Records Found
Florence County, SC	No Records Found
DeKalb County, GA	No Records Found
Gwinnett County, GA	No Records Found
Walton County, GA	No Records Found
Lowndes County, GA	No Records Found
Federal	
Florida	No Records Found
South Carolina	No Records Found
Georgia	No Records Found

Motor Vehicle

Florida	No Records Found
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Credit

Excellent

Personal Bankruptcy

No Records Found

Sex Offender Registry

Not Listed

**Background Check Summary for
JULIAN LAVAL JACKSON III**

Education	Confirmed
Employment	Confirmed
Social Media	Nothing of Concern Found

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681-1681Y, credit and bankruptcy information are very sensitive and should not be used in the consideration of hiring. The information is included for each candidate because we do not want you to be surprised if third parties raise what they consider to be a concern. Also, some states have limited the reporting to seven years, so any records older than that will not be available in those states. In addition, motor vehicle reports are limited to three to seven years, depending on the state.

**Background Check Summary for
JULIAN LAVAL JACKSON III
Personal Disclosure**

Personal Disclosure Questionnaire

Name of Applicant: Julian L. Jackson III

The following questions are designed so that we will be able to make full disclosure to our client concerning your background. Please answer them honestly. Cutting corners or misrepresenting your past will result in you being eliminated from all further searches conducted by this firm. We understand that frivolous charges are sometimes made and that charges do not mean you were guilty. We also understand that you may have been wronged and needed to seek compensation. The bottom line is that we want to be certain that our client is fully informed. If you have any questions, please contact us for clarification.

Please explain any yes answers on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Have you ever been charged or convicted of a felony?
Yes No
2. Have you ever been accused of or have been involved in a domestic violence or abuse incident?
Yes No
3. Have you ever declared bankruptcy or been an owner in a business that did so?
Yes No
4. Have you ever been the subject of a civil rights violation complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?
Yes No
5. Have you ever been the subject of a sexual harassment complaint that was investigated or resulted in a lawsuit?
Yes No
6. Have you ever been charged with driving while intoxicated?
Yes No
7. Have you ever sued a current or former employer?
Yes No
8. Please list all your social media accounts (Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn / Twitter, etc.) and your personal web page if you have one.

none
9. Is there anything else in your background that, if made public, would cause you, our client or our firm embarrassment if it came to light through the press or any other mechanism?
Yes No
10. Please provide a list of any lawsuits in which you are or have been a party either as plaintiff or defendant.

none since 1995

Attested to:

Julian L. Jackson III
Signature of Applicant

Please email this form via PDF DOCUMENT to Lynelle@cb-asso.com or via fax to (561) 621-5965 no later than 5:00 PM MST 02/28/2022.

(Note: Please be sure to sign the form with your actual signature if you are sending Fax or PDF Document)

CB&A Reference Notes

Reference Notes
Julian Jackson

Weare Gratwick – Mayor Pro-Tem, Peachtree Corners, GA (404) 731-9220

Mr. Gratwick has known Mr. Jackson since about 2012. He was the city manager of Peachtree Corners and Mr. Gratwick is on the city council. Mr. Jackson is a kind, wise, and competent person. Peachtree Corners is a new city and Mr. Jackson was their first city manager. He did a wonderful job steering the city in the right direction and advising the inexperienced council members. He drew on his vast experience to successfully establish Peachtree Corners as a city.

Mr. Jackson is a great manager. He communicates well and keeps people informed. He makes good decisions generally, and when hiring personnel. He is cordial and puts people at ease when speaking to them. He is skilled at calming agitated people. There are not many people who dislike him. He reminds Mr. Gratwick of Andy Griffith.

At the time Mr. Jackson was hired, Peachtree Corners did not require the city manager to live within the city limits. Mr. Jackson had some personal circumstances that made it difficult for him to move to Peachtree Corners. He remained in his home in a different city an hour away. Because of this, he was not as active in the community as he could have been.

Mr. Jackson is customer service oriented. He has good financial skills. Mr. Gratwick has not observed Mr. Jackson under stress, but he seems to handle it well. He has not been involved in anything controversial. There is nothing concerning in his background or behavior.

Mr. Jackson will be an excellent manager for another community. He will counsel elected officials wisely and communicate well with them. His style would be best suited to a small city in the South, such as a place in Georgia or Florida.

Words or phrases used to describe Julian Jackson:

- Professional,
- Cordial,
- Conservative,
- Wise, and
- Competent.

Strengths: Experience, people skills, and loyalty to his city and council.

Weaknesses: His conservative nature makes him hesitant to try new and innovative things.

Alex Wright – Councilmember, Peachtree Corners, GA (770) 315-1270

Mr. Wright has known Mr. Jackson since 2012. He is on the city council for Peachtree Corners. Mr. Jackson is an engaging person who is easy to get along with. He was a great manager for Peachtree Corners when it was a brand new city.

**Reference Notes
Julian Jackson**

Mr. Jackson was the right person to help Peachtree Corners get started. By the time he left in 2016, the city had moved on to another phase and Mr. Jackson was looking for something else.

Mr. Jackson makes good hiring decisions. The few people he hired in 2012 are all still working for Peachtree Corners. He did not live in Peachtree Corners when he was the city manager. He lived in another town an hour away and did not move due to personal circumstances. This situation limited his interaction with the community, especially on weekends. He was as involved as he could be given his situation.

Mr. Jackson interacts well with councilmembers. In Peachtree Corners, there was some tension with a few members of council. He was put in some awkward situations at times, but always handled himself well. He was attentive and responsive to the needs of councilmembers.

Mr. Jackson has excellent financial skills. Peachtree Corners started with nothing, as a brand-new city. The typical standard for a city is to have three months of financial reserve. By the time Mr. Jackson left Peachtree Corners, the city had seven months of reserve. He is frugal and wise with budget items.

Mr. Jackson has not been involved in anything controversial. There were no issues or causes for concern while he worked for Peachtree Corners. He will be a good manager for another community that needs his skillset.

Words or phrases used to describe Julian Jackson:

- Responsive,
- Professional,
- Conservative,
- Patient, and
- Calm.

Strengths: Patience, and collaborative skills.

Weaknesses: Not always open to trying new things.

Bill Reilly – City Attorney, Peachtree Corners, GA (770) 590-5900

Mr. Reilly has known Mr. Jackson since 2012. Mr. Reilly put together a search team to find a city manager for the new city of Peachtree Corners, and Mr. Jackson beat hundreds of candidates. He is friendly, knowledgeable, and easy to get along with.

Mr. Jackson has the unique skillset necessary to start a new city. He understands how to be assertive and strong when needed, and how to work for elected officials. It is not an easy task to

**Reference Notes
Julian Jackson**

be the first manager of a city full of inexperienced officials. The transfer of services from the county to the newly created city was difficult. Mr. Jackson's creativity, organization, and interpersonal skills helped make it a smooth transition.

Mr. Jackson respected Mr. Reilly's political position as city attorney. He worked with Mr. Reilly to ensure that the elected officials of Peachtree Corners were satisfied with his work. He makes good decisions in general and when hiring personnel. When hiring managers for Peachtree Corners, he decided to hire a few high-quality professionals rather than many less-experienced people. This was a good choice for the city. Many of those managers still hold their positions.

Mr. Jackson is innovative. When building Peachtree Corners, he made sure it was similar to the surrounding cities. He noticed the weaknesses of other cities and built upon their strengths.

Mr. Jackson is skilled at interacting with the public. He also knows when to step back and let the elected officials be in the spotlight. He respects the office of the elected officials. He is skilled at dealing with citizens when he needs to. His experience as a City Administrator makes him exceptionally customer service oriented. He is an excellent communicator and always keeps the mayor and council informed.

Mr. Jackson is a great manager. Mr. Reilly would consider him as a candidate for any new city that needed a manager. Mr. Reilly recommends Mr. Jackson for the position.

Words or phrases used to describe Julian Jackson:

- Affable,
- Knowledgeable,
- Professional,
- Motivated, and
- Talented.

Strengths: Organization, interpersonal skills, and creativity.

Weaknesses: Too nice to people.

Mike Mason – Mayor, Peachtree Corners, GA (404) 392-5996

Mr. Mason has known Mr. Jackson since the city of Peachtree Corners was created in 2012. Mr. Jackson has a large amount of experience and beat hundreds of candidates to be the first City Manager of Peachtree Corners. He is intelligent in terms of both people and government. He did a great job in Peachtree Corners.

**Reference Notes
Julian Jackson**

Mr. Jackson is respectful of the position of Mayor. He never made Mr. Mason feel like he was unintelligent for asking questions. He is professional and tactful.

Mr. Jackson makes great hiring decisions. The people he hired for Peachtree Corners are all still working there. The person he hired as Finance Director is now the Assistant City Manager.

Mr. Jackson makes good decisions for the most part. At one time, Mr. Mason wanted to start a business incubator. This is not a common thing for cities to do. Mr. Jackson thought it would be too much work and advised against it. Once Mr. Mason and the council decided to move forward the idea, Mr. Jackson facilitated it without any issue.

Mr. Mason did not interact much with the community in Peachtree Corners. He did not live in the city and commuted each day. His family was in another town and his son was finishing high school. He was not involved in the Rotary Club or HOA meetings or other things of that nature because of these circumstances. Direct communication with the citizens was the job of the elected officials.

Mr. Jackson is a good communicator. He kept Mr. Mason informed. Some of the seven council members complained that he did not keep them as well-informed as they would like. He worked constantly with the City Attorney to solve problems. The two of them worked hard to start Peachtree Corners as a new city. Mr. Jackson worked collaboratively with many municipal professionals to accomplish things.

Mr. Jackson has excellent financial skills. He has a doctorate in municipal finance. He could do anything that Mr. Mason asked regarding finance. Mr. Jackson handles stress reasonably well. He takes a step back and analyzes the facts of the situation. He does not make irrational decisions when stressed. He takes time to observe and understand the reasons why unexpected things happen.

Mr. Mason would not hire Mr. Jackson again for Peachtree Corners, because the city has outgrown his skillset. Nevertheless, he will be a great manager for another community. Mr. Mason recommends him for the position.

Words or phrases used to describe Julian Jackson:

- Friendly,
- Respectful,
- Tactful, and
- Experienced.

Strengths: Experience, judgment, financial skills, and interpersonal skills.

Weaknesses: Not much experience with newer technology or social media.

Reference Notes
Julian Jackson

Jonathan Mantay – Vice President, Jacobs Engineering, Stonecrest, GA (770) 314-6562

Mr. Mantay has known Mr. Jackson since about 1988. Mr. Jackson is a solid manager with a deep background of local government. He is well-educated and committed to his work.

One of Mr. Jackson's greatest strengths is his strong financial skills. He brought some financial stability to Stonecrest. He also works well with elected officials and others in the city organization.

Mr. Jackson is adaptable to the circumstances of whomever he is speaking with. He is professional in meetings, and more casual if talking to field workers. He is skilled at speaking to all levels of people.

Mr. Jackson makes good decisions generally, and when hiring personnel. He is innovative and supportive of new ideas. He is a creative thinker.

Mr. Jackson is involved in his community and actively engages with the people he serves. He attends business events and interacts with the chamber of commerce. He is skilled at dealing with the public, especially angry citizens.

Mr. Jackson is a collaborative leader. He supports his managers on their decisions and respects the thoughts of others. He lets others come up with ideas and solutions. He is a good mentor and trains people to work through things themselves.

At one time, Mr. Jackson was a city manager for the City of Monroe. The city was becoming a popular place for filming television shows which was becoming a problem for the citizens of the town. Mr. Jackson worked with locals and with filming crews to create a compromise. The filming crews were given access to the downtown area with restrictions. This solution worked well.

Mr. Jackson has a relaxed personality. He does not show his stress or anger. He is calm and collected. It is not in his nature to let his stress out on others.

Mr. Jackson will be a great town manager. Mr. Mantay recommends him for the position.

Words or phrases used to describe Julian Jackson:

- Personable,
- Creative,
- Excellent communicator, and
- Financially minded.

Reference Notes
Julian Jackson

Strengths: Finance, communicating with elected officials, and strategic visioning based on goals and objectives.

Weaknesses: None identified.

Dave Marcis – Community Activist, Stonecrest, GA (470) 305-9504

Mr. Marcis has known Mr. Jackson since about 2019. Mr. Jackson was the interim city manager for Stonecrest at the time.

Mr. Jackson is an ethical person who likes to do things the correct way. He likes to please people and often gives citizens the answers they want to hear, even if they are not accurate. For example, at one time Mr. Marcis asked Mr. Jackson if the items from the comprehensive plan that Stonecrest had not completed on time were funded in the upcoming year. Mr. Jackson said that they were, but those items continued to be put off.

At the time Mr. Jackson became the interim city manager, Stonecrest was having problems with some money being siphoned to the mayor. Also, many of the employees were hired because they were friends with the mayor. It was not a good environment and Mr. Jackson did his best with it. He was as effective as possible in that situation. It is unclear why he left his position at Stonecrest, but Mr. Marcis believes he did so because of the lack of professionalism and the appearance of corruption.

Mr. Jackson makes good decisions generally. He is involved in the community to an extent. He is customer service oriented. He is a good problem-solver. He has good financial skills.

Mr. Jackson's experience in Stonecrest was unique and does not accurately reflect his capabilities as a professional. The city has had problems with corruption since its establishment in 2017. Mr. Jackson is skilled and would be a great manager for an existing, stable government.

Words or phrases used to describe Julian Jackson:

- Knowledgeable,
- Political, and
- Intelligent.

Strengths: Ability to please people.

Weaknesses: Can be condescending and gives citizens inaccurate information to placate them.

**Reference Notes
Julian Jackson**

reg Thompson – Former Mayor and Councilman, Monroe, GA (770) 317-1045

Mr. Thompson has known Mr. Jackson since 2000. He was Mr. Thompson’s City Administrator until 2012. Mr. Jackson is a good person and a quality professional. He brought the city of Monroe to a higher level.

Mr. Jackson has a great respect for the offices of mayor and councilmembers. He knows when to step back and let others make the decisions. He also knows how to sway people in the right direction if needed.

Mr. Jackson makes good decisions most of the time. He is an innovative and creative thinker. At one time, he attained a 20-million-dollar bond referendum for the city of Monroe that allowed the city to pave their own streets and things of that nature. He was also involved in helping Monroe open their downtown development authority, which is doing well and has many positive reviews.

When Mr. Jackson was the Monroe City Administrator, he did not go out in the community very often. Mr. Thompson cannot recall ever seeing him interact with members of the public. He is customer service oriented to an extent. He makes sure his staff take care of the citizens but does not necessarily do it himself.

Mr. Jackson is a good communicator. He is collaborative and skilled at bringing necessary people together to solve problems. He keeps everyone involved and makes sure projects flow smoothly from start to finish. He has great financial skills and completes tasks in a timely manner.

Mr. Jackson is a great Manager. Mr. Thompson would hire him again. He recommends him for the position.

Words or phrases used to describe Julian Jackson:

- Friendly,
- Collaborative,
- Good listener, and
- Problem-solver.

Strengths: Interpersonal skills, financial skills, and understanding of his position.

Weaknesses: Community involvement.

Prepared by: Kathryn Chambers
Colin Baenziger & Associates

CB&A Internet Research

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Julian L. Jackson
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<file:///C:/Users/bns5k/Desktop/2020-proposed-budget.pdf>
Stonecrest, GA

November 20, 2019

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Transmitted herein is the Proposed FY 2020 Budget. This document is a statement of policy and planning which defines the level of services and activities for the upcoming year. In developing this proposed budget, requests were received and reviewed from all departments.

The combined general, hotel/motel and SPLOST fund budgets total \$17.36 million, which represent a decrease of \$2.6 million or 13% from the FY 2019 amended budget.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Personnel

No new positions are recommended in this proposed budget.
A modest cost of living increase is included for employees under the Jacobs contract

Capital

Funding for park upgrades and infrastructure (\$520 thousand)
Funding for park purchases (\$300 thousand)
Continued funding for resurfacing and infrastructure (\$4.2 million)
Funding for facility upgrades (1.6 million)

Revenue

The City's revenues will increase in several areas for FY 2020. Insurance Premium Taxes were collected at a rate that was 25% higher than expected in 2019. This should continue in 2020. The City began receiving Title Ad Valorem Taxes in FY 2019. This new revenue source should produce over \$200,000 in 2019 and over \$700,000 in FY 2020.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

The City of Stonecrest is developing and maintaining a strong financial position through conservative financial management and adherence to fiscal policies.

Fund Balances

One measure of a city's financial strength is the level of its fund balances (i.e., revenues in excess of expenditures). The City's estimated unreserved fund balance in the General Fund will approximate \$1.6 million as of December 31, 2019 this balance represents 16% of FY 2019 total General Fund revenue.

Intergovernmental Activity

In FY 2019, the City was awarded \$536 thousand in LMIG funds from the Georgia Department of Transportation. These Funds were used to resurface several streets in the City.

Splost

As part of a general election, Dekalb County voters approved a special one percent sales and use tax, The City began receiving SPLOST funds on January 1, 2018. The SPLOST will continue for six years. As part of the referendum, all projects may be financed with bond proceeds not to exceed \$25 million. The City of Stonecrest's total portion of the SPLOST is projected to be \$47 million. As of October, the City has spent \$2.47 million of those funds for transportation projects in FY 2019.

Conclusion

As the City of Stonecrest plans for its third year it is important to note that there are no increases in fees are included in this budget. This Budget does contain a modest cost of living raise for all employees. In summary, I believe this document represents a conservative fiscal plan for the upcoming year. Your review and consideration is encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,



Julian L. Jackson, Interim City Manager

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches
Julian L. Jackson
(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

[CB&A Note: Only the information relevant to **Julian L. Jackson** is listed below.]

<https://www.stonecrestga.gov/Assets/Files/MeetingAgenda/2019/City-Council-Minutes-04082019.pdf>

April 9, 2019

CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

IX. APPOINTMENTS:

1. Interim City Manager, **Julian Jackson**

Mayor Lary made a motion to appoint **Julian Jackson** as the Interim City Manager. Councilman Clanton provided the second. The motion carried unanimously.

XIII. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Interim City Manager, **Julian Jackson** stated that it was an honor and privilege to work for the City of Stonecrest. Mr. **Jackson** also stated that he is committed to solving any issues that need resolving.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<https://govsalaries.com/Jackson-Julian-1-19831769>

2016

City Of Peachtree Corners Salaries

Number of employees at City Of Peachtree Corners in year 2016 was 4. Average annual salary was \$113,523 and median salary was \$127,310. City Of Peachtree Corners average salary is 142 percent higher than USA average and median salary is 193 percent higher than USA median.

Julian Jackson L

City Manager-retired

City Of Peachtree Corners

Julian Jackson L Overview

Julian Jackson L in 2016 was employed in City Of Peachtree Corners and had annual salary of \$181,000 according to public records. This salary is 59 percent higher than average and 42 percent higher than median salary in City Of Peachtree Corners.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Gwinnett Daily Post (GA)

June 23, 2016

Peachtree Corners City Manager Announces Plans to Retire

Author: Curt Yeomans

Peachtree Corners officials are going to be looking for a new city manager pretty soon after their current one, **Julian Jackson**, announced this week that he plans to retire. **Jackson** will leave the post he's held for nearly four years on Aug. 3, according to the city. He's been the only city manager Peachtree Corner has ever known, having taken the position on Oct. 1, 2012, shortly after the city was formed. His time with the city capped a career that spanned nearly 30 years with various municipal governments.

City officials said **Jackson** is retiring so he can "enjoy a more leisurely lifestyle." "It is with sincere appreciation and thanks that I must tender my resignation as City Manager for the City of Peachtree Corners," **Jackson** said in a statement. "It has been probably the greatest honor of my professional life to have been selected as Peachtree Corners' first city manager."

Officials praised **Jackson**'s performance as city manager in a statement, saying it was helpful at a time when Peachtree Corners was in its formative years and finding its way. They said his leadership helped establish a foundation upon which the city could thrive in terms of both its operations and its economy. "We will always be indebted to **Julian** for his efforts in getting Peachtree Corners operational," Mayor Mike Mason said. "We have counted on his wisdom, advice and guidance. I and the city council wish him the very best in his retirement."

Jackson came to Peachtree Corners from the city of Monroe, where he served as city administrator for more than 12 years. He was the assistant city administrator in Roswell before his time in Monroe. Prior to that, he held several municipal management positions in Florida, including working as the finance director for the city of Perry, Fla.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Gwinnett Daily Post (GA)

July 14, 2016

Peachtree Corners Approves Solid Waste Ordinance

Author: Chris Stephens

The Peachtree Corners City Council passed a solid waste ordinance during a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday. The ordinance made residential garbage pickup mandatory for the city. Councilman Phil Sadd was concerned about the ordinance covered non-payers. “They would go before the city municipal court,” city attorney William Riley said.

The council also tabled a resolution calling for a referendum election to allow the residents of the city to vote on whether the city should permit the issuance of licenses for the package sale of distilled spirits. “No election can be held without a resolution,” City Manager **Julian Jackson** said. When it was discussed for Nov. 4 to be the date of the referendum, Riley suggested the City Council hold off and discuss in executive session.

After discussing in executive session, the council voted to table until the next meeting in August. The council approved \$12,000 in matching funds in support of a Georgia Council for the Arts grant request for a research project. “The goal is to see how we can put a performing arts center as part of our town center,” said Community Development Director Diana Wheeler. “As part of the research, we’ll look at a lot of questions including, how big of a theater, how it will support itself and where the funding will come from.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Gwinnett Daily Post (GA)

June 16, 2016

Peachtree Corners Passes Budget

Author: Chris Stephens

In one of the most important things it will do this year, the Peachtree Corners City Council passed its FY2015 budget during a regularly-scheduled meeting on Tuesday. The budget calls for \$12,755,500 in total expenditures, up from \$3,820,000 from last year. Although the city's budget is increasing, it's mainly due to the increases in collections of licenses and permits, and \$6 million coming in from SPLOST. "We began accepting SPLOST monies last month," City Manager **Julian Jackson** said. "We're projecting the \$6 million which is dedicated to transportation repairs."

As far as revenue, the city expects increases in the following areas:

General property taxes from \$1.823 million to \$2.514 million

Selective sales and use taxes from \$74,000 to \$310,000

Business taxes from \$1,815 million to \$2.025 million

Business licenses from \$6,800 to \$300,000

Licenses and permits from \$102,000 to \$475,000

For more information on the entire budget, go to cityofpeachtreecorners.com.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

<https://openpayrolls.com/employee/Julian-l-Jackson-4052>

2015

Julian L Jackson

Faculty (+1 more job)

Valdosta State University (VSU)

Valdosta State University (VSU) records show **Julian L Jackson** held multiple jobs from 2012 to 2015. One of the most recent records in 2015 lists a job of Faculty and a pay of \$5,900. The highest paying job held by **Julian L Jackson** was in 2014 as a Faculty making \$7,200.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

https://library.municode.com/ga/peachtree_corners/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=THCOPECOGE

2015

THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PEACHTREE CORNERS, GEORGIA

Published in 2015 by Order of the Mayor and City Council

Adopted: August 18, 2015

Effective: July 21, 2015

PREFACE

This Code constitutes a recodification of the general and permanent ordinances of the City of Peachtree Corners, Georgia.

Source materials used in the preparation of the Code were the ordinances and resolutions as adopted by the city council through May 20, 2014. The source of each section is included in the history note appearing in parentheses at the end thereof. The absence of such a note indicates that the section is new and was adopted for the first time with the adoption of the Code. By use of the comparative tables appearing in the back of this Code, the reader can locate any ordinance or resolution as adopted by the city council through May 20, 2014, included herein.

*

Acknowledgments

This publication was under the direct supervision of Jim Jenkins, Senior Code Attorney, and Kayla Mahnken, Editor, of the Municipal Code Corporation, Tallahassee, Florida. Credit is gratefully given to the other members of the publisher's staff for their sincere interest and able assistance throughout the project.

The publisher is most grateful to **Julian Jackson**, City Manager, for his cooperation and assistance during the progress of the work on this publication. It is hoped that his efforts and those of the publisher have resulted in a Code of Ordinances which will make the active law of the city readily accessible to all citizens and which will be a valuable tool in the day-to-day administration of the city's affairs.

[CB&A Note: The rest of the article can be viewed through the link below]

https://library.municode.com/ga/peachtree_corners/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=THCOPECOGE

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Gwinnett Daily Post (GA)

January 20, 2014

Peachtree Corners Votes to OK Resurfacing of Streets

Author: Chris Stephens

Road resurfacing was a huge topic of discussion during Tuesday’s Peachtree Corners city council meeting, as the council voted to approve the listed streets to be filled in or resurfaced in the spring and summer. However, the council sidetracked itself in bringing up how the road resurfacing would be paid for — via SPLOST dollars or money from the general fund. “The project is going to cost around \$1.5 million,” said city manager **Julian Jackson**. “Right now, we have the money coming from SPLOST. Resurfacing is a capital expenditure under transportation, so SPLOST can be used for it.”

Council members Alex Wright and Jeanne Aulbach were concerned about the city using SPLOST dollars as opposed to other monies the city has. They didn’t want to take a chance if something major were to come up where they needed the full amount of SPLOST monies. But council member Lori Christopher said by using up SPLOST money, the council would be choosing to use the money that is more restricted first, as opposed to the less restrictive monies. “I think it would be a smart move for us to use up SPLOST on this,” she said. “That way, we have flexibility for the future if something comes up where SPLOST money can’t go towards.” In the end, the council voted to approve the list of all streets with a 54 rating or lower to be worked on.

The council also voted to have all city elections at one singular location—city hall. The agreement will not affect county, state or national elections. “We looked at the possibility of other locations,” Aulbach said. “In the end, the best solution is a single polling place. It avoids voter confusion.” There was also a second read on an amendment to the alcoholic beverages ordinance. The amendment allows individuals to bring in their own alcoholic beverages to certain types of retail establishments subject to restrictions and limitations. It also allows certain non-dining business establishments to accommodate the consumption of wine and malt beverages on their premises. “This essentially allows businesses to serve patrons will alcohol they bring in,” city attorney William Riley said. “However, for patrons visiting retail establishments, any unused alcohol has to be disposed of on the premises. Restaurants will be able to re-cork unfinished wine bottles.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Gwinnett Daily Post (GA)

December 16, 2013

Peachtree Corners Approves 5 Intergovernmental Agreements with Gwinnett

Author: Chris Stephens

The Peachtree Corners city council approved five intergovernmental agreements with Gwinnett County at Tuesday’s regularly scheduled city council meeting. The agreements included fire and emergency medical services, police services, road maintenance, road resurfacing and storm water services. The biggest discussion came with road maintenance, when City Manager **Julian Jackson** revealed that it was only a six-month agreement. After that, the city would have to look elsewhere. “Gwinnett County has indicated to us that they’re no longer interested in providing this service beyond six months,” **Jackson** said. “So, we’re going to start looking for who we can use for road maintenance come July 1.” The cost for road maintenance with Gwinnett County is \$45,000 a month.

Police service was another point that had a lengthy discussion. The seven-year agreement falls in line with other cities that don’t have their own police departments. “Fundamentally, Gwinnett County has to have an agreement to come into the city,” said City Attorney William Riley. “They then allocate their services based on where the needs exist.” Councilman James Lowe asked if they would be able to ask for an increased presence all the time. But Mayor Mike Mason said that essentially you can’t get more police service just for the sake of having a larger presence. “We can pay for it privately, like some other cities have done,” Mason said.

The other agreements include:

- A 25-year agreement for fire and emergency medical service
- A one-year agreement for road resurfacing
- A one-year agreement for storm water services

The City Council also heard the first read for a consideration of an ordinance to amend Chapter 6 (alcoholic beverages) of the Code of the City of Peachtree Corners. The ordinance would amend section 6-42 to allow individuals to bring in their own alcoholic beverages to certain types of retail establishments subject to restrictions and limitations. The ordinance would also allow certain non-dining business establishments to accommodate the consumption of wine and malt beverages on their premises. The second reading and public hearing will be held Jan. 21.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Gwinnett Daily Post (GA)

September 17, 2013

Peachtree Corners Approves Franchise Agreement

Author: Chris Stephens

The city of Peachtree Corners will enter into a franchise agreement with Comcast once the final details are worked out after the City Council approved the transaction during Tuesday’s regularly scheduled meeting. The agreement still has to meet the mayor and city attorney’s approval once the remaining details are worked out. “We’re so close to having this done,” city manager **Julian Jackson** said. “There’s still an issue we’re trying to hash out with Comcast which is basically the clause on what will happen should new legislation be enacted from the Georgia legislature.” **Jackson** said it shouldn’t take but another day or two for it to get worked out, but added he felt it was important to go ahead and have this voted on so the city could start getting paid. “We get paid 45 days after the agreement is complete,” **Jackson** said. “Comcast will pay us \$27,000 a month and it is retroactive to July 2012.”

Gwinnett County is getting the \$27,000 a month in franchise fees for the city, but the money will eventually end up in the city’s hands as Comcast will deduct (from the county) the amount owed to the city. The council also appointed Charles Barrett to be the city’s first municipal judge. Barrett, who also is the judge for the cities of Lilburn, Duluth and Berkeley Lake, as well as a part-time judge for Sugar Hill, has lived in Gwinnett County since 1984. “When we narrowed our lists of candidates, we all came to a consensus that he was the man for the job,” city attorney William Riley said. Councilman Phil Sadd said, “He has a strong background serving in this role and has a strong attitude toward working with the community.” The city also swore in land development inspector Richard Cooper, and code enforcement officers Reginald Miller and Francisco Clark.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Gwinnett Daily Post (GA)

June 18, 2013

City Holds Public Hearing on Proposed Budget

Author: Chris Stephens

Residents of the city of Peachtree Corners spoke at a public hearing on the proposed FY2014 budget during Tuesday's city council meeting. The budget proposed has the city spending \$3.8 million this year, up \$1.1 million from the city's first year. In potential revenue, the city expects \$3,820,800, including \$1,806,800 from business license fees and \$1,823,000 in general property taxes. "We're happy with the current budget," Mayor Mike Mason told those in attendance. However, some in attendance weren't pleased with what is proposed, especially when it came to the expenditures. "Every penny of funding for this city comes from a citizen or a business," resident Ali Stinson said. "We're concerned that the city budget has increased. Every penny is precious." The biggest category is general operations, which has a budget of \$1,978,650, including \$938,000 for contractual services, including code enforcement.

According to a letter detailing budget highlights by City Manager **Julian Jackson**, the budget includes an additional 3.2 outsourced positions, primarily in the area of code enforcement. "I haven't heard of any complaints in terms of a backlog of code enforcement," resident Mim Harris said. "If there's no backlog, why do we need extra people?" **Jackson** also highlighted the city's purchase of 20.606 acres along Peachtree Parkway. The property allowed for the city to create a downtown development authority and cost the city \$11.5 million. The property will eventually be sold.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Gwinnett Daily Post (GA)

April 16, 2013

Peachtree Corner Creates Downtown Development Authority

Author: Chris Stephens

The mayor and City Council created a Downtown Development Authority after a vote during Tuesday's City Council meeting. The creation of the DDA came as a result of the city agreeing to buy the 20.6 acres of land across The Forum by Peachtree Corners Circle and Ga. Highway 141. "It's really exciting," Mayor Mike Mason said. "We were informed yesterday that the original investor declined to go further with the purchase and we were now in the first position." With that, the City Council approved for \$190,000 of earnest money be used to pay Lenar Corporation for the land.

The City Council also approved an agreement with Gwinnett County on ad valorem collection and billing. The council approved the agreement, which states the tax commissioner will be responsible to collect the taxes and disburse the amount collected to the city each week not to exceed 2 percent. "They'll collect our taxes and bill us what it costs them to do the job," City Manager **Julian Jackson** said. "It's a whole lot less than a person would cost."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Gwinnett Daily Post (GA)

April 2, 2013

Peachtree Corner Sees Interest Growing in Alcohol Tastings

Author: Chris Stephens

The concept of beer growers is not new, but for the city of Peachtree Corners it's something that is making its way into the community. In last month's City Council meeting, the mayor and council approved a new business (Peachtree Growlers Co.) which specializes in the growers concept. Now, interest may be growing for other businesses in the community as was evident from Tuesday's city council meeting. "A lot of businesses are interested in this concept," City Manager **Julian Jackson** said. "There is interest in letting folks sample wine and beer in limited amounts."

City Attorney William Riley said the way he's seen it done is for businesses to participate, a certain amount of space has to be devoted to that product. "If a grocery store wants to do it like Trader Joe's or Kroger, there would need to be something like 400 feet of committed space to wine or beer," he said. "It can be crafted as an attractive piece of commerce." When multiple council members brought up the concern about the amount of alcohol consumed in a given time period, Riley said an ordinance would limit it to a certain number of tastings per person. "I like the idea," Councilman James Lowe said. "It gives you a chance to sample something before you buy it. Other cities are doing it and I think it's a great concept to do here."

In the only other piece of business discussed, **Jackson** said the Metro Atlanta Mayors Association is pushing a resolution to partner with the Georgia Department of Revenue in an effort to ensure proper payment of sales tax. "Instead of having a statement as to what is being paid in the county, this would break it down even further to the city," **Jackson** said. "It will basically tell us how much business is done within the city."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Gwinnett Daily Post (GA)

January 8, 2013

Peachtree Corner Shows its Colors

Author: Meghan Kotowski

The new year has brought a new era for Gwinnett County's latest city, Peachtree Corners. On Sunday, Mayor Mike Mason and his colleagues hosted an open house and ribbon cutting for its first city hall as well as revealing its logo, tagline and city seal. "What an exciting achievement for our young city," Mason said. "On the heels of city hall's official inauguration, we're now internationally recognized." The city is "internationally recognized" -- Mason said -- because its logo, created by Lawrenceville-based Accent Creative Group, received a gold award at the International Davey Awards for design. "We are so grateful to Accent Creative Group and the citizens advisory committee for this excellent logo," Mason said. "It has set the tone for a truly prosperous year for Peachtree Corners as we move forward into 2013."

More than 250 people attended the event, including local mayors, commissioners and school board members. The day started with a prayer and presentation of the colors by Miles Laughlin, an Eagle Scout who installed two flagpoles in front of city hall. Once the ribbon was cut, the crowd was able to tour the new building and watch the curtains open for the blue and green tree logo. "It couldn't have gone better," city manager **Julian Jackson** said. "It was very exciting. We had a lot of support from the community. I couldn't be more pleased with the day. "When the community saw the award-winning logo, everyone was happy about the colors and design, **Jackson** said. The only problem is now there won't be anything new to show off, **Jackson** said. "I think we're all out of things to unveil for awhile," he said with a laugh. Peachtree Corner City Hall is located at 147 Technology Parkway in Suite 200.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Gwinnett Daily Post (GA)

October 16, 2012

Peachtree Corner Authorizes Franchise Fee Agreement with Atlanta Gas Light

Author: Chris Stephens

The city of Peachtree Corners entered into a franchise fee agreement with Atlanta Gas Light to provide services within the city limits. However, there are still some unknowns even though the mayor and city council voted to approve the agreement. Councilman Alex Wright voiced a concern on whether any fees would be added on with the agreement. "If my Atlanta Gas Light bill was \$42 last month as an unincorporated resident, will it still be \$42 this month as an incorporated resident?" he asked. "Or, where there be an extra dollar added onto my bill?"

City Manager **Julian Jackson** wasn't 100 percent positive if they would or not, but imagined it would follow the same format as when the city entered into an agreement with Georgia Power. "With Georgia Power, there was a 1.9 percent fee added on top of the 1 percent fee when residents were unincorporated," he said. "I imagine the Atlanta Gas Light plan will follow the same format as Georgia Power, but I'm not 100 percent positive." Even with the missing piece of information, the council still felt comfortable with passing the motion.

The council also accepted a presentation of the city logo and tagline, which will be presented to residents at a later date. The project was completed by Pam Ledbetter of Accent Media for no cost. "I was a former resident of this area and I wanted to give back," Ledbetter said. "Typically, logos and branding for cities run around \$40,000-45,000. The cheapest I saw was the city of Lilburn's, which cost them \$31,400." Accent Media's work is displayed throughout Gwinnett County, including such projects as Leadership Gwinnett, Lake Lanier Islands Resort, and Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation.

In other business, the council transferred the ownership of the city's Website to the city from councilman James Lowe. "When we first started as a city, everyone was helping out where they could," said Mayor Mike Mason. "James Lowe took ownership of the city's Website, bought the domain and built the site. This is just transferring that ownership over to the city." The city also approved a proposal to accept QS1 Software as the financial software provider for the city at a rate of \$17,480 over three years.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Patch (GA)

October 8, 2012

Meet Peachtree Corners' New City Manager

Author: Judy Putnam

The City of Peachtree Corners has experienced a lot of "firsts" since incorporating on July 1, 2012. Now just three months later a city manager is on board to handle the operations of Gwinnett's largest city that includes some 38,000 residents and 2,000 or so businesses. **Julian Jackson** is the man who will take on the gargantuan task of getting a brand new city up and running. Patch had the chance sit down with him recently to ask a few questions. The first, why was he interested in the job? The opportunity to be a new city manager for a brand new city was an opportunity too good to pass up he said. "It's a small club," said **Jackson** referring to how few get the opportunity to be involved in standing up a brand new city. "It's really exciting to be here," he added. "It's an exciting time in the city's history."

Jackson is set up in temporary office space located just around the corner of City Hall. The city is still about a month away from moving into the space at 147 Technology Parkway. The fact that the new City Hall had yet to be ready to move in was just another of the firsts that **Jackson** accepted when he decided to pull up stakes in his Monroe home after 12 1/2 years to accept the position. "It was the most difficult decision I had to make," admitted **Jackson**, who has a wife and two sons, ages 20 and 16, to consider. "But it was a unique and challenging opportunity and just too good to pass up."

Jackson said he expects to have the city's three services, planning and zoning, code enforcement and trash services "up and running by the end of January, 2013," adding "with Ms. Wheeler, (the city's Community Development Director) mayor and council it's achievable." The new city manager, who oversaw 210 employees in Monroe, has no qualms about getting in and working where needed. "We're all going to have to roll up our sleeves," he said. Also on the City Manager's to-do list is hiring a City Clerk. The position is currently being advertised on the city's website and other sites. It's all part of the process, a series of "firsts" that **Jackson** was eager to be a part of. "I've never started one (city) from scratch, but I couldn't be more excited to be here," said **Jackson**. "I think Peachtree Corners is a wonderful community."

Here are a few fast facts about the new City Manager.

- Name: **Julian Jackson**, age 51, a native of South Carolina
- Married: 25 years to Stacey who is an art teacher at Sharon Elementary
- Children: Two sons, J.J., 20, is a Sophomore at Georgia Perimeter and Charles, 16, is a Junior at Walnut Grove High School
- Background: 25 years of experience in city management, most recently was Monroe's City Administrator for the past 12 1/2 years, he began his career working for the State of Florida, worked as Finance Director for the city of Perry, Fla., other city management positions over the years. He was the Assistant City Administrator for Roswell before moving to Monroe.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

- Education: Doctorate degree in Public Administration from Valdosta State, Masters degree in Public Administration from Valdosta State and Accounting degree from the University of West Florida.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Walton Tribune (Monroe, GA)

October 3, 2012

Clearing the air on Jackson

Let me let you all in on some inside baseball. Like Toto in “The Wizard of Oz,” I’ll pull the curtain back on the Wizard. As a few of you may know, **Julian Jackson** has left Monroe for “greener” pastures — and by green, I am not referring to the color of the grass in Peachtree Corners. For the majority of you reading this column, **Jackson** was the longtime city manager of Monroe. And to make it clearer for an even greater majority of you, people said **Jackson** played me like a fiddle. Basically, I was too close to him and the reporting in this paper showed a favoritism to Monroe. I was considered a shill. I can assure you this was not the case.

Did I go to **Jackson** for most things Monroe? Sure did. Who else but **Jackson** knew the ins and outs of the city better than the city manager? To tell you the truth, **Jackson** and I did not hit it off well to begin with. I came to Monroe with the expectation that — gasp — as a reporter, when I asked a question, it would get answered. After all, I covered government before at daily newspapers in cities and counties much bigger than those of Monroe and Walton, and that’s the way it worked. **Jackson** didn’t understand this at first. I would ask him a question and he would reply with something like, “Well, that dog won’t hunt.” For a city boy like myself, this made no sense.

Over time, and hours of conversation in his office, **Jackson** and I built a rapport. He trusted me and I trusted him — well, as much as a reporter and government-type can anyway. The truth is **Jackson** never really told me anything I wasn’t entitled to anyway. The Freedom of Information Act makes everything I was looking for available to me, he just made it less tedious. **Jackson** was smart enough to understand if he makes my job easy, I will make his easy and that’s a relationship anyone can enjoy with a reporter.

If you haven’t figured it out by now, we aren’t always the first to know what’s happening in Walton, but **Jackson** was one of the few who actually tried to let us know and for that I respected him. This relationship is available to anyone in Walton County, by the way. And no, it does not come with a price tag.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Walton Tribune (GA)

August 29, 2012

Jackson Resigns Monroe City Manager Post

Author: Brian Arrington

Monroe City Administrator **Julian Jackson** is resigning from his post to take the same role at the newly formed city of Peachtree Corners. “It is with a heavy heart that I resign the office of city administrator for the city of Monroe,” **Jackson** said in his resignation letter to the mayor and council Wednesday. “This has been one of the most difficult decisions that I have ever made. Words can’t express the love and gratitude I have for this community. The city of Monroe holds a special place in my heart as do all of you.”

Jackson, who has been city administrator for 12 years, said his last day in Monroe is Sept. 28. **Jackson** was selected as Peachtree Corners’ administrator Tuesday. He will begin his new job Oct. 1. “We looked very hard for the last several months to find the perfect city manager for us, and we’ve done that in selecting **Julian Jackson**,” said Peachtree Corner’s Mayor Mike Mason. “His professional experience and integrity, combined with practical common sense is the perfect mix for us.”

During his 12 years in Monroe, **Jackson** coordinated the day-to-day activities of more than 225 employees in operating departments including finance, planning and zoning, airport, transportation, sanitation, water, sewer, natural gas and power utilities. “I’m going to miss him personally and the city of Monroe is going to miss him,” Mayor Greg Thompson said. “He’s done a good job for the city. Here again he’s got an opportunity to better himself and I can’t blame him for doing that.”

Thompson said he is currently talking with the council on how to proceed with the process to replace **Jackson**. “Luckily we are in great shape. We’ve got great department heads. The everyday person is not going to notice a difference,” Thompson said, adding **Jackson**’s legacy in Monroe will be one of repair and unification. “When he got here 12 years ago, the city council was not wholly unified as it is now. He brought us out of some financial troubles in the beginning and if the economy would have been going well, we’d really be in good condition.”

Former mayor Harry Knight also worked with **Jackson**. “**Julian** was a great help to me when I served as mayor,” Knight said. “We worked together on several small and large projects. **Julian** wanted the very best city possible. So I say ‘goodbye’ to **Julian** and may God richly bless him and his family.” Before coming to Monroe, **Jackson** was served as the assistant city administrator in Roswell and as a city manager and finance director in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Jackson is a credentialed manager by the International City/Council Management Association, is the current president of the Georgia City-County Management Association and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia. “It is my wish that the city of

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Monroe enjoys nothing but the highest levels of success in all future endeavors,” **Jackson** said. “The trust and support you have given me for the past 12-and-a-half years has been phenomenal. It has been an honor serving you.” **Jackson** and his wife Stacey have been married for 24 years and they have two sons JJ, 20 and Charles, 16. In a referendum held on Nov. 8, 2011, Peachtree Corners was incorporated as Gwinnett County’s 16th city, and, with a population of 34,274, its largest.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Walton Tribune (GA)

May 13, 2012

Monroe Approves Contract Selling Water to County

Author: Rachel Ward

In a city council meeting last week, Monroe officials approved a contract to sell water to the county. The county and the city haven't discussed doing business since 2009, when discussions were stopped due to pricing. The last time Walton County was considering purchasing water from Monroe they opted to continue their purchases through Oconee and Gwinnett Counties. City Manager **Julian Jackson** said the county wants to purchase water from the city under the same pretenses as their contract with Oconee County.

Currently Walton County purchases water from Oconee County at a rate of \$1.70 per gallon up to 250,00 gallons. The highest water limit is 1-and-a-half million gallons per day. "This is a good opportunity to do business with them again. It's good for us and good for them," **Jackson** said. "In essence this contract will mirror the agreement with Oconee County except we will allow a withdrawal up to 2 million gallons a day where as they are capping at 1-and-a-half million." If Walton County uses more than 250,000 gallons the price increases to \$2.50 per gallon.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Walton Tribune (GA)

November 6, 2011

Council Considers Separating DDA, Main Street

Author: Rachael Ward

The council discussed the possibility of hiring a full-time Main Street director as a city position during a work session Tuesday evening. Stacy Jones, a board member of the Downtown Development Authority, brought the idea before the council as a way to allow the DDA to act as she thought it should — as a toolbox for the Main Street program. “This is an opportunity to reconstruct the role of the DDA to be more in line with other cities,” Jones said.

City Manager **Julian Jackson** elaborated more on the concept for the council. “The majority of the funding will remain within the city in the code department under Matthew Chancey,” **Jackson** said, adding the DDA would like to have a decision on the matter so it can advertise the new position. A separation from the Main Street program would allow the DDA to focus more on development issues, according to **Jackson**. There would have to be a Main Street board created and **Jackson** believes this could consist of four previous members of the DDA who would represent the four community chairs within the Main Street program.

In other news, the council decided to recommend selling the excess reserve electricity to Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia as the city is 15 percent over the nominal load on back-up power. The city of Forsyth is slightly under the proper amount and MEAG is offering to use Monroe’s reserve for a year through the payment of \$14,086. In addition, after a five-month debate, the council approved parking lot lights for the new Walton Medical Center Hospital which will cost about of \$116,911. The amount asked for to cover potential over-runs was \$120,000, which was approved by the council. The final quotes will be brought in at Tuesday’s regular council meeting.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Walton Tribune (GA)

June 1, 2011

Jackson Named Local Government Administrator of the Year

Author: Brian Arrington

Monroe City Administrator **Julian Jackson** was named the local government administrator of the year by the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission May 19. “It is truly an honor to be selected for this award by the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission,” **Jackson** said. “I have been extremely fortunate to have had the support given me by the community, elected officials and the staff at the city of Monroe. This award is more a reflection on them than me.” A native of South Carolina, **Jackson** received a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of West Georgia and master’s and doctoral degrees from Valdosta State University.

He served with the Florida State Board of Administration, a finance director with the city of Perry, Fla., as town manager of Rincon, city administrator in Hardeeville, S.C., city manager of Woodruff, S.C., and assistant city administrator in Roswell. He has served as city administrator of Monroe since 2000. He is responsible for coordinating the day-to-day of seven operating departments and 225 employees. He is a member of the International and Georgia City/County Management Associations, a member of the Board of Directors of the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia. He has served as Walton County’s municipal representative on the board of directors of the NEGRC Regional Development Center. He is also vice president Georgia City and County Management Association and on the Board of Directors of the DC/DC Pension Board at Georgia Municipal Association.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Walton Tribune (Monroe, GA)

March 16, 2011

Walton County earns camera ready status

Author: Milligan Walton

The recent flood of movies coming to Walton County could continue as the county was named a Camera Ready Community by the state. The Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Georgia Film, Music and Digital Entertainment Office will formally name 73 counties across the state as camera ready next week, putting Walton on track to continue the recent spate of films and television projects in the area.

To earn the designation, Walton officials completed a questionnaire filled with information about the area’s resources and available services. “They wanted to know about restaurants, hotels and much more,” said **Julian Jackson**, city manager of Monroe, who helped the county finish the process. “It’s just an exhaustive questionnaire.”

Using that information, the state has compiled information on available resources for film crews throughout the state, including in Walton. “That information is kept in a database by the state, so when they come scouting for films, they have all the information they need at their fingertips,” **Jackson** said.

Walton County has already played host to several film projects in the last couple of years — the former Monroe Area High School used for scenes in the television show, “The Vampire Diaries” while Gratis was the site of a Jennifer Aniston movie, “Wanderlust,” scheduled for release later this year — with the most recent project, Disney’s “The Odd Life of Timothy Green,” filming at the old Avondale mill this month. With smaller documentary projects and independent productions also descending on the area, Walton has made a real impact on cinema.

Jackson said, while the designation would not attract projects by itself, it was a good step in continuing that streak of projects. “It certainly puts us in a position to attract more,” **Jackson** said. “You want to develop a reputation as easy to work with. So, it’s a worthwhile effort.”

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (GA)
September 29, 2010

Marietta Physicians Voice Concerns About Care Here Clinic

Author: Tucker McQueen

Doctors in Marietta are questioning a health clinic the city proposes to open for employees and their dependents. The council will vote on the plan today. The director of the Cobb County Medical Society believes sticking with a primary care doctor is a better plan. Joanne Thurston said she has heard from 15 to 20 doctors who have concerns about the medical office. "I'm not going to say employees won't get care at the clinic," Thurston said. "But your family doctor knows you and understands when something isn't right." Thurston said the management firm that will run the clinic, Care Here, has not proven the clinic option will save money. She said a nurse practitioner might refer a patient to a specialist for treatment and then the city would have to pay twice.

City manager Bill Bruton said the clinic will save Marietta \$300,000 a year in health insurance expenses by offering a cheaper option for treatment of minor medical problems. The city has about 2,200 people on its health care plan, which is managed by Blue Cross Blue Shield. The clinic staff would include nurse practitioners, physician assistants and a half-time physician. Workers still will have the option of seeing their regular doctors.

Marietta plastic surgeon Tony Musarra worries that a patient with a more serious problem might bypass his regular doctor in order to save money at the clinic. "The financial numbers they give are impressive, but I am concerned that a patient might not get the right diagnosis," Musarra said. Council member Van Pearlberg is undecided on his vote. He said the three doctors who spoke at a town hall meeting last week had probing questions about the clinic and the savings the management firm promises. "I'm leery that no one can give me more concrete evidence of savings," Pearlberg said. "I am not sure the numbers add up."

Council member Annette Lewis believes the plan is a good move for the city. She said employees are behind the idea and it will save the city money. "I think the clinic will be successful," she said. "I see a savings even if we break even and employees are happy." Although two Georgia cities with health clinics -- Gainesville and Monroe -- haven't seen hard savings after opening clinics two and three years ago, health costs haven't gone up either.

Cindy Mallet, a human resources manager in Gainesville, and Monroe city administrator **Julian Jackson** said health insurance costs have leveled off in their cities. "It's hard to quantify our savings," **Jackson** said. "We also look at our clinic as a proactive measure that encourages workers to get checked out and become healthier."

Cherokee County also is considering a clinic as part of its health plan for the county's 1,900 employees and dependents. The Board of Commissioners discussed the option for the first time at a meeting last week. Like Marietta, Cherokee County is self-insured. Commission Chairman

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Buzz Ahrens said three commissioners who looked at clinics in Cartersville and Gainesville were impressed but added the commission will take its time on the issue and a vote won't happen this year. "It's a new concept and you have to challenge it to be comfortable," Ahrens said. "We need a firmer financial model and understanding of the numbers before we make a decision."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Marietta Daily Journal (GA)
September 22, 2010

Marietta in ‘Observation Mode’ with Clinic Tonight’s Town Hall Meeting to Focus on Proposed Facility for Employees

Author: Kim Isaza & Jon Gillooly

Although the city of Gainesville has contracted with CareHere to offer a medical clinic to city employees for two years, a city official there says she can't pinpoint exactly how much money the popular perk has saved that city's taxpayers. "We haven't really been able to put a hard dollar to identify this is our total savings," said Cindy Mallett, the human resources and risk manager for the city of Gainesville. "We were sort of expecting that." Mayor Ruth Bruner of Gainesville said she had not personally used the clinic, but "employees who have used the clinic are really happy with it." Gainesville has about 600 employees, she said.

The city of Marietta, which insures just under 2,200 employees, dependents and retirees, is considering a contract with CareHere, of Tennessee, to staff a medical clinic for those on the city's insurance roster. Cobb County Government, which has 4,242 people on its insurance rosters, is not participating in the clinic, though County Manager David Hankerson said his staff has been "watching the recent trend" toward opening such clinics. "We are open to the concept if it can yield significant cost savings, but until that is proven out, we will remain in an observation mode," Hankerson said through a spokesman.

If Marietta's clinic is approved, it would be open about 24 hours each week, and the city would pay CareHere about \$34,000 per month. In addition, the city would pay to lease 1,200 square feet of space near the Square to house the clinic. Users would schedule appointments to use the clinic. The city will have a town hall meeting at 6:30 tonight in the council chambers at City Hall regarding the clinic. For the city's employees - including the part-time mayor and any council member who chooses to enroll in the city's insurance coverage, as well as Marietta Power employees - plus retirees and dependents, the clinic would be a pleasant perk: free medical care and treatment at the clinic. The cost of treatment, be it blood work or flu shots, for example, and drugs dispensed there would also be free to the patients. The city would reimburse CareHere for those costs.

City Manager Bill Bruton said the clinic would stock generic drugs that are most used by those on the city's insurance rolls. Though he was unsure exactly what drugs that would include, the clinic would not dispense Viagra or any similar drug, he said. Narcotics and controlled substances would also not be dispensed through the clinic, said Shannon Barrett, Bruton's assistant. "They would have to be generics," Barrett said. "There are generic blood pressure medicines, and probably some diabetic medicines. Anything that is generic and non-narcotic, they have the ability to do, but they'll do an analysis and see if it makes sense to keep a drug in stock."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Those on the city's insurance plan could visit the clinic and walk away with 30-day supplies of a generic drug, and in some cases, up to a 90-day supply without paying a penny, Barrett said. Marietta's elected officials are eligible for health benefits after 60 days, just as are full-time staff members, Bruton said. Any employee or elected official who retires from the city continues to have health insurance coverage for life - even after individuals are eligible for Medicare. At that point, "the city's health insurance becomes the secondary plan for Medicare parts A and B," Bruton said.

There are 535 cities in the state of Georgia, but Gainesville is among just a handful that have opened such clinics, according to a spokeswoman at the Georgia Municipal Association. The city of Monroe, in Walton County, has had a CareHere clinic for three years available to its 225 employees, said **Julian Jackson**, the city administrator. Monroe's cost for the clinic is \$23 per employee per month, **Jackson** said, but the clinic is only open a total of seven hours per week. As for cost savings, **Jackson** said the city's third-party administrator (TPA) tallies the work done at the clinic and then reports how much the same work would have cost through a regular doctor's office. It was that third-party firm that recommended the clinic idea to the city, he said. "The TPA always shows some money savings," he said, though he did not have specifics. The city of Valdosta has recently signed with CareHere to open a clinic in January.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Walton Tribune (GA)

November 1, 2009

Beall: City is Not Run by Mayor, Council

Author: Brian Arrington

Monroe mayoral hopeful Wallace Beall says City Administrator **Julian Jackson** has too much on his plate to do an effective job and it is he who is running the city, not his opponent Mayor Greg Thompson or the city council as is supposed to be the case. Beall made his charge during a Wednesday press conference, less than a week away from Tuesday's city election. Beall said **Jackson**, who was on vacation and could not be reached for comment, does hold the job duties of several employees and wonders how he can be effective at all of them. Beall also said **Jackson** is pursuing a doctorate degree, another factor Beall claims diminishes **Jackson's** effectiveness.

Jackson, Beall said, holds the positions of city administrator, city clerk, utility director, airport manager and is head of human resources. Beall said **Jackson** has ignored the need to improve city infrastructure - something he is not capable of doing. "Why would we want an official with all this power who was not elected and does not answer to the people? How could any competent mayor allow this to happen?" Beall said. "These are questions that all voters should ask themselves. The mayor claims to oversee Mr. **Jackson** with the help of the council. But when has the mayor challenged Mr. **Jackson** over anything in the last four years? The record speaks for itself. He has not. Mr. **Jackson** has done as he pleased. Unchecked. Unchallenged. Unmanaged."

Beall said he would hire a new utility director and the human resources director and make sure **Jackson** is managed properly and review his salary. Beall would assign current employees to help **Jackson** with his other job duties. Thompson said he has only heard of this complaint once from residents on the campaign trail, adding it has not been a major issue on with the council before. "No, (**Jackson**) is not elected, he is an employee," Thompson said. "But he is accountable to the people. He reports to the mayor and the city council. He is accountable to us and we are accountable to the citizens of Monroe."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Walton Tribune (GA)
October 21, 2009

Monroe Forum Provides Little Debate

Author: Brian Arrington

The Walton County Chamber of Commerce Political Forum featuring the six candidates for local office contained few "gotcha" moments Tuesday night. The candidates, sitting in front of an audience containing few if any citizens not affiliated with the chamber, press or a candidate, managed to work through the questions asked by moderator Lee Garrett, past-chairman of the chamber and executive vice president of Liberty First Bank. The candidates were asked about the city's park and water plans, beautification efforts, the One Walton initiative and the job description of City Administrator **Julian Jackson**, among other topics.

Mayor Greg Thompson, who is facing opposition from former councilman Wallace Beall in the Nov. 3 election, said Monroe is one of the "best-run cities in the state" and added under his leadership the past four years, the city has rolled back taxes, improved its credit rating with Standard & Poor's, helped spur improvements to the city's downtown through Opportunity Zone, Liveable Centers Initiatives and Main Street designations as well as overseeing the re-write of the city's code ordinance. He said he still would work for a truck bypass for downtown, acquire more transportation funds, protect the city's water resources, continue implementing the tax rollback rate and funding the downtown development authority and work to secure more Special Local Option Sales Tax funds.

Beall, a former Monroe Area High School teacher and 11-year council member, said he has "a passion" to be mayor. During his time on council, Beall said he has worked to acquire Community Development Block Funding and transportation grants as well as leading the effort to bring Walton Regional Medical Center's management company to the county, which will lead to the construction of a new hospital. "I have one agenda and that is to serve all the citizens of Monroe," Beall said. He pledged to lower utility rates for residents, provide tax incentives for new businesses and hashed his plan to build its own reservoir at Jack's Creek.

The candidates from District 6, incumbent Wayne Adcock and Spencer Seay, made their case for the post. Adcock said his 16 years on council and his budgetary experience as chief financial officer are reasons to re-elect him. Seay, in his first run for political office and a youth sports coach with two children, proposed utilizing the Rails to Trails program to better the city's parks system using old railroad tracks.

In District 8, incumbent Jimmy Richardson is being challenged by former councilmember W.C. "Tip" McConnell. Richardson touted his record as DDA liaison; pointing to the recent Main Street designation the city has received and said he would like to continue moving "the city in the right direction." McConnell said he would be a better communicator with the city, being "available, proven and experienced." Beall provided one of the few highlights of the evening when he said **Jackson** has too much power in his city administrator post and called for creating

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

four additional jobs to handle **Jackson's** current duties. The other five candidates, when asked about **Jackson's** duties, said they believe he is handling his position well.

On Beall's utility rate cuts, Thompson provided documentation that showed Monroe's city-run utility company already provides the lowest rates to residents compared to Georgia Power and Walton EMC. The candidates will face each other again at 7 p.m. Thursday in a forum hosted by the Walton County Democrats in the Monroe-Walton Library on Spring Street. Look for complete candidate profiles and platforms in Oct. 28 edition of The Walton Tribune.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

The Walton Tribune (GA)

May 20, 2009

New Gas Provider for Some Around Oconee

Author: Unknown

Nearly 500 Northwestern Oconee County residents who buy natural gas from the city of Monroe soon will have a new provider. Officials in Monroe, the Walton County seat, recently agreed to sell the city's gas distribution system in Oconee County to Atlanta Gas Light Co., ending a 3-year-old dispute between AGL and the city that reached the Georgia Supreme Court. The 464 Oconee customers served by Monroe, including people in Lane Creek subdivision, shouldn't notice much difference with the change, city and company officials said. Monroe officials have until the end of the week to send letters to all affected customers letting them know the change is coming.

The customers then will have until the middle of August to select a new natural gas "marketer," according to the settlement agreement signed this month by Monroe and Atlanta Gas Light. Consumers will be able to choose from all nine marketers Atlanta Gas Light works with, according to the company. "We look forward to serving our new customers in Oconee County and bringing the benefits of competition and customer choice to their natural gas service," Atlanta Gas Light said Tuesday in a statement. "We are working well with the City of Monroe to make this transition as seamless as possible."

There will be no interruptions in gas service during the transition, said company spokeswoman Tami Gerke. Atlanta Gas Light has agreed to buy the system from Monroe for \$3.6 million. "Basically, we're going to sell them the entire system in Oconee County for what we paid for it," said Monroe City Administrator **Julian Jackson**. For decades, AGL has been certified by the state Public Service Commission - which regulates utilities in the state - to provide gas service in nearly all of the county, including Northwestern Oconee. But the company never expanded its service there, and in the late 1990s, Monroe officials decided to build a new Oconee system, mainly to serve Lane Creek, **Jackson** said.

Monroe's Oconee system was completed around 2000. In April 2006, as Monroe began an expansion to serve the new Carolina's Place subdivision - with which Atlanta Gas Light claimed it already had a contract - AGL lodged a complaint with the Public Service Commission, claiming the city had overstepped its bounds. The PSC agreed with Atlanta Gas Light in part, ordering that some Monroe customers in the disputed territory be transferred to other providers and fining the city \$100,000 for extending its lines outside its home county without permission. Although municipal utilities usually are allowed to expand without state regulators' permission, Monroe should have applied for a state certificate before part of its Oconee County project because it was outside the city's "home county" and was being financed through revenue bonds, the PSC said. Monroe officials appealed the decision all the way to the state Supreme Court. Under the settlement with Atlanta Gas Light, however, the city agreed to withdraw its appeal. With the settlement, the PSC also agreed to drop the fine against Monroe.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Walton Tribune (GA)

May 3, 2009

Locals Up to Plenty of Good

Author: Brian Arrington

Sometimes good things come in bunches - too numerous to get in as full stories. Here are a couple of good things our residents are doing these days ... When the Professional Association of Georgia Educators has its annual meeting in June, a local teacher will be a featured speaker. Kerrin Daniel of Walker Park Elementary School has been invited to present at the organization's conference, "Designing Engaging Schools: How to Put the Joy Back into Teaching," which will be held June 19-21 in Atlanta. "We are delighted that these outstanding educators will be joining us," said PAGE Executive Director Dr. Allene Magill. "Our conference is designed for the practitioner to see the success these educators are having in creating engaging work for their students, putting the joy back into their classrooms and schools for teacher and learner alike."

Monroe's own **Julian Jackson** has been elected to the board of the City County Management Association. The city administrator was elected to the board of directors of the Georgia association at the organization's fall meeting in Athens March 25. **Jackson** represents the Northeast District of the association. Founded in the 1950s by a small group of managers interested in professional development, the GCCMA membership now includes city and county managers and administrators, directors of regional development centers and their principal assistants. The purposes of GCCMA are to improve the quality of local government in Georgia by supporting and encouraging professional local government management among other goals.

I would like to publicly thank former Monroe Mayor Harry Knight for the wonderful sculpture he made me - complete with the mugshot you see above this column. Knight, always a gentleman, dropped it off at the offices Thursday afternoon. It now sits on my office bookshelf for all to see. Thanks Mayor! Nice work.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

The Walton Tribune (GA)
April 20, 2008

GDOT Cuts Affecting Cities

Author: Stephan Milligan

With a shortfall of perhaps more than \$1 billion dollars projected, the Georgia Department of Transportation may not be able to fund many local projects. Although Gov. Sonny Perdue has ordered an audit of GDOT for next month, many cities and counties are already scrambling to find if their pet projects will survive the expected cuts. For those projects that have already started or are near beginning, the prospects seem best. "The preliminary plan is complete," said Mayor Jim Burgess of Social Circle.

The city has long been planning to complete the truck bypass that will allow heavy traffic to leave Highway 11 and move around downtown Social Circle before rejoining the state thoroughfare. "They're proceeding to contract for 2010," Burgess said. "It's on schedule, which is great news." Other projects in Walton County, however, may not fare so well. Monroe's proposed bypass was altered long before the extent of the GDOT shortfalls was evident. "The Monroe bypass has been cut down from four lanes to two lanes," said **Julian Jackson**, city manager for Monroe. "It's basically been cut in half."

In Loganville, plans to transform Main Street into a one-way street, as well as other alterations to the Highway 20 route pushed back multiple times, also may fall by the wayside. "I'm not sure how it will be affected," said Bill Jones, city manager for Loganville. "This funding issue is not something new, it's been going on for some time. It was set for 2009, but it may be pushed back again."

Teri Pope, communications officer for GDOT, said that until the audit occurred and the extent of the shortfalls was confirmed, GDOT officials could not determine which projects might occur and which might fall by the wayside. "We don't know yet," Pope said about projects on the chopping block. "We just found out about the extent of it. "We've been talking for months now that we would have a reprioritization of projects this summer, but as for any cuts that might happen, no one knows yet."

Kevin Little, chairman of the Walton County Board of Commissioners, said some projects already seemed dead in the water for the county - including widening Highway 138 to four lanes - but that the priority for the county was the Highway 138 extension. "We met with the DOT commissioner to prioritize our projects in and around the City of Monroe," Little said. "Charlotte Rowell Boulevard - or the State Route 138 extension - is both of our No. 1 project. We lobbied to keep this project alive." The extension would connect Highway 138 with Double Springs Church Road to create a connection between the busy 138-Highway 10 intersection and the Monroe Area High School area. Still, everything remains up in the air. "All projects will go through an evaluation in June and July," Little said. "In September, the DOT will notify everyone on the projects that they will be receiving."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

The Walton Tribune (GA)

November 18, 2007

City Unearths Major Water Billing Blunder

Author: Brian Arrington

An investigation is under way to find out how a Ramesh Lane home was not billed for using 7 million gallons of water over a period of seven years. According to city documents, the home at 1045 Ramesh Lane rang up a \$21,026 bill and now the city is going after its owner to pay it. It appears city employees had not checked the water meter at the 12,000-square-foot-home located off of Highway 78 and owned by Dr. K.C. Ramesh for years, possibly as many as seven. The \$21,026 water bill was the largest of 60 bills recently sent to residents who also have not had their meters read in years and now owe the city money. Aside from Ramesh's tab, the bills range from \$21.99 to \$4,682. About 40 residents had been paying too much for water service and those people have been credited a total of \$4,237, city officials said. It was recently discovered the meters had not been read in years after a "longtime" employee resigned when he was told the city's meter readers would rotate the areas in which the meters would be read, city officials said. When meter readers got to the route the former employee was supposed to be reading, it was determined he only estimated the meter's numbers. City officials were reluctant to release the name of the former employee because of the ongoing investigation. Once the investigation is completed, its findings will be released to the public, City Attorney Paul Rosenthal said.

While the investigation is ongoing, City Administrator **Julian Jackson** said steps have been made to ensure the mistake does not happen again. "This is a very unfortunate mistake regarding a small portion of our water customers," **Jackson** said. "It amounts to less than 1 percent of our water customers." The city has bought automated meter-reading equipment that will provide more accurate readings. The city's meter-reading operation will be fully automated by next year, city officials pointed out. Some of the billing discrepancies were due to leaks in water lines, city officials said.

Ramesh said he is going to fight the bill and said it is not his fault no one properly read his meter for years. "That's the stupidity of the (city utilities) people who read the meters," he said. "I think it is not my problem." Ramesh said he asked the city to put in a meter when he moved into the house seven years ago. Former Monroe Utilities Network head Bobby Morrow came to the house and installed a "dummy" meter that always read "zero," Ramesh said. Ramesh, who was also Morrow's doctor before he died in a car crash in May, said he would get bills for \$9 for the water use on that meter, while the real meter was never read. Morrow and others have been part of an ongoing investigation regarding practices at Monroe Utilities network by an outside agency - possibly the FBI. "There was no special favor or anything," Ramesh said. "I did not know it was a dummy meter. Let them do whatever investigation. I have never requested any favors or anything." Ramesh said the city is trying to blame Morrow for the water problem and he has offered to pay \$10,000 toward the water bill. Rosenthal could not be reached for comment to address Ramesh's comments before press time.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Walton Tribune (GA)

January 7, 2007

Monroe Faces Fine Over Oconee Gas Line

Author: Brian Arrington

A hearing officer has recommended the city be fined \$200,000 for building a gas line in Oconee County without the proper authorization. The Georgia Public Service Commission could rule on the recommendation as early as next week, city officials said. The recommendation comes after a complaint by the Atlanta Gas Light Company stating Monroe should not have built the line tapped off the Transcontinental Pipeline serving Oconee customers on the southwest portion of the county and that the line blocks AGLC from providing service to those customers.

Monroe contends municipalities are exempt from GPSC jurisdiction and that AGLC never bothered to serve the residents in the area Monroe built the pipeline. "**Julian Jackson**, Monroe's city administrator, testified as to the existence of two separate letters from attorneys for (the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia) advising the city of the existence of the Georgia constitutional provision that overrides the statutory exemption for municipal gas operators from the Commission's certification requirements for gas system expansion outside a city's home county where the city's system is financed, directly or indirectly, by revenue bonds," the recommendation reads.

However, the Georgia Attorney General's Office stated that municipal gas systems "must obtain a certificate from the commission for gas systems financed, all or in part, by revenue bonds whenever the municipality extends its gas system beyond the borders of its home county and also that when such bonds were paid off has no bearing whatsoever on Commission jurisdiction," the recommendation reads.

In testimony given to the Commission, **Jackson** said the city used revenue bonds in 1951 to finance the initial construction of its system in Walton County and that the city used proceeds of a 2003 revenue bond issuance to pay off a lease agreement for the construction of Monroe's Oconee County gas facilities and for the city's ownership of the gas facilities operated in Oconee since 2000.

The more than \$3 million pipeline project began in 2000, under the leadership of the now defunct Monroe Water, Light and Gas Commission, and currently serves about 300 customers in the rural area. However, subdivisions are ready to be built and Monroe officials say now that there is an opportunity to substantially increase the customer base. AGLC, which filed the complaint to the GPSC on April 17, 2006, has suddenly become interested in serving the area, city officials said.

The hearing officer also recommended the city be granted a "Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity" to continue operations in the existing service area and can build gas infrastructure in the surrounding area as well. AGLC, had asked Monroe be fined \$21.9 million, claiming "that

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

granting a certificate to the city would result in a loss of \$511,000 in projected future revenue." Monroe city officials said the Oconee pipeline could ultimately serve up to 8,000 customers, doubling the city's gas customers and revenue. If the recommendation is adopted by the GPSC, the \$200,000 would come out of gas revenue, city officials said.

"The City of Monroe has provided natural gas service to the citizens of southern Oconee County who otherwise would not have had this service," said Mayor Greg Thompson. "For the Public Service Commission, a body of elected officials who are elected to represent the consumer, the imposition of a fine of \$200,000 in this case would be very excessive and would create an undue burden on the ratepayers of the city's gas system."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

The Walton Tribune (Monroe, GA)

August 16, 2006

Grounded

Author: Brian Arrington

Patience is becoming a costly virtue for the City of Monroe. It could take as long as Oct. 10 before city officials find out what the Federal Aviation Administration thinks of a complaint filed by Lisa Barnaby of Skydive Monroe Inc., the skydiving operation that closed at the city's airport last month. But the fight will cost the city more than \$28,000 in legal fees to be paid to a Washington, D.C. law firm with FAA expertise. City officials said the Washington-based firm was better equipped to handle federal aviation legalities, hence the bill.

Last month a Gwinnett County Superior Court judge ruled the assets of Skydive Monroe be seized on behalf of former manager William Scott, who has been wrangling with Barnaby in court over the business. Courts also recently ruled in favor of the city over a lease dispute that began after Barnaby had missed a \$445 monthly rent payment, among other concerns, city officials said.

In October of 2005, the city terminated Skydive Monroe's lease and two months later the city demanded the business leave Hangar C - the city-owned building where the business stores its Cessna 182. Barnaby fired back with a letter from her lawyer. "Skydive Monroe, Inc., has not moved from Hangar C located at the Monroe-Walton County Airport for the reason that Skydive Monroe, Inc., believes that the City of Monroe is in violation of (FAA) regulations due to its inequitable treatment of Skydive Monroe, Inc.," a Dec. 9, 2005 letter to city attorneys reads.

Barnaby said Avondale Mills Corporation and WHP Aviation were getting better treatment than Skydive Monroe because the other companies had long-term leases to use the city facilities while she was forced to pay month to month. Because of this alleged "inequitable" treatment, Barnaby's lawyer said the city was in violation of FAA guidelines, noting the city was recently given a grant by the FAA using take-off data including Skydive Monroe flights.

It was then the city hired D.C. attorneys Zuckert, Scoutt and Rasenberger, L.L.P. The city has already paid \$23,000 out of a line item of \$10,000 for additional attorneys, according to City Manager **Julian Jackson**. The council will likely amend the budget to cover the additional attorney fees, **Jackson** said.

Now the city is waiting until October for the FAA ruling. However, a preliminary evaluation of the complaint has revealed no discrimination against Skydive Monroe. "Based on preliminary evaluations, it is our opinion that the City of Monroe, owner-operator of the Monroe-Walton County Airport, does not appear to have violated the airport grant assurances as set forth in the Airport Improvement Program," said FAA Program Manager Daniel Gaetan.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Walton Tribune (GA)

March 8, 2006

M.U.N. Prove Ongoing

Author: Brian Arrington

The findings of an investigation regarding former Monroe Utilities Network General Manager Bobby Morrow and operations of the company which runs the city's utilities under his supervision are ongoing, city officials said Monday. The investigation - which stems from Morrow's Oct. 4 driving under the influence arrest following a crash in a city vehicle - is still being conducted by an independent investigator, officials said.

City officials have said Morrow's driving incident played a large part in the city's decision to dissolve the Water, Light and Gas Commission in December of last year and place the city's utilities directly under the control of the council. City Administrator **Julian Jackson**, who is also interim director of the department, said the scope of the investigation has increased. "Every time we think we determine the extent of it something else pops up," he said adding results of the probe should be released "in the very near future."

Despite some public opposition, Morrow was fired in December at the same meeting which saw the city takeover the WLGC. The vote brought the end to a process that began on Oct. 6, when the Monroe City Council voted to start taking the necessary steps to dissolve the commission.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The Walton Tribune (GA)
September 8, 2004

\$500k Grant for Streets

Author: Joe Dennis

Residents of the impoverished Roosevelt Street neighborhood will soon see significant changes in their community, thanks in part to a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) received last month by the city of Monroe. The grant will be used to fix drainage problems, re-surface and widen streets, add cul-de-sacs, repair curbs and gutters, and improve sidewalks in the North Monroe neighborhood, bordered by Ga. Hwy. 78. "The nature of a CDBG is to provide general, basic services to areas where there is a tremendous need and the majority of residents are low income," said City Administrator **Julian Jackson**. "It's obvious those streets are in need of improvement, and the Mayor and City Council are firmly committed to improving the quality of life for all its citizens."

The homes south of Roosevelt Street were "cut off" from the rest of the city in the early 1960s, when Hwy. 78 was built through Monroe, according to the city's application for the grant. The highway was constructed right through the neighborhood, cutting Maple Street and Marable Lane in half. Maple Street south of the highway was renamed Maple Way, and Marable Lane south of the highway was renamed Marable Court. The highway's construction created dead ends at the end of each street, making it very difficult for large vehicles - such as city garbage trucks - to exit the neighborhood. "On several of these streets we have to back our garbage truck out because there is nowhere to turn around," said assistant public works director Danny Smith in the grant application. "We are constantly afraid we are going to run over a child."

The neighborhood has also fallen victim to an inadequate drainage system. With topography ranging from 920 feet to 870 feet and homes built long before zoning regulations regarding water runoff, "Highway 78 formed sort of a 'dam' for this area," the application stated. "Back when these streets were developed, there were no codes or regulations to make developers put the proper drainage systems in place," said councilor Edith Hill. "Now, years later, the residents must put up with overflowing ditches, standing water in their yards and on the streets, mildew on their homes, and in some cases in this neighborhood, not a blade of grass (will) grow in their yards because of constant erosion." The constant water buildup has also eroded the sidewalks, curbs and roads in the area, and has caused mosquito problems in the neighborhood. **Jackson** said the city applied for the grant last March. The city is required to match the grant by 10 percent, or \$50,000, but **Jackson** said the cost of the project will likely require the city to chip in \$85,000.

The money will be used to:

- Acquire right-of-way property for cul-de-sacs and drainage easement;
- Create and improve drainage basins, curbs and gutters in the neighborhood;
- Resurface and widen Roberts Drive, Maple Street, Marable Lane, Maple Way and Marable Court;

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

- Create cul-de-sacs on Marable Lane, Maple Street and Roberts Street; and
- Replace the sidewalks on Roosevelt Street.

"This grant is going to be a tremendous help in allowing us to improve that area," Mayor Harry Knight said, noting that this is the fifth major grant received by the city in the past six years totaling a combined \$5.5 million. "Without these grants, we couldn't have afforded to do many of these projects without straining our taxpayers. We're very fortunate." The review, engineering and design process will begin in October, with construction slated to begin next summer. The project is scheduled for completion by November 2006.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

The Walton Tribune (GA)

August 15, 2004

Most Millage Rates Lowered

Author: Joe Dennis

Even as the value of their properties increase, most Walton residents will see their county and city tax bills remain the same this year. However, school tax bills will be higher for residents within the Walton County School System. The Walton County Board of Commissioners voted last month to lower the county millage rate from 10.084 to 10.064 for the unincorporated areas of the county and from 9.64 to 9.63 for residents who pay city taxes. The rate reduction was set in accordance to the rollback rate, which accounts for an increase in property values and essentially assures taxpayers will have the same tax bill as the previous year. "The rollback millage rate offsets the increase of value," said county tax assessor Ricky Dillard. "It's designed to prevent backdoor tax increases through assessments."

While most residents will see no difference in their county tax bill, school tax bills will be raised. Last month the Walton County Board of Education voted to raise its millage rate from 17.90 to 18.84 mills to make up for decreased federal and state revenues. For the sixth consecutive year, the Loganville City Council kept the city's millage rate at 9 mills. City manager Bill Jones said while the rampant growth has required the city to increase its services, significant commercial growth has helped keep the millage rate stable. "That's why it was so important to get a Wal-Mart in town," Jones said. "Commercial growth brings in a significant amount of revenue, and because of that growth, we haven't had to raise taxes."

Like the county, the Monroe City Council set the millage rate at the rollback rate, lowering it from 7.214 mills to 7.193 mills. City administrator **Julian Jackson** said the city has lowered the millage rate in five consecutive years. "The mayor and council have made a commitment to keeping taxes as low as possible," he said, noting that the millage rate was at 8 mills in 2000. **Jackson** said the city has been able to keep the millage rate low by obtaining grants for several projects, such as improvements at the city's airport, the city downtown redevelopment project and several community infrastructure projects. "Since I've been here we've been awarded more than \$5 million in grant money," he said.

In Social Circle, the City Council voted last week to also set its millage rate at the rollback rate. The rate will be lowered from 8 mills to 7.997 mills this year. City manager Doug Hawkins said recently implemented capacity charges and increased tap fees for water and sewer service have helped keep the millage rate low. "We're not having to transfer any money from the general fund to utilities," he said. "They're self-supporting." Though the Social Circle Board of Education has yet to vote on its millage rate, system fiscal officer John Stephens said the rate will likely remain at its current level of 14.42 mills.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

The Walton Tribune (GA)

May 23, 2004

Monroe to Pay Ramey \$135,000

Author: Joe Dennis

After nearly two years of depositions and investigations, the city of Monroe has settled a discrimination lawsuit filed by police chief candidate Carl Ramey, awarding him \$135,000. "I'm delighted this lawsuit's been settled," said Monroe Mayor Harry Knight. "Now the city can move forward." Ramey, an African-American, was one of three finalists for the job of police chief. In July 2002, two months after a split vote to hire Keith Glass - with the City Council's three black representatives voting for Ramey and the council's five white representatives voting for Glass - Ramey filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging racial discrimination. In March 2003, the EEOC determined that there was racial discrimination, noting that Ramey met the specific education and leadership qualifications posted for the position, and Glass, who is white, did not. A lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court.

The City Council had previously rejected a settlement offer of \$500,000, which Ramey proposed in August 2002. Athens attorney Roy Manoll, who represented the city in the case, said the city's insurance carrier desired the settlement. "The carrier was looking at this being an expensive trial with a lot of defendants and witnesses," he said, estimating the trial could've lasted one week and cost more than \$100,000, not including any potential award. "I think the carrier took a look at this case and made an economic decision," Manoll said. City councilman Wallace Beall, who voted for the hiring of Glass, said he begrudgingly supported the settlement. "I think it's terrible that we are being blackmailed, but there's literally nothing we can do to prove we didn't discriminate," he said. "When you go in front of a jury, there's no telling what could happen. I wanted to avoid us paying even more money on this case, and get this behind us."

Councilor Rita Scott, who voted to hire Ramey, said she still believes that there was no discrimination in the city's decision, adding that it's stated in the settlement. "We just wanted to get this over and done with, with there being no admission that the city had any wrongdoing," she said. "To continue on would've been a greater expense to the taxpayers." City manager **Julian Jackson** said the city's liability insurance carrier will pay for the entire cost of the settlement. **Jackson** said the city has spent \$15,000 on the case, the deductible on the policy. "We met that in the first month Ramey filed the claim," he said. Atlanta attorney Ed Buckley, representing Ramey in the case, said his client is "happy with the resolution." "We looked at what juries in the area rewarded in similar cases, and based on that we thought this was a fair resolution," he said.

In addition to the awarding of \$135,000, the agreement states that Ramey may not disclose details of the settlement, make disparaging remarks against the city or apply for employment with the city for five years. The settlement also states that it "does not constitute an admission of liability, conduct or wrongdoing" by the city. The Tribune obtained the settlement through the Georgia Open Records Act.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Atlanta Journal-Constitution (GA)

June 29, 2000

Spending Million for Repairs – Fixing Up: If Monroe Residents Give the OK, Improvements Will Be Made Around Town

Author: Susan Paul Smith

If voters approve a September bond referendum, the city of Monroe will spend almost \$8 million to improve streets, sidewalks and buildings and enhance services. The \$7.9 million bond issue would nearly equal the city's annual budget, but officials say the debt can be repaid in 18 years with no additional tax burden on residents. The debt would be paid by tax revenues generated by new businesses -- and there have been plenty. "In the last eight, nine months, we've pretty much had about \$300 million in new industrial investment in Monroe," said City Administrator **Julian Jackson**.

Plans for the funds include improving roads, streets and sidewalks; renovating public buildings; purchasing a new firetruck; constructing a solid waste transfer station; and building an outdoor swimming pool. Monroe Mayor David Dickenson said \$3 million would be used for street and sidewalk repairs. Bonds totaling more than \$2 million are being requested to renovate the City Hall building, the old post office and an abandoned school. Dickenson said City Hall, built in 1939, is much too small to house the administrative staff. "There's a world of problems with it," he said, citing the building's asbestos content and lack of handicap access. He said that even though he gave up his office in City Hall to allow more room for staff, some employees are using storage closets for offices.

The renovation will bring some relief to the crowding, and more space will be available when the police department moves its headquarters to the renovated post office building. The City Council also hopes to turn the old Monroe High School building, vacant for about 15 years and now privately owned, into a community center. **Jackson** said the city is working with businessman Kenneth Murray to swap the property for a piece of commercial property next to the fire station. That land was originally purchased by the city as a potential site for a police precinct. However, funds were never available and now the site is too small, **Jackson** said.

The addition of a solid waste transfer station may not be glamorous, but it is important, **Jackson** said. "Currently the county has no . . . landfill to handle household and commercial refuse, so we have to deposit our waste in a landfill in Barrow County," he said. With the transfer station, the city can hold garbage for up to a week before transporting it to a landfill. Smaller, lighter trucks could then be used to collect the refuse, placing less stress on city roads. The transfer station would cost about \$800,000, as would an aerial platform fire truck and a swimming pool. **Jackson** said there is no public swimming facility in Walton County. The referendum will be held Sept. 19. The last time Monroe voters passed a bond referendum was in 1966, when the city spent \$200,000 on improvements, including \$130,000 for streets and sidewalks.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Atlanta Business Chronicle

June 21, 1999

Higher taxes don't stop annexation proponents

Author: Mike Hassinger

Kirt Lattanze has no problem with Fulton County officials. The lifelong resident of northern Fulton County didn't have any particular gripe with either the politicians or the people who run Fulton from their offices on Pryor Street in downtown Atlanta. They were just too far away, Lattanze said, to make him believe his elected officials would hear his voice, especially when it came to development issues. So the insurance agent organized a petition drive to get his Edenwilde subdivision annexed into the city of Roswell. On June 30, his wish for a more local government will be granted -- though at the price of higher property taxes. "It was just too hard, logistically, to get my neighbors organized to attend a [zoning] hearing or a [commission] meeting," Lattanze said. "We would have to drive from up here all the way to Pryor Street to attend a meeting, and usually during the middle of the day, during business hours. That's when working [people] are trying to make a living."

Representing the Edenwilde development where he had lived for three years, Lattanze, along with representatives from the nearby Hamilton Commons and Summerhill Farms subdivisions, met with planning officials from Roswell in the summer of 1998. According to Roswell's assistant city administrator, **Julian Jackson**, all three of the subdivisions were interested in being annexed, but Edenwilde was the best organized. "State law provides for several methods of annexation, depending on the situation," **Jackson** said. "A petition is relatively simple, provided [the neighborhood] organization is there."

Gathering support

Annexations by petition must have the support of 60 percent of the registered voters in the area to be annexed, but also the support of landowners holding title on 60 percent of the acreage under consideration. A builder or developer who owns multiple lots in a development, therefore, can potentially thwart the desires of a majority of the voters. "We knew we had to have 80 percent of the homeowners' support in order to be able to overcome the builders [who were opposed to annexation]," Lattanze said. "We had it, and the builders knew it."

After the petitions were signed and certified by the city attorney, the Roswell City Council heard the presentation of the petition, which required two readings and a public hearing. The Edenwilde annexation will add almost 263 acres to Roswell's city limits. Though the subdivision is not yet complete, it will add between 700 and 1,100 people to the population of Roswell, and about \$20 million to its tax base. Compared with the rest of the city, the Edenwilde annexation is minuscule. Roswell estimates its population near 65,000, and its 1998 tax digest was worth more than \$1.6 billion. Still, Edenwilde is the largest single annexation by Roswell during this decade.

Raising taxes

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

The most noticeable effect of annexation will be an increase in annexed homeowners' property tax bills. The increase will be about one mill, or \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The owner of a \$250,000 house in Edenwilde will pay around \$250 more each year in property taxes for the privilege of living in Roswell. "When you're going down the list of pros and cons about annexation," said Lattanze, "higher tax bills is the only negative."

How did Lattanze convince his neighbors to pay more taxes? "Fear of development," he said. "We knew that the large commercial parcels around us were going to be developed, and we wanted them to be developed under Roswell's standards, instead of Fulton County's." "If I oppose a rezoning petition in Fulton [County], not only is it harder to do because they're farther away, [but] I'm only one voice out of maybe 50,000 or 100,000 voters. My vote doesn't count as much," Lattanze said. "But 4,000 votes can determine the outcome of an election to the Roswell City Council. The [Roswell] officials know they have to listen to us."

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Herald-Journal (SC)

September 18, 1997

Woodruff City Manager Leaving Post

Author: Janet S. Spencer

Woodruff's City Manager **Julian Jackson** is leaving his post next month for a similar job in Georgia. The Woodruff City Council has appointed part-time city economic development recruiter John Mullins to full-time interim city manager. Mayor Jerald Craig said Wednesday that Mullins began his new duties this week. Mullins has worked with the city for 18 months. "John is aware of many of the city's programs, and he'll be working with **Julian** for a couple of weeks to learn about new ones. We don't expect any problems," he said. The council accepted **Jackson's** resignation Sept. 8. His last day will be Oct. 2.

Jackson will assume the job of assistant city administrator in Roswell, Ga., a city of about 55,000. The City of Roswell employs 430 people. The Woodruff position will soon be advertised, Craig said. Woodruff officials are staying busy recruiting new businesses and industries, hoping to create more jobs. "We will maintain our pro-active, positive approach to recruitment and economic development," Craig said. **Jackson** has been with the city of Woodruff for about four years. He said in a resignation letter that he has mixed emotions about leaving and that serving the community had been enjoyable and rewarding.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Go Up State (SC)
September 11, 1997

Former Woodruff Police Officer Sues City Manager Over Firing

Author: Daniel Crude

A web of lawsuits over the firing of Woodruff police officer James Robert King Jr. has become more tangled. King sued the city and its manager, **Julian Jackson**, in Spartanburg County Circuit Court Tuesday, alleging he was wrongfully fired because he arrested **Jackson** and Police Chief Michael Cromer on charges that later were dismissed. King and another former Woodruff employee already face a \$2 million lawsuit from Cromer over that arrest. King was fired March 15, 1996, less than two months after he had Cromer and **Jackson** arrested on a charge of obstructing justice. That charge stemmed from King's claim that **Jackson** interfered when King arrested a community activist on a bench warrant in November 1995.

The arrest took place just before a tenant's meeting at a housing complex. **Jackson** told King to let the arrested activist pay a bond immediately at City Hall and return to the meeting. King said when he talked to Cromer about **Jackson's** action, Cromer didn't do anything. The obstruction charges against Cromer and **Jackson** were dismissed by a magistrate a month after they were filed, and **Jackson** suspended King the next day. In the lawsuit, King argues his firing was retaliation for arresting Cromer and **Jackson**, who he alleges conspired against him in his firing.

King also alleges breach of contract because he never received a grievance hearing from the city to protest his firing. Neither Cromer nor **Jackson** would comment on the lawsuit. **Jackson** said he could not comment because it dealt with a city personnel dispute. King said he has suffered lost wages, damage to his reputation and mental anguish from his firing. Cromer sued King and former Municipal Judge W.D. Harrison in August 1996, claiming malicious prosecution against King and defamation of character against Harrison. King already has filed a counter-lawsuit against Cromer, alleging his former boss has tried to block him from getting law enforcement jobs. King does not have a full-time job, according to his attorney, Donald Coggins Jr. of Spartanburg. He has worked several temporary jobs since he was fired.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Herald-Journal (Spartanburg, SC)

August 27, 1996

Woodruff Council favors repealing city grievance policy

WOODRUFF - The City Council moved to repeal the Woodruff employee grievance procedure and disband the overseeing board Monday night at the advice of a lawyer from a state municipal group. The council members established the grievance policies and appointed a seven-member board in 1988 as a review process for city workers with concerns about their jobs.

But in a letter to the council, Roy Bates, attorney for the Municipal Association of South Carolina, wrote that city leaders were wrong in creating the policy because Woodruff's form of government does not give the council that authority. State law allows only city managers to establish grievance policies, Bates' letter said. After a short discussion, the council voted 5 to 1 to repeal the procedure on first reading. The council is expected to consider a final reading at its Sept. 30 meeting. Mayor Guy Blakely voted against the repeal, saying he wanted to postpone the matter until he had reviewed City Manager **Julian Jackson's** original letter to Bates.

With the issue having lingered for more than three months, city employees in attendance were quick to comment. "The grievance committee was established in the beginning to protect employee rights and to see that they're treated fairly," said Buddy Bailey, the city's public works director. After the vote, City Clerk Beverly Maddox asked **Jackson** if he was going to form a grievance board. **Jackson** replied that he had not considered doing so, yet.

Former Woodruff Police Officer Robert King also spoke out at Monday's meeting, which lasted more than two hours. King sought a grievance hearing in March after being fired, but he never received one after questions about the grievance policy's legality were raised. King was suspended from the department in February, one day after he testified against **Jackson** and Police Chief Mike Cromer on charges of obstruction of justice. A county magistrate dropped the charges. In recent weeks, King has talked with lawyers about taking action against the city. "I did my job as I think I should have," King said. "I wasn't given due process."

Also at Monday's meeting, the council: Approved first reading on a planned mobile home community on Edwards Road despite concerns from six nearby landowners. Final reading will take place at the council's September meeting. Discussed a \$243,000 bid for a new fire truck. The city would have to pay about 30 percent of that cost. Announced the Sept. 20 filing deadline for candidates for the Nov. 5 election of mayor and three council seats.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Herald-Journal (SC)

April 15, 1996

**Towns Fighting Costs of Housing Juvenile Suspects
Small Towns Fighting to End Big Juvenile Housing Bills**

Author: Unknown

Small towns stuck with big bills for housing juveniles charged with major crimes are fighting back - and they hope the state Legislature will help. The Department of Juvenile Justice conceded some ground this year when it lowered the housing fees it charges municipalities from \$110 to \$57. But that's a small concession to some towns such as Woodruff, which owed the department \$41,127 for the costs of housing three juveniles charged with murder. The revised bill charges Woodruff \$21,311, which city officials say is still too much. Woodruff officials maintain the costs are unfair and have refused to pay the bills. That's also the stand taken by the Municipal Association of South Carolina. "We have contended all along that it's not our responsibility," said J. Milton Pope, governmental affairs liaison for the association. Until last year, counties were responsible for the cost of housing juveniles while they awaited trial.

Then legislators changed the law and made the agency who charged the child responsible for the costs. "Initially when we found out, we weren't that concerned. We hadn't had any serious crimes involving juveniles," Woodruff City Manager **Julian Jackson** said. "Then we have one very ugly situation and here we are." Woodruff has anxiously watched the Legislature for signs of a reprieve from its cost burdens. Several bills were introduced, but none has been approved by the House or Senate. A bill favored by cities is foundering in committee after the Association of Counties withdrew its support, Pope said. That bill would have split the cost of housing juveniles charged with major crimes between the city and county. Pope said his organization will continue to push for bills that ease the burden on small towns. He also wants the Department of Juvenile Justice to withdraw a requirement that forces cities to pay for the juveniles' medical costs. Medical costs account for an additional \$2,217 billed to Woodruff. Department spokesman Len Hathaway said the new cost of \$57 is fair.

The state must provide teachers and schooling, psychologists, guards specially trained to deal with children, and a facility that is entirely separate from juvenile centers used to hold convicted children. The state also pays for routine medical needs. Hathaway said the state juvenile detention center was opened in 1993 and was set up to provide a two-year temporary facility for up to 20 children while counties got together to build their own or regional sites. But the counties didn't act, and the two-year, 20-child limits were removed, making the center a de facto permanent site, he said. As more children came to the site - more than 60 on some days, with an average of 48 children per day last year - the cost per child dropped from \$110 to \$57. **Jackson** said even \$57 is too much for a town the size of Woodruff. "There's no way to accurately budget for it," he said. "It makes it difficult to manage a small department." Woodruff's annual budget is \$1.5 million, with the police allotted \$550,000, **Jackson** said. "It's just another unfunded mandate," **Jackson** said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Herald-Journal (SC)

March 19, 1996

**Robert King, Former Woodruff Police Officer
Suspended Woodruff Police Officer Fired**

Author: Unknown

The suspended Woodruff police officer who accused the city manager and police chief of obstructing justice was fired Friday. Robert King, who had been suspended without pay since Feb. 9, said he was terminated for not signing a waiver to release his medical records. King said he received a letter from City Manager **Julian Jackson** on March 9, the day after meeting with him and Police Chief Mike Cromer. The letter requested he release his medical records by 2 p.m. Friday or be fired, King said. He did not sign the release, King said, because he had already disclosed a chronic fatigue condition along with past injuries when he applied to the police academy in July 1995.

King contends he was physically fit to be an officer and city officials were aware of his condition. "**(Jackson)** was using anything he could use to fire me," King said Monday. "He said he had problems with me since the beginning, but I was never made aware of them . . . until I signed the warrants." **Jackson** confirmed King was no longer a city employee as of Friday but declined to give any details. King took out warrants in January against **Jackson** and Cromer for a Nov. 30, 1995, incident. King said **Jackson** interfered with the arrest of a community activist at Kelly Acres neighborhood and that Cromer condoned the city manager's actions.

A county magistrate cleared **Jackson** and Cromer of the charges on Feb. 8, saying there was not enough probable cause for their cases to go to trial. King was suspended from the 11-member force the next day. **Jackson** confirmed that King had asked for a grievance hearing Monday afternoon and said King would receive a response within five days of the request. City policy allows a grievance committee to hear the case and make a ruling that would be submitted to the city manager for a final decision, **Jackson** said.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Herald-Journal (SC)

February 10, 1996

Icer Who Had Bosses Arrested Suspended Without Pay

Author: Unknown

A Woodruff police officer who signed warrants against his bosses now is serving a suspension without pay. King once signed warrants for arrest of city manager, police chief City Manager **Julian Jackson** suspended officer Robert King on Friday for violating city policy. He would not say specifically what King had done. King brought charges of obstructing justice against **Jackson** and Police Chief Mike Cromer Jan. 20. On Thursday, a county magistrate dismissed those charges. **Jackson** said his decision to suspend King was not done to retaliate against the officer. "It had nothing to do with that," **Jackson** said. But he would not give the reason for the suspension except to say "it's part of a personnel matter." Even King was left in the dark.

Jackson told him he had violated policy 7-4 which includes drugs, theft and insubordination. King asked **Jackson** to clarify what part of the policy he had violated, but the city manager would not. "He said he wouldn't give me the reason why," King said. "He said I had a policy manual, and I could read it." King said he wasn't surprised by the suspension. He didn't want to say what he thought the motive was until after the state finishes investigating Woodruff's judicial system. King took out warrants against Cromer and **Jackson** for an incident that occurred Nov. 30, 1995.

King arrived at Kelly Acres housing complex just before a tenants meeting with a bench warrant for the arrest of group spokesman Vona Poole. A group of residents outside the meeting became angry with King's arrival, and **Jackson** suggested Poole could pay a bond directly to police at City Hall and return to the meeting. King objected, but **Jackson** ordered bond be accepted so Poole could return to the meeting, according to King's complaint to Municipal Judge W.D. Harrison Jr. King said he later went to Cromer about the matter, and the chief dismissed his concerns as a misunderstanding. Harrison signed the warrants, and **Jackson** and Cromer were arrested.

They posted \$5,000 bonds at City Hall and returned to work. A week later, City Council suspended Harrison with pay after Cromer raised allegations that traffic violations were being reduced routinely and warrants were not being processed. The State Law Enforcement Division was called to investigate Woodruff's judicial system. They have reviewed files and conducted interviews with city officials. Lawyers from the Attorney General's Office also are involved in the investigation. Harrison has said he does not consider Cromer's and **Jackson's** cases over until the Attorney General's Office makes a ruling. That decision is expected within three weeks.

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Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Herald-Journal (SC)

February 9, 1996

**Woodruff Officials Cleared of Obstructing Justice
Magistrate Clears Woodruff Police Chief, City Manager**

Author: Unknown

A county magistrate dismissed obstruction of justice charges Thursday against Woodruff City Manager **Julian Jackson** and Police Chief Mike Cromer after hearing the arresting officer describe what the two men did. The decision clears the first hurdle in an ongoing investigation of the Woodruff city judicial system. The arrests, coupled with the suspension of the city's judge, has left City Hall embroiled in controversy in recent weeks. Woodruff officer Robert King spent nearly an hour defending his claims that **Jackson** interfered with the November arrest of a community activist and that Cromer condoned the action.

Mitch Slade, **Jackson's** lawyer, asked King why the charges surfaced two months after the officer wrote in December that he only wanted to find a way of preventing the situation from happening again. "All of this is something that occurred later when (King) admits himself that he changed his mind and decided to arrest **Julian**," Slade said. Slade said records show that King only spent a few minutes serving the warrant, adding that a warrant couldn't have been served any quicker. "When (King) had to testify to the entire event, it was obvious that there was no obstruction of justice," Slade said.

Magistrate Edward Overcash agreed and granted Slade's request that **Jackson's** charge be dropped. Minutes before, Overcash had dismissed the charge against Cromer after the prosecutor from the state Attorney General's Office agreed there was no evidence to support the charge against the chief. Woodruff's city judge issued warrants for Cromer and **Jackson** on Jan. 20 based on King's complaint involving the Nov. 30 arrest. King said in the complaint that **Jackson** ordered bond be accepted on an outstanding bench warrant so that the suspect could return to a Kelly Acres tenants meeting she was conducting. King said he later went to Cromer about the matter, and the chief dismissed his concerns as a misunderstanding.

Jackson and Cromer, who remained on the job after the arrest, are relieved the matter has been settled. "I hope now we can put this behind us and move forward," **Jackson** said. "Situations like this only bring about bad things for a city," Cromer said. "We're going to have to go back and try to reclaim the good things we had already established." King stood by his actions, saying the courtroom questioning raised technicalities that he was never allowed to fully explain. "What they did was wrong," King said. "I still feel that way." Rhonda Mims, assistant deputy attorney general, said the arrests are still part of the ongoing state investigation into Woodruff's judicial system.

The City Council last week suspended Judge W.D. Harrison Jr. with pay after Cromer raised allegations that traffic violations were being reduced routinely and warrants were not being processed. Council members have denied any connection between Harrison's suspension and his

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Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

signing of the warrants against Cromer and **Jackson**. State Law Enforcement Division agents already have met with Harrison and other city officials and spent an afternoon reviewing files in the judge's office. SLED officials could not be reached for comment Thursday. Harrison declined to comment Thursday on the SLED investigation or Overcash's decision to drop charges against Cromer and **Jackson**. Harrison said he does not consider Cromer's and **Jackson**'s cases over until the Attorney General's Office makes a ruling. The attorney general's decision is expected within three weeks. "If I hadn't thought there was enough probable cause there, I wouldn't have issued the warrant," Harrison said.

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Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Herald-Journal (SC)

February 6, 1996

City Manager Decides Not to Suspend Police Chief, State Attorney Continues Investigation

Author: Unknown

City Manager **Julian Jackson** said Monday he will not suspend Police Chief Mike Cromer despite the city attorney's recommendation, which was based on Woodruff personnel policy. Also Monday, State Attorney General Charlie Condon said a decision will be made in the next three weeks about whether to pursue obstruction of justice charges against Cromer and **Jackson**. **Jackson** said he discussed with City Attorney David Rice Friday his advice to suspend Cromer without pay and reviewed the policy again. "It's my decision that Chief Cromer will not be suspended based on the fact that no such offense as listed in the policy . . . has been committed," **Jackson** said.

Cromer and **Jackson** were arrested two weeks ago on charges of obstructing justice after a city police officer complained they interfered with an arrest in November. Rice sent **Jackson** a letter last week stating that Woodruff's personnel manual outlined situations where an employee should be suspended without pay, including offenses of serious nature. Cromer and **Jackson** are scheduled to have a preliminary hearing Thursday in Spartanburg County Magistrate Court. Both have said through their attorney they expect to be exonerated. Mayor Guy Blakely favored suspending Cromer and **Jackson** after the City Council removed the city judge with pay last week following accusations of wrongdoing.

He said he anticipated the city manager's decision. "It still doesn't make it right, but that's his choice," Blakely said. From the state's standpoint, the arrests and the city's judicial system are still being investigated. State Law Enforcement Division agents interviewed city officials and reviewed court documents Thursday as part of a preliminary investigation into City Judge W.D. Harrison Jr. City leaders contacted SLED after Cromer raised concerns that traffic charges were being reduced and warrants not properly processed. Local prosecutors requested the state attorney general's office review the arrests of Cromer and **Jackson**.

Attorney General Condon said he has assigned Deputy Attorney General John McIntosh to work with SLED investigators to determine whether there was any wrongdoing with the arrests. "Because of the nature of the charges and because of the people involved, we're going to make a decision very soon," Condon said. "We know how important it is to that town." "This won't be something that lingers on and on for six months." Staff writer Chase Squires contributed to this report.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Herald-Journal (SC)

February 2, 1996

D Starts Initial Investigation into Woodruff Court

Author: Unknown

State investigators searched through Woodruff police and court records Thursday, trying to determine whether a suspended city judge and the town judicial system warrant further review. Judge W.D. Harrison Jr., who was suspended with pay by the City Council Monday, faces allegations that he altered incident reports, investigated cases before they came to court and refused to hear cases from certain police officers.

On Tuesday, the council requested that the State Law Enforcement Division investigate Woodruff's judicial system after Police Chief Mike Cromer alleged that about 90 percent of traffic violations since June 1994 were being reduced to careless driving and that warrants were being withheld or improperly processed. Cromer said about 495 cases out of 520 were reduced during that time.

Harrison, who has declined to respond to the allegations this week, met with three SLED agents at City Hall Thursday and signed a waiver allowing them to search through city court records. The agents, who also met with Mayor Guy Blakely and City Manager **Julian Jackson**, later spent more than three hours in Harrison's office at the police station. SLED spokesman Mike Brown said he could not discuss their findings, but that Thursday's visit was to determine whether a full investigation was necessary. "We'll look at the allegations to see if there is any merit to them," Brown said.

Cromer said he first gave SLED evidence related to the council's request in November. He also talked during the past two months with the Spartanburg County Solicitor's Office and the state Attorney General's office about his concerns. "I wanted them to look and see if there was any criminal wrongdoing, or if it was a procedural problem," Cromer said Thursday. Cromer and **Jackson** will be the focus of an investigation by the state Attorney General's Office. Cromer and **Jackson** were arrested last week and charged with obstructing justice, after a city police officer said they interfered with an arrest last November. Harrison signed the warrants against them.

A preliminary hearing for both is scheduled for next Thursday in the Spartanburg County Magistrate's Court. Both have said through their attorney they expect to be cleared. **Jackson** received a letter from City Attorney David Rice Thursday stating that Cromer should be suspended without pay based on the city's personnel policy. In the letter, Rice cited the crisis discharge section, which allows employees to be suspended if they face serious offenses.

The letter did not mention whether **Jackson** should be suspended. Rice could not be reached for comment Thursday. **Jackson** said Cromer will not be suspended until he has reviewed the matter this morning with Rice, who told the council earlier this week there were no legal problems with the two working. "I have an appointment . . . with Mr. Rice and plan to discuss it further,"

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Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Jackson said. Council members have denied a connection between the arrests of Cromer and **Jackson** and Harrison's suspension; however, officials have taken sides on the issue. Mayor Blakely and Councilman Terry Leake, who voted against suspending Harrison, have said Cromer and **Jackson** deserve the same treatment because they also face accusations. Mayor Pro Tem Bill Black and Councilman Jerald Craig, who favored suspending Harrison, said the personnel policy does not clearly state being arrested as a reason for suspension.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Herald-Journal (SC)

January 24, 1996

Woodruff Officials Arrested

Author: Unknown

Police Chief Mike Cromer and City Manager **Julian Jackson** were arrested Tuesday after a city police officer alleged **Jackson** hampered his efforts to arrest a community activist late last year. At least one City Council member believes the arrests may be politically motivated and is convinced the men will be cleared. Cromer, 43, and **Jackson**, 34, were each charged with one count of obstructing justice when they arrived at City Hall Tuesday morning. They posted \$5,000 bonds at City Hall and returned to work. Both Cromer and **Jackson** said they couldn't discuss the case, but a lawyer representing Cromer said he is confident both men will be exonerated.

According to incident reports and complaints sworn to by Officer James Robert King, the incident that led to the arrests occurred Nov. 30 before a meeting of the Kelly Acres Tenants' Grievance Committee, held inside a police substation at the housing complex. The complaint states King arrived at Kelly Acres just before a committee meeting with a bench warrant for the arrest of group spokesman Vona Poole. A group of residents outside the meeting became angry with King's arrival, and **Jackson** suggested Poole could pay a bond directly to police at City Hall and return to the meeting. The warrant was for possession of sports gambling tickets, Poole said Tuesday.

King objected, according to the complaint, and **Jackson** ordered him to accept Poole's bond. King said he complained to Cromer, who decided the incident was the result of a misunderstanding and declined to take any action against **Jackson**. The arrest warrant, signed by Municipal Judge W.D. Harrison Jr., states **Jackson** "did follow (the) crowd to the Woodruff Police Department, flaunting his authority ... thereby obstructing justice."

Cromer's warrant states the chief "did willfully and knowingly condone the act of City Manager **Julian Jackson**." "We deny any wrongdoing in this case whatsoever," said Cromer's attorney, Woodruff resident Keith Kelly. "We look forward to a full-scale investigation ... Both the chief and **Julian Jackson** will be cleared." Harrison said he could not comment on the ongoing case, but by signing the warrants, he agreed there is sufficient evidence to proceed.

In her recollection of the Nov. 30 incident that led to Cromer's and **Jackson's** arrest, Poole said **Jackson** never interfered with King. She said **Jackson** encouraged her to go with King and later joined her at the police station, even offering to help her pay the \$152 fine. "I don't see where he obstructed anything," Poole said. "He didn't do anything to stop them from arresting me."

Cromer and **Jackson** have earned City Councilman Jerald Craig's support. He said politics may have been a factor in the circumstances surrounding the arrest, adding that "it is an election year." Both men work for the mayor and council. "These are allegations," he said. "When the truth is brought out in the preliminary hearing, I expect them to be cleared."

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Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Craig said there is no policy that would forbid the men from working at their jobs while awaiting a resolution in the case. Mayor Guy Blakely could not be reached for comment Tuesday. Local prosecutors in Spartanburg said they've forwarded the case to the state attorney general's office to avoid possible conflicts of interest.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches***Julian L. Jackson****(Articles are in reverse chronological order)*

Herald-Journal (SC)

November 29, 1995

Juvenile Prison Fees to Get Scrutiny

Author: Unknown

Gov. David Beasley said Tuesday the state will re-evaluate the amount it charges local governments for housing juvenile inmates at state facilities. Beasley, in Spartanburg for a "Putting Families First" celebration at Bethlehem Community Center, was responding to reports that the Department of Juvenile Justice realized a \$1.5 million profit on Beasley promotes families campaign housing fees, while local governments are struggling to pay the state for housing juveniles. "I think there is a legitimate concern there, and I've already talked to a couple (of local officials) and told them we were committed to working through this problem," Beasley said. He said a task force of state and local officials will determine whether the state should lower its \$110 per day charge for housing juveniles. The task force also has been charged with making broader recommendations for improving the juvenile justice system. "There's no ifs, ands or buts about it," Beasley said. "Fundamental will be a re-evaluation of the charges imposed by the state. One of the charges of the task force will be to evaluate this cost differential, these questions, and how we can improve the juvenile justice system at both the state and local level." The per-day charges have hit the town of Woodruff especially hard. Woodruff has amassed a \$41,000 bill for housing three juveniles who beat to death Woodruff teen-ager Kimberly Dawn Hughes in May. The three girls are awaiting sentencing.

Woodruff City Manager **Julian Jackson** said the town considers the charges excessive and does not intend to pay them, especially after learning that the state is profiting from the housing fees. He said the \$41,000 bill would break the town's \$560,000 police budget. "This is definitely a deal-breaker," **Jackson** said. "I think with DJJ showing that \$1.5 million surplus, it's going to be hard for them to collect this money from us." The towns of Pacolet and Cowpens also do not intend to pay their DJJ housing bills in protest to the charges, according to town officials. "It needs to be challenged," said Cowpens Police Chief C. Wayne Butler, who is president of the Spartanburg County Police Chiefs Association. "At the rate they are charging us, sure the state is making money." Butler said the cost of housing juvenile inmates, who cannot be kept in the same facility with adults according to federal law, should fall on the state or the county.

The General Assembly extended the charges to municipalities this year by making the arresting jurisdiction responsible for housing costs. But counties are upset about the charges. Spartanburg County racked up \$109,000 in charges last fiscal year, and \$15,000 during the first two months of the 1996 fiscal year. County Councilman Danny Allen, who chairs the county's Criminal Justice Committee, said the state should shoulder the cost of housing juveniles and providing the specialized education and counseling required by federal law. "It's a state function and it ought to be provided anyway," he said. He said the state should build more regional juvenile detention centers to at least decrease the cost of transporting juveniles to Columbia. Beasley said his task force is looking at the possibility of building more regional centers, such as the one scheduled to open in Union in 1997.

Internet – Newspaper Archives Searches

Julian L. Jackson

(Articles are in reverse chronological order)

Herald-Journal (SC)

June 28, 1995

Woodruff Housing Officials Kill Threat to Withhold Fee

Author: Unknown

Housing Authority commissioners backed down from threatening not to pay its annual city fee after being assured that police and garbage problems in the Kelly Acres neighborhood would be reviewed. Following a series of letters between commissioners and the city, officials from both sides met Tuesday to discuss the housing board's refusal to make its \$5,250 payment to cover local services for the 100-unit apartment complex. William Walsh, the authority's attorney, listed tenant complaints of overflowing garbage Dumpsters, potholes in the streets and inadequate police protection in the federally subsidized apartments. "In the past, it seems things went a little smoother," Walsh said. "We're concerned enough that we have to make an issue of it."

Betty Hunt, the authority's executive director who oversees the neighborhood's 350 residents, said crime is her biggest concern because a less-than-year-old police substation in the neighborhood is rarely used and officers are not responding to tenants' phone calls. "The bottom line is we need help," Hunt said. "We want the Housing Authority to be a part of Woodruff that is growing and good." City Manager **Julian Jackson** said he will help but lacks specific incidents related to problems with the police or the use of its substation. "If I don't know the situation exists, I don't know how to go about fixing the situation," **Jackson** said, adding that he would consider a tenant meeting with him and the police chief.

But aside from garbage pickup, **Jackson** said the county and state commissioners are responsible for many of the commissioners' other concerns, including cutting the grass near the neighborhood and repairing streets. "We hope the best results will come out of this," said Ivy Durrah, Housing Authority commission chairman.

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