



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Agenda Nominating and Rules Committee

Monday, February 8, 2021

5:00 PM

Municipal Center

Special Called Meeting

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-21:006](#) Minutes for the Nominating and Rules Committee Meeting on January 19, 2021.

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

4. New Business

[RES-21:018](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER WHICH INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENTS

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

[RES-21:029](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

5. Pending Items

[ORD-20:027](#) AN ORDINANCE TO PERMIT THE SELECTION OF THE POSITION 1 COUNCIL MEMBER FROM EACH WARD TO BE VOTED ON BY ONLY THE CITIZENS OF THE WARD IN WHICH THEY SERVE

Sponsors: LJ Bryant

Attachments: [Casteel Email 07262020](#)
[Casteel 07262020](#)
[Dougan 07272020](#)
[craill 07282020](#)
[Ivener email 08042020](#)
[Pradeep email 08042020](#)
[Taylor email 08042020](#)
[Radin email 08042020](#)
[Pradeep 2 email 08042020](#)
[Citizen Comments on Ward Voting](#)
[Bryant Amendment 01192021](#)

Legislative History

7/28/20	Nominating and Rules Committee	Recommended to Council
8/4/20	City Council	Postponed Temporarily
1/19/21	City Council	Referred

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment



City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	MIN-21:006	Version:	1	Name:	Minutes for the Nominating and Rules Committee Meeting on January 19, 2021.
Type:	Minutes	Status:		Status:	To Be Introduced
File created:	1/20/2021	In control:		In control:	Nominating and Rules Committee
On agenda:		Final action:		Final action:	
Title:	Minutes for the Nominating and Rules Committee Meeting on January 19, 2021.				
Sponsors:					
Indexes:					
Code sections:					
Attachments:	Minutes				

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Minutes for the Nominating and Rules Committee Meeting on January 19, 2021.



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Nominating and Rules Committee

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

5:15 PM

Municipal Center

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

ELECTION OF A CHAIR

Councilmember Chris Moore nominated Chris Gibson for chair of the Nominating & Rules Committee and was seconded by Dr. Charles Coleman. All that were present voted Aye

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

Mayor Harold Copenhaver was in attendance

Present 4 - Chris Gibson; Chris Moore; Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

Absent 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-20:116](#)

Minutes for the Nominating & Rules Committee meeting on December 8, 2020.

Attachments: [MINUTES](#)

A motion was made by Chair Chris Moore, seconded by Chair Charles Coleman, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Chris Moore; Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

Abstain: 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson

4. New Business

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

[COM-21:008](#)

2021 City Council Committee Membership Selection

Attachments: [Code of Ordinances Sec2-95](#)
 [Council Committees 2020](#)
 [Proposed 2021 Committees](#)

7. Public Comments

Councilmember Chris Moore said to Chairman Chris Gibson, while we are waiting for public comment. I obviously missed item 4, new business. I just wanted to mention that I submitted a couple of items to City Attorney, Carol Duncan for review, I asked her to add them to her list to bring forward to you to present to this committee. Chairman Chris Gibson said okay and thank you Councilmember Chris Moore.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, called in and suggested we put more money in with the IT Department to make sure that the public meetings run the right way if the meetings have to continue the current way. Chairman Chris Gibson spoke and told Patti Lack that he plans on to write this change over at the end of the year into the rules and present it to the committee. Patti Lack explained she knew that there was money in the COVID-CARES ACT grant that Community Director Regina Burkett was working on, we had talked about that before at the end of last year. I think that we really need to do this if this is the way that meetings are going to be handled.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chair Chris Moore, seconded by Chair Charles Coleman, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 3 - Chris Moore; Charles Coleman and Brian Emison

Abstain: 2 - Ann Williams and Charles Frierson



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	RES-21:018	Version:	1	Name:	MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER WHICH INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENTS
Type:	Resolution	Status:			To Be Introduced
File created:	1/25/2021	In control:			Nominating and Rules Committee
On agenda:		Final action:			
Title:	RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER WHICH INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENTS				
Sponsors:	Mayor's Office				
Indexes:	Appointment/Reappointment				
Code sections:					
Attachments:					

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER WHICH INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENTS

WHEREAS, the following appointments have been recommended by Mayor Harold Copenhaver to fill a vacant Board of Zoning Adjustments three year term expiring May 7, 2022

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, that the following appointment be confirmed:

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENTS

Appointment of Casey Caples to complete a three year term expiring May 7, 2022.



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	RES-21:029	Version:	1	Name:	MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER
Type:	Resolution	Status:			To Be Introduced
File created:	2/3/2021	In control:			Nominating and Rules Committee
On agenda:		Final action:			
Title:	RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER				
Sponsors:	Mayor's Office				
Indexes:	Appointment/Reappointment				
Code sections:					
Attachments:					

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

WHEREAS, the following appointments/reappointments have been recommended by Mayor Harold Copenhaver.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, that the following appointments/reappointments be confirmed:

CITY WATER AND LIGHT BOARD

Reappointment of Deana Osment (Ward 3 Position) and Lloyd Wofford (Ward 5 Position) to a three year term expiring February 28, 2024



City of Jonesboro

300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	ORD-20:027	Version:	1	Name:	PERMIT THE SELECTION OF THE POSITION 1 COUNCIL MEMBER FROM EACH WARD TO BE VOTED ON BY ONLY THE CITIZENS OF THE WARD IN WHICH THEY SERVE
Type:	Ordinance	Status:			In Committee
File created:	7/21/2020	In control:			Nominating and Rules Committee
On agenda:		Final action:			
Title:	AN ORDINANCE TO PERMIT THE SELECTION OF THE POSITION 1 COUNCIL MEMBER FROM EACH WARD TO BE VOTED ON BY ONLY THE CITIZENS OF THE WARD IN WHICH THEY SERVE				
Sponsors:	LJ Bryant				
Indexes:	Election - general/special				
Code sections:					
Attachments:	Casteel Email 07262020 Casteel 07262020 Dougan 07272020 crail 07282020 Ivener email 08042020 Pradeep email 08042020 Taylor email 08042020 Radin email 08042020 Pradeep 2 email 08042020 Citizen Comments on Ward Voting Bryant Amendment 01192021				

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/19/2021	1	City Council	Referred	Pass
8/4/2020	1	City Council	Postponed Temporarily	Pass
7/28/2020	1	Nominating and Rules Committee	Recommended to Council	Pass

AN ORDINANCE TO PERMIT THE SELECTION OF THE POSITION 1 COUNCIL MEMBER FROM EACH WARD TO BE VOTED ON BY ONLY THE CITIZENS OF THE WARD IN WHICH THEY SERVE

WHEREAS, the City of Jonesboro believes that it would be beneficial to the citizens of each ward to have one councilmember elected solely by the citizens of the ward they represent;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to send this measure to the voters to determine if the Position 1 council seat in each ward should be so elected;

WHEREAS, this shall in no way effect the way the Position 2 council seat is elected; and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council that this change take place with the next regularly scheduled election for the Position 1 seat.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council for the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas that:

SECTION ONE: The provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to approval by a majority of the electors voting on the issue during the General Election to be held on November 3, 2020.

SECTION TWO: The change in how the Position 1 seat is elected shall take place at the next regularly scheduled election for that seat.

SECTION THREE: Per Ark. Code Ann. § 14-43-307(b)(1)(B)(ii) councilmembers running for election for Position 1 shall be elected solely by the citizens of their ward.

SECTION FOUR: All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION FIVE: Should any part or portion of this ordinance be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such invalidity as may be found shall not affect any other part or portion hereof.

-----Original Message-----

From: Judy Casteel <fairydogmom12@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 7:20 PM

To: Larry J. Bryant <LBryant@jonesboro.org>

Cc: Donna Jackson <DJackson@jonesboro.org>; April Leggett <ALeggett@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Proposed ord. 20:027 & ord. 20:28

Hi LJ—

I wanted to personally thank you for proposing the above ordinances regarding voting for one council member by ward & the addition to November election. This is similar to something I have felt was only fair for a very long time. Bravo! I will voice my support of both proposals to full council.

Thank you, LJ, for your continued work for the betterment of our city. To have voices such as yours makes me confident in Jonesboro's future.

Warmest Regards,
Judy Casteel

-----Original Message-----

From: Judy Casteel <fairydogmom12@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 9:55 PM

To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>

Cc: April Leggett <ALeggett@jonesboro.org>; Donna Jackson <DJackson@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Proposed ordinances

Dear Council Members,

I write in favor of Councilman Bryant's proposed ordinances as I have long believed such a 'by ward' proposal is the most equitable for those in a given ward. It is my opinion that a hybrid approach is sound & I sincerely hope you see the merit in this. I, for one, strongly support both proposals.

Thank you all for your time & all you do for our city.

Warmly,

Judy Casteel

-----Original Message-----

From: MICHAEL B. DOUGAN <mdougan@astate.edu>

Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 1:50 PM

To: Council Coments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>

Subject: At large elections

The history of this at-large practice is rooted in Racism but also serves to deny the local residents an interest in local politics. A long history of the Neglected North Side of Town repeatedly shows this.

Michael B. Dougan

Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus Arkansas State University

From: Patty Crail <crailpatty@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Council Coments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>
Subject: Ordinance-20:027

PLEASE VOTE YES ON THIS ORDINANCE

-----Original Message-----

From: Loren <loreni@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 11:45 AM

To: Council Coments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>

Subject: 20:027

Please vote. YES on 20:027

Thank you

Loren Ivener

323=Watertree Drive

Sent from Loren's iPad

-----Original Message-----

From: Pradeep Mishra <pmishra@astate.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 1:29 PM

To: Council Coments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Vote tonight

Please vote "Yes" for the Ordinance 20:027.

Thanks

PM

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Christina Taylor <ctchristinataylor@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 3:05 PM
To: Council Coments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>
Subject: Vote

Vote yes in Ord 20:027

Only behalf of The Taylor Family 5000 Prospect Rd Jonesboro AR. We vote in this house. There are 3 registered voters and we stand for inclusion, equality and representation of of this city by council members who look like our community. There is 1 woman on the council and one person of color. Jonesboro is a diverse city. We need diverse representation.
Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: David Radin <davidnradin@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 4:53 PM

To: Council Coments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Ord 20:027, 20:028

I wish to communicate my support for Ord - 20:027 and/or Ord - 20:028 which are up for consideration at this evening's Council meeting. Other cities the size of Jonesboro across the country have adopted a fair distribution of minority representation within the larger context of the city as a whole. Jonesboro needs to do this as well to be seen as a business and people friendly city and adopting these Ords will support this vision.

As a technology business owner and resident of Jonesboro for almost two decades I fully support adoption of this new representation plan.

Thank you,

David Radin

Managing Director

BioStrategies LC

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Pradeep Mishra <pmishra@astate.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 5:19 PM

To: Council Coments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Vote tonight

Please vote "Yes" for the Ordinance 20:027

Sent from my iPhone

From: paul vellozo <vellozo.p@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 5:19 PM

To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Elections by ward

Dear Aldermen and Mayor Copenhaver:

I support the ordinance to make city council elections by ward rather than at-large. This makes sense for a number of reasons. It is more fair and less costly for the candidates to run their races. I urge you to support this important ordinance.

Thanks

Paul Vellozo

Jonesboro

-----Original Message-----

From: Austin Zamora <adzamor@icloud.com>

Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:14 AM

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

Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Ward Elections

Mr. Mayor and members of the council-

It is my understanding that ward elections are scheduled for vote during the January 19 city council meeting. Ward elections are important because they insure your vote counts and that democracy prevails at the local level. The at-large system enables someone who was rejected by the people of your ward to go on to represent you, essentially being appointed your representative by people that don't live in your neighborhoods. The at-large system was used in the past to prevent African Americans from gaining representation and it is high time we shelved this left over of that old system, especially as Jonesboro's growth has made at large systems more and more expensive. City council elections should be about ordinary people making sure the concerns of their neighbors are heard at City Hall, not how deep a candidates pockets are or how deep their friends' pockets are. Please consider supporting ward level elections.

Austin Zamora

4004 Cornerstone Drive

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

870-558-8381

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Vardell <KVARDELL@astate.edu>

Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:55 AM

Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Please vote for Ward Elections on Jan 19, 2021

Good morning,

I am asking that you please vote for Ward Elections in the upcoming election on Jan 19. This allows more fair representation of our city.

Thank you very much,
Karen Vardell

From: Rebekah Evans <rebekah.laurel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>
Subject: Ward Elections ordinance

Dear Council Members,
I strongly **support the proposal** to make half the seats on city council elected by ward rather than elected at-large.

More people will be able to participate in city government if some of our seats are elected only by their ward. Our city is growing rapidly, and it should not be cost-prohibitive to run for City Council. A ward election system will make sure that everyone has access to the democratic process.

Ward elections will protect our votes by ensuring that the person elected is actually the choice of the people of the ward he or she represents.

At-large city council elections are remnants of the segregation era, and it's time for Jonesboro to move forward with policies that benefit all the people of Jonesboro.

Thank you all for your service to our community.
Sincerely,
Rebekah Evans
Charleston Drive
Jonesboro

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Tedder <lltedder@suddenlink.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 4:40 PM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>
Subject: Proposed ordinance for city council to be elected by ward

Dear Aldermen and Mayor Copenhaver;

I am writing to ask that you support the ordinance to elect city council members by ward. I feel it makes it too costly for some to run for office if they have to run a city wide campaign. Candidates should live in

the area they represent as well to better understand the issues facing each area and to better know his or her constituents.

Thank you,
Lisa Tedder
Registered voter, Jonesboro

From: Barry Tedder <btedder@suddenlink.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 7:01 PM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>
Subject: City counsel proposal on elections

Dear Aldermen and Mayor Copenhaver;

I strongly support the proposal to make half the seats on city council elected by ward rather than elected at-large.

More people will be able to participate in city government if some of our seats are elected only by their ward. Our city is growing rapidly, and it should not be cost-prohibitive to run for City Council. A ward election system will make sure that everyone has access to the democratic process.

Ward elections will protect our votes by ensuring that the person elected is actually the choice of the people of the ward he or she represents.

At-large city council elections are remnants of the segregation era, and it's time for Jonesboro to move forward with policies that benefit all the people of Jonesboro. Thank you all for your service to our community.

Barry Tedder, M.D.

From: S Williams <sewilliams2004@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:16 PM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>
Subject: Ward voting

I am a resident of south Jonesboro on Latourette Lane.

I'm writing to request that the city hold ward elections instead of at-large elections for city council.

The at-large system means someone can lose their local ward but still be elected to represent people of that ward because of voters who don't live there.

City council races should be about neighbors representing neighbors and doing what's best for each other. People's interests are better served by council members from the ward representing their ward.

Thank you for your time.

Sara Williams

From: paul vellozo <vellozo.p@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:32 AM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>
Subject: Ward elections

Dear Aldermen: Please vote to change the city council election to voting by ward. Please don't postpone this important change for any reason. It is long overdue and beneficial for all the citizens.

Thanks

Pail Vellozo
Jonesboro

From: Danyelle H <danyellehutton@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:43 AM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>
Subject: Ward elections

It is my understanding that ward elections and whether or not to have them is coming up for a vote this week. I want to voice my support of ward elections. The way I see it ward elections are important because this is a person from their neighborhood who is more in touch with the people and needs of those who live in that area than say an at-large position who is less in touch, if at all. City Council positions should be about making sure all the voices of each community are heard and represented.

Danyelle Hutton

From: Rebekah Diehl <rebekah.diehl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 9:14 AM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>
Subject: Ward Elections

Dear Council Members,

I strongly support and ask you to support as well the proposal to make half the seats on city council elected by ward. Our current process of city council elections is the direct result of racism and a holdover from the segregation era. We can be better than that.

More people will be engaged in local politics if they are able to vote for their own ward representative. Those elected should be chosen by the people of the ward they represent.

Thank you for your time and service. Support this proposal so that all in our community may benefit.

Rebekah Diehl

From: Renay! <bottle.of.shine@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>
Subject: Fwd: Support for Ordinance 20-027

Hello, City Council!

I'm forwarding the same email I sent last summer about this ordinance to renew my support for this change. Expanding democracy, which this ordinance will help achieve, is always a good decision. Please support this ordinance.

Renay Williams
Bunker Hill

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Renay! <bottle.of.shine@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 27, 2020 at 3:34 PM
Subject: Support for Ordinance 20-027
To: <aldermen@jonesboro.org>

Hello, City Council!

I'm writing to express support for the ordinance to switch position one council seats from at-large elections to ward elections and sending the issue to the voters. At-large voting systems can dilute the votes of minority and marginalized residents, and a hybrid system will redress some of those issues, as well as make running for local office more accessible for those without generational wealth/social capital to run campaigns in their communities. This is a good move to make community politics more welcoming and relevant for all Jonesboro residents.

Thanks,
Renay Williams
Bunker Hill

From: Alison Burton <alisonb@bartelslawfirm.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver

<HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Ward Voting

Good afternoon gentlemen and women,

I would like to voice my support for Mr. Bryant's proposal that we switch to ward style voting and that this measure be taken up at your next meeting. I believe that his proposal would bring better representation for the people of Jonesboro. To the best of my knowledge this was proposed sometime back in summer of 2020 and has not received a vote yet. Instead of just putting it off another six months or so, take up the issue, take a stand and record your votes for the people that you represent. I have lived in Jonesboro for over 20 years and I am a voting constituent. Thank you very much for your time in reading this and have a great day.

Alison Burton

From: EMMA Agnew <williamsemma62@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 2:06 PM

To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>

Subject: By-Ward Voting

Gentleman and Lady:

As always, thank you for your service and commitment to the citizens of Jonesboro; and thank you for placing By-Ward voting on the agenda.

I can not impress upon you how difficult it is for those of us with limited funds to run a successful political campaign. It is equally important that ALL citizens have equal representation and the ability to easily contact their representatives.

So as we begin a new year, I encourage you to view by-ward voting with an open heart and open mind.

VOTE YES for by-ward voting.

Emma Agnew

From: Zachariah Carlson <zachariah.carlson@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 5:53 PM

To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>

Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Please support ORD-20:027

Hello,

I'd like to just add my voice in support of ORD-20:027. Communities thrive when civic engagement is high, and permitting at least one seat for each ward to be selected exclusively by

the people of that ward will encourage a sense of buy-in that may not currently exist. Now that we're past the 2020 election cycle, I hope the council gives this serious consideration so that if passed, it can be well communicated and prepared for by the next election.

Thanks,

Zachariah Carlson
Bunker Hill Road

From: Aaron Carroll <aaronw.carroll@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 7:30 PM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>
Subject: ORD20027: Vote Yes

As someone that works within the city, shops in it, and was born and raised in and around it, I wholeheartedly support this ordinance. I ask that you vote YES in support of ORD20027.

Having a representative style government only works when the officials are selected by those they represent, not external parties.

Thanks,

Aaron W. Carroll, MPH, CPhT
Hwy 349, Jonesboro, AR 72404

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathryn Burns <kburns@astate.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:47 AM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>
Subject: city council election by ward

Dear Council Members,

I would like to voice my support for the proposal to make half the seats on city council elected by ward. For the longest time this is how I thought these elections were held, as it makes sense to me. I feel like people in a ward should be represented by someone of their choosing. In some of the wards, people who have more money for campaigning will get elected rather than someone without the means. Or many people may not even try to run as they know they don't have the funds to compete with someone with a bigger budget. So, I kindly ask that you consider supporting this proposal.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Kathryn Burns
Jonesboro, AR

-----Original Message-----

From: Loren Ivener <loreniv@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:44 AM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>
Subject: Hybrid system

Please support the hybrid system of electing the City Council. Thank you.

Loren Ivener
313 Watertree Drive
Jonesboro 72401

From: Robin S Kuykendall <robin@kuykendalladvocates.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:09 PM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>
Cc: Muhammad Asad Khan <asad337@gmail.com>; EMMA Agnew <williamsemma62@gmail.com>
Subject: Council representation at issue

To Our Faithful and Respected Representatives, One and All,

I understand that the Rules Committee today takes up a proposed change in council election structure, from all seats elected at large, to one seat designated per ward and all the rest at large. (Please forgive the simplified explanation, but it clears my brain door.)

This change is in the right direction, should the Council want to build more and better transparency and accountability to voters into its deliberations and actions. And, why shouldn't it?? I hope that's the direction the Council decides to go. I believe that many of our past public disputes could have been avoided with these more direct lines to the affected constituents. Dispute will not be stifled by unfairness and secrecy. That is a time-tested recipe for explosive dispute resolution practices, where everyone loses.

Further, I've heard no good reason to make a by-ward voting decision depend on 2020 census results. The decision to restructure the Council could and should be made independently of voting lines, whether current or to be drawn in the future. It is possible to use existing lines according to current population and then adjust as necessary, later, with 2020 demographics.

If there is an inclination to delay action on this proposal until after 2020 census results are received, then I would raise the question of deliberate intent to gerrymander one or two districts into a perpetual, corruptible minority. Our current system already cements within it the unsolved problem of underrepresented minorities. It would be foolhardy, indeed, to exacerbate that problem with gerrymandered districts, drawn to give our black population "their" one or two seats out of 12 or 14.

We need to be mindful that our surrounding Craighead County stands with open arms to take in disaffected people of all races, especially white people, leaving Jonesboro with the prospect of more abandoned buildings, fewer productive taxpayers, alienation of our major brain trust (A-State), and even more disgruntled residents left to survive on criminal enterprise.

For a nearby case in point, please examine the lengthy demise of growth and safety in Blytheville, Arkansas. That decline was not "because black people took over", but because industry and huge military resources abandoned and the community was not prepared to educate, accept, and incorporate the actual population contained in the limits. With all the benefits of modern infrastructure (major river port, interstate highway artery, rail lines, world class airport), the city failed to develop its human potential, making all the best infrastructure in the world a relative wasteland. As of this writing, the corruption in city government is so pervasive that one councilman reported on the last meeting:

"January Council Committee Notes:

- New vehicle purchases for Code Enforcement and Animal Control in spite of concerns of the effectiveness of either department.

- CARES Act usage:

1. \$1,000 to every full-time city employee, \$500 to part-timers

2. Allocated \$80,000 for the mayor to buy a building that we don't need

- Failure of our police department to shut down businesses operating without licenses or tax IDs (costing city and state revenue)

- Discussion on the police department's 'take-home vehicle' policy and a refusal by the chief to provide any substantial evidence as to how it could possibly save money for city vehicles to be used both for work and personally

As always, please feel free to call, text, or email me with questions or concerns.

(870) 278-4034

mattperrinforblytheville@gmail.com"

That could be our future, if we continue to tamp down fair representation and favor extractive economic practices that leave the city with ever-declining financial and labor resources. I urge you to enact the political structures needed to help this community to continue to come together, to continue to invest in strong human assets lying unused within our own

yard. If the majority will share instead of hoard, I believe that God has promised to abundantly bless us all.

Sincerely,

Robin S. Kuykendall, JD
Advocate & Educate, LLC
(870) 918-3431
565 Virginia Avenue
New Madrid, Mo 63869
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Tenn. BPR No. 019463; MoBar #69817; not licensed in Arkansas
Hours by appointment only, night or day

From: Ashleigh Givens <ashleigh.givens@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:30 PM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>
Subject: city council representation

Dear Council Members:

I strongly support the proposal to have half of our council be elected by ward. I am so pleased to see you are considering this shift.

Election by ward will allow more participation by citizens with strong ties to their own neighborhoods, which will make the council a true representation of Jonesboro's diverse community. Candidates will have the freedom to campaign well in their own wards, with less expense and much more face-to-face engagement, both during election and once in office.

This system would be very similar to school board zones, which has proven to be an effective way to bring a variety of voices to the table for decision-making and oversight.

Jonesboro citizens in every corner of the city care deeply about this community, and moving to this new election format would allow them more voice. It will take engaging all of us to move Jonesboro into a bright future.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ashleigh Givens

From: Shunqetta Cunningham <shunqettacunningham@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 5:35 PM

To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Move Forward with the Ward Vote

Good evening City leaders,

It is my highest hope that the city council pass to make council elections by ward with Position 1. This hybrid voting measure will provide more direct representation for our citizens and protect the integrity of the entire community. Please move forward with the vote tonight. Thank you.

Living To Impact,
Shunqetta Cunningham
PO Box 16855
Jonesboro, AR 72403

From: paul vellozo <vellozo.p@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:24 PM

To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Ward elections.

Aldermen: I watched the council meeting and was puzzled and disappointed. This important issue was postponed 6 months. I do not understand why in the intervening 6 months the questions were not resolved so you all could go ahead and vote on the issue. It seems like this could have been prepared better.

I would urge the council to resolve the outstanding questions so that we can put this important issue to the voters.

Disappointed in you all.

Paul Vellozo
Jonesboro

From: Robin S Kuykendall <robin@kuykendalladvocates.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:23 PM

To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>

Subject: Council elections & wards

Dear City Council, One and All,

I respect Mr. Bryant's attempt at a save of the modest, already-compromised by-ward election proposal, but we have no need for even more confusion with swaps or deferred implementation if we can avoid it. The city government is somewhat famous for forgetting what was so calmly agreed in the recent or distant past, which should give us pause from adding further obscurity to the issues.

I am disappointed to learn that some of you (remember, all of you represent every resident, a dubious assignment, at best) do not seem particularly fazed by the foreseeable possibilities of corruption that gerrymandering and constituent rigging bring with them. Perhaps it is time to begin a current corruption inventory of all sitting Council members, before the problem grows beyond control. Which Council members fatten on government funded projects, especially federally funded programs, while claiming to constituents that "government is the problem" and, "your taxes are too high"? I hope these Council members are not the ones who obstruct by-ward voting, but I have those fears. We are all beginning to wonder.

I fervently request that the proposal make expeditious headway through your chamber. Citizens deserve governmental transparency and accountability. Jonesboro's mercantile and industrial growth demand a more forward-looking, inclusive form of government, as well.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Robin S. Kuykendall
(870) 918-3431
1408 Market Place Drive, No. 8
Jonesboro, AR 72401

January 25, 2021

Gentleman and Lady:

I was deeply disappointed in the way which the By-Ward Voting issue was handled at the January 19th meeting. The issue was poorly orchestrated and left me feeling as if the council was not sure how to move this issue forward.

I have been a proponent of By-Ward voting for years and I am pleased to see the Council taking up this matter of equal representation for all Jonesboro citizens. However, this issue has been passed by the Nominating and Rules Committee once and I see no need to send it back through the committee to change the By-Ward Position from Position 1 to Position 2.

I hope you will move forward with this Ordinance 'as is' with the First Reading on February 2.

Sincerely,
Emma Agnew

From: Danyelle H <danyellehutton@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 7:11 AM

To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>
Subject: Support ward elections

It is my understanding that ward elections and whether or not to have them is coming before the Rules and Nominations Committee this week. I want to, once again, voice my support of ward elections. The way I see it ward elections are important because this is a person from their neighborhood who is more in touch with the people and needs of those who live in that area than say an at-large position who is less in touch, if at all. City Council positions should be about making sure all the voices of each community are heard and represented.

Danyelle Hutton

From: Timothy Oliver <toliver.11471@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Larry Bryant <LJ@ljbryant.com>
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>
Subject: ORD-20:027

Members of the Nominating and Rules Committee and the Jonesboro City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback on ORD-20:027. I strongly support this ordinance. After reviewing my fellow citizens' available emails and comments, I don't believe I have anything new to contribute. I would like to state that it seems very logical, based on other representative government models, that Jonesboro citizens within each ward should have the opportunity to vote exclusively for candidates who will represent their specific ward.

Thank you for considering this input and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Timothy Oliver
Ward 3

April Leggett

From: LJ Bryant <ljbryant.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 5:10 PM
To: Carol Duncan; April Leggett
Subject: Amendment for tonight

I'll propose this amendment and that we go back to first reading since it's a change

AN ORDINANCE TO PERMIT THE SELECTION OF THE POSITION 1 COUNCIL MEMBER FROM EACH WARD TO BE VOTED ON BY ONLY THE CITIZENS OF THE WARD IN WHICH THEY SERVE WHEREAS, the City of Jonesboro believes that it would be beneficial to the citizens of each ward to have one councilmember elected solely by the citizens of the ward they represent;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council to send this measure to the voters to determine if the Position ~~1~~ **2** council seat in each ward should be so elected; WHEREAS, this shall in no way effect the way the Position ~~2~~ **1** council seat is elected; and, WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council that this change take place with the next regularly scheduled election for the Position ~~1~~ **2** seat.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council for the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas that: SECTION ONE: The provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to approval by a majority of the electors voting on the issue during the General Election to be held on ~~November 3, 2020.~~ **November 8, 2022**

SECTION TWO: The change in how the Position ~~1~~ **2** seat is elected shall take place at the next regularly scheduled election for that seat.

SECTION THREE: Per Ark. Code Ann. § 14-43-307(b)(1)(B)(ii) councilmembers running for election for Position ~~1~~ **2** shall be elected solely by the citizens of their ward.

SECTION FOUR: All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION FIVE: Should any part or portion of this ordinance be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such invalidity as may be found shall not affect any other part or portion hereof.

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My Assistant is Sandra (assistant@ljbryant.com 870-776-8911)

<http://www.facebook.com/bryantlj>

Vice President CB Winter Haven Inc

Sales Agent Coldwell Banker Village Communities of Jonesboro

Member Jonesboro City Council Ward 5 Position 1

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