



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR PERRIN AT 5:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent 1 - Chris Gibson

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-19:033](#)

TEAM JONESBORO PRESENTATION BY SCOTT MCDANIEL

Mayor Harold Perrin said we're delighted to have Team Jonesboro with us tonight to make a presentation. After that, I'm sure they will be looking for a sponsor to take this legislation to the appropriate committee, which will be the Finance and Administration Committee. If approved by the Finance Committee, it will then go to the City Council. There will be three separate readings at City Council, as well as several public hearings throughout Jonesboro during this period of time, if it gets on the ballot. So, tonight we are just going to listen to the presentation and then there will be plenty of time for questions and answers, particularly during the Finance committee meeting, as well as three separate individual City Council meetings and several public hearings.

Mr. Scott McDaniel of Team Jonesboro said I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you all today and hope you all don't mind that I invited some friends. What kind of community do you want? That's our question. It's really simple. What kind of community do you want? Wherever we start with that, we always ask ourselves who have we lost. In more intimate settings, I would start naming names. I will not do that today, but I would like you all to pause for a second and think about the friends and family members that you all know that have left this town. There was a Bloomberg article that listed our city as the seventh in the nation for "brain drain." Are your kids going to stay here? Are your grandkids going to stay here? What are we if they leave? My kid is not staying here. She told me she was going to Fayetteville. She's twelve. I think those people who have left us have sold our city short. I think they abandoned Team Jonesboro just a tad too soon and I say that because I know this town and I know these people. We are a great town. We did not get to this point by chance, but by choice. We got here because of moments like today that happened before when

people got together and decided to make a decision to plan for the future. That industrial park did not just happen. Councilmember Gene Vance's father helped with that. In moments just like this, a decision was made and action was taken. I believe in this city. I will fight for this city. I believe the people who have left us have left us too soon. I believe the people who are considering leaving are making a poor choice. This is not a problem of vision. It is a problem of funding. We are the lowest sales tax in the State of Arkansas. We have no prepared food tax. We have no sanitation fee. We have no impact fee. We are anywhere between 82 and 84 square miles. That makes us second in terms of geography only to North Little Rock, and we are the least dense. We are expected to do more with much less. So, if you want to know why we don't have the cool things other cities have, that's your answer. We can't afford it. In terms of a metaphor, if you want to look for one, we are that family that can afford to keep the lights on, but cannot afford to go out to eat, and you had better hope Little Johnny doesn't fall and break his arm. That's who we are, but that's not who we have to be. It is a choice. We do not have to have an 8.5% sales tax. We can increase our sales tax by 1% and still be incredibly competitive with everybody else in the state.

Why a sales tax? Think about what runs the city. There are a lot of different options. One thing about sales tax that the others don't have is a lot of it comes from other places. Why should we bear all of the burden when we can let other cities that come here every day shoulder this burden. It's also a choice. It's a property tax or something like that. It's imposed upon it. You choose to pay a sales tax. It also happens to raise the most revenue. So, a group of us came together. When did you on the City Council see the ordinance? Saturday when I emailed it? Mayor, about two weeks ago? This is not a top down affair. This is a ground up affair. Our movement hired a lawyer, who is the best in the state, to write these ordinances. We spent \$25,000 of our own money to do that. We wanted to create a dedicated funding source for, both, safety and quality of life because you cannot decouple those things. They are the same. We wanted to create a system where there was transparency and competitiveness, and how those products were selected and how they were funded. Our ordinance is a 1% sales tax. One-half is dedicated to police and fire and one-half is dedicated to constructing quality of life infrastructure. That second part also comes with an oversight council. I will not read this to you all. I will say that there are a handful of things that you need to pick up here. One, what you'll see is that it can only be used on new things, more or less. You can fix up old stuff, too, but it has to be capital improvements and the staffing, operation, and maintenance, thereof. That makes us incredibly tight. That makes it to where nobody can take it. It can only be spent on the things it's supposed to be spent for, and nothing else.

These headlines are real. How many of you are tired of waking up and seeing these headlines. How many woke up on New Year's Day and saw those headlines and then two days later, there's another shooting. Then you find out that that person was attached to a shooting that happened the previous year. Then that person is finally arrested. He goes to jail and, allegedly, kills someone while he's there. You're kidding yourself if you don't think that we are facing a different type of crime in this city. You all have done a fantastic job of fighting it, but what could you do if you had the proper resources, if you had things like SkyCops, which are cameras mounted on platforms, or if you had a larger police force. I was talking to Chief Rick Elliott and he said he would hire a handful of new detectives if he had desks. When I moved here out of college in 2000, at that point in time, my understanding was that the trusses at the Justice Complex were delaminating. I know we fixed them structurally, but I also know that at that point in time the building had seen the end of its life cycle. Does it have enough space? No. It does not have enough space. What could we do if we properly funded our police force? I don't know much about policing. I am not a police officer. I

do know that revenue solves a lot of problems and you cannot beat crime without resources. I do know that. Right now, the fire department has the lowest ISO available. Talk to your employees in that department and they will tell you that that is short lived if we do not build new fire stations. In the next five years, we need two fire departments. Those cost money. You have to build them, equip them, staff them, and train the employees. There needs to be a revenue source for that to happen. This tax does that.

On the quality of life side, we broke it into categories. We didn't want to fund one project. This is bigger than an aquatic center. We all want an aquatic center. This is bigger than that. It's bigger than trails. It's a transformation. The categories we picked are arts, aquatics, beautification, libraries, museums, park facilities, recreation facilities, sidewalks, and trail systems. The money can go nowhere else. We set up a committee or oversight council. The purpose of the oversight council is to vet these projects. I neglected to say that we have a 12-year sunset in this ordinance. We do believe all these needs can be met over a 12-year period, but they cannot be met all at once. There needs to be a process in place to vet projects. So, we set up an oversight council. The way this ordinance is currently written you have two councilmembers, six people from the community, and one at large, which is currently the chair of the Advertising and Promotion Commission, A&P. We believe this oversight council is the key to everything. Don't think that we're trying to take any power away from you because we're not. Think of this as more at the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission, MAPC, level. This is the group on the ground that works very hard to make sure the projects are funded properly, budgeted properly, and that the projects are a success. This is a workhorse committee. Without question, it's a workhorse committee, and it's designed to be automatically transparent. By putting two councilmembers on there, the media has to be there every single time. We don't want to hide anything. By setting up a method of competition, you're going to have demand that outweighs the resources. They will force organizations to compete for project funding. We want open criteria that the committee will be in charge of setting, but I want that committee set before this goes to ballot. I want this committee set before the second reading. That way, the voters know who these people are. It's crucial. This is not about being secret. This is not a smoky room. This is a grassroots movement. Transparency is going to be the key, without question. So, that is kind of the vision of this committee.

The key features of our package is that funding will be restricted to new projects. We're not looking to fund raises. We're looking to fund our growth as a city. It's restricted. It can only be used for what's named in the ballot title, nothing else. It will include a 12-year sunset. We aren't looking to create a forever tax. We believe that over a 12-year period we can construct the facilities that are needed to create long-term growth within the city and to meet our immediate needs. Our package is transparent, fair and competitive. We will leverage the power of competition to create engagement that does not exist right now in this city. That's my vision. That's Team Jonesboro's vision.

So, I close with the way I opened, which is with a question. What kind of community do you want? Me? I want a community that's a little bit harder to leave and a little bit easier to come back to. I appreciate your time. I have two things to say. I would love for two of you to take this up and to agree to sponsor this and run it through the Finance Committee. We could have done this a different way. We could have ran out and gotten signatures and right now, today, I could be turning in signatures and you all would be putting this on the ballot. That's state law. We went a different direction. Why? Because we want this to be a transparent process from beginning to end. We've

been working on this for two years. We've talked to a lot of people on this. A lot of people helped craft this thing, but not everybody. Now it's time for everybody to look at it. I want to run this through committee and run this through the standard three reading process. If it goes the way I would like for it to, the third reading will be on July 2, and the election will be September 10. That's our wishes. We would appreciate it if you took it up. Secondly, we have handed out cards. When I say this is a grassroots movement, that's not lip service. Anybody is welcome to join us. If you have received a card and you want to join us, please fill it out and place it in the box out there in the corner. We'll absolutely put you to work. Despite what media reports say, I am not the chair of this organization. There is no chair. There is no organization. This is a movement. I happen to be speaking today. If we are successful, there will be hundreds more at various events throughout town. This is the beginning of a conversation. This conversation will last until September 10, hopefully. We are not asking you to support this, although we absolutely welcome it. What we are asking you for is one simple thing to put it on the ballot and let the voters decide. Thank you very much.

Mayor Perrin said thank you, Mr. McDaniel. We appreciate that. It was a great presentation. As he said, there will be many of us working on several public hearings throughout the time between now and September 10.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said as chairmember of the Finance and Administration Committee, I feel like I would like to be one of the sponsors to work with the City Clerk's office and get this on the agenda for next week so we can get the process started. Councilmember Gene Vance said I would like to be Councilmember Hafner's assistant. Mayor Perrin said we will get it on the Finance Committee agenda. Councilmember Charles Frierson asked for all of those in support of this movement to stand. Mayor Perrin said thank you. Thank you Councilmember Frierson.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson John Street, to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motioned PASSED

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

[MIN-19:047](#)

Minutes for the City Council meeting on May 7, 2019.

Attachments: [Minutes 050719](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-19:036](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED AT 703 N PATRICK STREET (TRACT 6), JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A CITY

SIDEWALK

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - Tract 6](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-055-2019

[RES-19:039](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED AT 605 N PATRICK STREET (TRACT 5), JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A CITY SIDEWALK

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - Tract 5](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-056-2019

[RES-19:040](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED AT 601 N PATRICK STREET (TRACT 4), JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A CITY SIDEWALK

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - Tract 4](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-057-2019

[RES-19:041](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR CITY OWNED PROPERTY AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION: CITY OWNED PARK - 737 W. CHERRY A,B,C

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-058-2019

[RES-19:052](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO APPLY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) FOR FY 2019 BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-059-2019

[RES-19:053](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF JONESBORO TO SUBMIT THE FY 2020 OUTDOOR RECREATION MATCHING GRANT APPLICATION

Attachments: [Notice of Funding](#)
 [Project Budget 2019](#)
 [Projected Earl Bell Site Plan](#)
 [Handout from Grants 05142019.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-060-2019

[RES-19:055](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE CROWLEY'S RIDGE PARKWAY: CRAIGHEAD FOREST PARK TRAIL - PHASE III (ARDOT NO. 100919) (2018:31)

Attachments: [Change Order No 1](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-061-2019

[RES-19:058](#)

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 PERRIN WHICH INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENTS

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-062-2019

[RES-19:059](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) DOLLARS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW VAN FOR TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, CHAPTER 26

Attachments: [DAV Van Transportation Request Letter.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-063-2019

6. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-19:060](#)

A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ABANDONING AND VACATING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENTS IN OAKTREE MANOR AS REQUESTED BY GEORGE HAMMAN OF CIVILOGIC ON BEHALF OF T. ABRAHAM & SONS, LLC

Attachments: [petition with signature.pdf](#)
[RECORDED RP 18-31 OAKTREE MANOR OVERALL REPLAT.pdf](#)
[ENGINEERING ABANDONMENT CONCURRENCE.pdf](#)
[ATT ABANDONMENT CONCURRENCE.pdf](#)
[Center Point Utility Easement Release Form.pdf](#)
[CWL ABANDONMENT CONCURRENCE.pdf](#)
[RITTER ABANDONMENT LETTER.pdf](#)
[Suddenlink and Altice Easement Abandonment - Bradley Street - Jonesboro](#)

Mayor Harold Perrin said we will set this public hearing for 5:20 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: R-EN-064-2019

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-19:022](#)

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EXCEPTIONAL SITUATION AND WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR SHOP REPAIRS ON A 2008 MACK 20CY PACKER TRUCK.

Councilmember John Street motioned to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:022 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned to suspend the rules and waive second and third readings, seconded by Councilmember Gene Vance. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Chris Moore, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-031-2019

[ORD-19:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR WATERWHEEL HUNTING CLUB, INC.

Attachments: [ROOTS Waterwheel.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:023 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-19:025](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND AWARDING OF CONTRACTS FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Construction revision 5-1-19-clean.docx](#)
 [Other prof. services 5-1-19.docx](#)
 [Proposed amendment.docx](#)
 [Proposed amendments to ORD-19-025](#)

Councilmember Gene Vance said I would like to propose an amendment to this ordinance before it is read, please. Councilmember Vance said I make a motion that we amend this ordinance. I have given everyone a copy of it. Interim Chief of Staff Roy Ockert could explain it better if you need it, but it's mainly changing some verbiage and making our points system match the state. The motion was seconded by Councilmember John Street. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:025 by title only, seconded by Councilmember Gene Vance. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-19:026](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF A NEW 18 YARD REAR LOAD TRUCK FOR THE SANITATION DEPARTMENT

Attachments: [Heil DuraPack5000 Brochure 1211.pdf](#)
 [Est 3838 from River City Hydraulics Inc. 90636.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:026 by title only, seconded by Councilmember L.J. Bryant. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned to suspend the rules and waive second and third readings, seconded by Councilmember Gene Vance. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked Mayor Harold Perrin to state the emergency. Mayor Perrin said we have several trucks down and we desperately need it. We have gotten behind and are working on Saturday to pick up limbs and other trash. We needed this truck yesterday. Councilmember Moore said thank you.

Councilmember John Street motioned to adopt the emergency clause for ORD-19:026, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner. All voted aye, except Councilmember Chris Gibson, who was absent.

Councilmember Charles Frierson said are we not doing an individual vote on the emergency clause. City Attorney Carol Duncan said I am glad to say that we haven't done an emergency clause in so long that we have kind of forgotten how to do it. The motion was passed by Roll Call Vote.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-032-2019

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-19:019](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 62-40 AND 62-41 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF MODIFYING THE DEFINITIONS TO INCLUDE SHORT TERM RESIDENTIAL BUSINESS RENTALS AND LEVYING A TAX UPON SAID RENTALS

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-19:018](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR 1812 PIZZA COMPANY.

Attachments: [Application_1812 Pizza.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-033-2019

[ORD-19:020](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4801 EAST PARKER ROAD FROM R-1, SINGLE-FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT TO IC-3, GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AS REQUESTED BY RIDGE SURVEYING ON BEHALF OF RUTH CAUBBLE

Attachments: [19151 plat.pdf](#)
 [Application.pdf](#)
 [Staff Summary - Council.pdf](#)
 [Zoning Plat.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Gene Vance, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-034-2019

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Perrin said I did not know how long the presentation would take tonight so I only have a few items. First, I will ask City Attorney Carol Duncan to give us a legal report. Ms. Duncan said each of you should have a copy of a legal report. We used to do these more frequently, but every once in a while, Mayor Perrin and I just want to keep you all advised of where we are. In 2019 to date, in my office, we've had 36 court dates with 1,009 trials. For 2018, there were 2,122 cases with 87 dates. We have 53 cases pending on appeal in Circuit Court. In 2019 to date, we've had 253 affidavits filed by private citizens requesting criminal charges. Total affidavits filed in 2018 were 665, so we're pretty much on par to have about the same or not a few more. There is currently one civil case pending that is being handled by my office and that is City of Jonesboro vs. Kitterman et al., which is for the widening of one of our roads. We actually already got the temporary order allowing us to go forward with the construction. We're just waiting to get the final order. The money has been deposited with the court for the condemnation. It's not hotly contested. It's a situation where the Kitterman's, who owned the property, are deceased and there are heirs and grandkids and they are trying to figure out who gets the money we are paying for the property that we took to widen the streets. We may wait a little bit to get that settled before we go for the final order, but otherwise, that one will be over fairly quickly.

Ms. Duncan said there are 15 cases that are still being handled by Arkansas Public Entities Risk Management Association or APERMA through our previous insurance policy by Bert Newell. These are cases that were either pending prior to us switching to the Arkansas Municipal League, AML, insurance in January, or they were filed after that, but it was for an incident that was under the coverage for the previous year or years prior that they are still obligated on as far as coverage. There are several uncovered cases meaning APERMA does not provide insurance coverage on these, but Mr. Newell had these cases prior to us switching to the AML and some of those we have asked him to stay on under a contract basis to finish. We're hoping many of these will go away before too much longer. Mayor Perrin said we'll keep you updated on these on a frequent basis so that you all will know everything that is going on. Ms. Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, asked if citizens were allowed to have a copy of the legal report. Councilmember Bobby Long said I have an extra.

The Street Department has already striped over 68 miles of highway in town, which is good for safety for our citizens.

I want to personally thank everyone who helped with the Spring Cleanup this year. It was absolutely incredible. We've already had three with the first one on May 4 at Scenic Hills. Ms. Judy Casteel was in charge of that. She is here with us tonight. They did over 1.48 tons in that area, which is incredible. We also used nine employees on that cleanup. The next one was May 11, which was a cleanup that Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman organized for the Northside cleanup. They did 4.31 tons in their area. Then May 18 was the West End cleanup by Mary Ellen Warner and they did 3.23 tons. That is incredible and very successful cleanups in all three parts of our town. We thank you very much and appreciate it very much.

I will be attending a meeting with Senator John Boozman on future I-57 in Walnut Ridge. This will be a meeting with not only Arkansas and ArDOT, but also working with MoDOT or Missouri coming down. They are building this way closer to us and trying to get all their roads to federal standards. As you know, we have it all the way now up to Walnut Ridge designated as future I-57. There has been a deep concentration and

concern, and we're going to try to see if we can get the future taken off and get that to I-57. That will depend on the Federal Highway Administration, but that's what Senator Boozman is doing by having meetings in Arkansas and Missouri.

Frito Lay will be hosting a veterans' appreciation lunch. They have asked me to speak at that on May 29 for all of their employees. They have a lot of veterans they have hired and they want us to give them an update on the Veterans' Village. We will be doing that during lunch and there will be three or four lunches during that time. That is all I put on the agenda for tonight.

Mr. Curtis Montgomery, a retired military officer, said I want to commend you for everybody standing up in favor. I didn't see anyone stand up for anything opposed. I want to make a few comments about the 1% tax. Each of you represent a ward in this city and that is including a lot of people in those wards. The population of Jonesboro is not solely limited to business owners and businesses. It's also the residence of a substantial amount of people. I will commend Mayor Perrin and the Grants Department. I have watched that and you have done a real good job. Here is what I ask you to consider. I ask you to consider the people in your wards. This city has a large number of people on limited and low income, and they're seeing the taxes constantly raised up. You have a lot of retired people and a lot of people on social security. They are living on limited income and income that normally doesn't increase. The taxes have increased in this town. I did go to a local establish when this happened around that time. I bought one item, but when they gave me the receipt, I looked at the total of it. It contained a state and county local tax, mixed drink and liquor tax, and beer/wine tax. I kept looking for the root beer tax. It has a lot of taxes. People have a lot of tax burden. There are businesses who are going to benefit from this. There's some good things in the second part and I think the city has done a good job of taking care of the first part of that proposal, but I want you to remember the people. That's who elected you and that's who you're here to serve. Not the businesses, including the business and including the people. You have to let these people be able to support their families by buying clothes, school supplies, and whatever for their family. Don't squeeze them. You think you have a big problem with crime. Wait until you start squeezing all of these families and wait until you see what they have to do. Consider that when you're looking at it. It's a win, win for businesses, but not all businesses. Some businesses are going to lose business because there are going to be customers that are not going to go to those places. I know McDonald's and Burger King's business might increase, but some of the restaurants and stuff may not. That's what I want you to look at. Do that for your people and consider the people. You're probably saying why do I care because you don't know anything about me. I'm a retired military officer. I handled criminal investigations. I handled counterintelligence information, and I was program manager for logistics support for the logistics command. I was also weapons system development program support for systems command and support for foreign military sales, which includes all things that supported Air Force equipment wherever it was sold. So, you can't just look at one part. It was a great presentation that was made. It was very smart to fill the audience. It's an old trick to somewhat cause intimidation, but I don't think you're intimidated. I think you're smart. I'm not in favor of 1%. Maybe a lower percent. The speaker did show up there that you're going to get a lot of people coming into this area. Over a period of time, maybe you can do what you need to do, but to get all of that at once and to let that set. All these people around here are going to start looking at their pocketbooks, and they don't have that money now to do some things. Piecemeal it. Don't squeeze the apple until it rots. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said thank you sir, and let me just say this as an old veteran, thank you for your service. Mr. Montgomery said thank you for what you're doing for the veterans. They have been forgotten for a long time. Mayor Perrin said thank you very much.

Mr. Zac Baker, 110 W. Huntington Avenue, Suite A, said we were next door because we were prohibited from coming in because we were at capacity and, apparently, we missed our agenda item. I had a question for the City Council. I represent Waterwheel Hunting Club, Inc., or Roots for a private club permit that is in front of the City Council tonight. We're requesting the City Council to waive one of the readings. The reason for this is that the process now for obtaining a private club permit takes approximately four months from start to finish. So, a client comes in and says they have a restaurant, everything is ready to go, and they'd really like to implement this now and I have to tell them best-case scenario is probably four months. The way the time breaks down is there is approximately two weeks getting it to the police department and then getting it on the City Council agenda. Then, three readings approximately two weeks apart. The Alcoholic Beverage Control, ABC, meets once a month and they require their documents to be submitted one a month in advance. So, the process, best-case scenario, takes approximately four months. In the event that this application was approved, that would give us a few days to submit an application to the ABC, in which a local business owner would save approximately one month in getting up and running. I appreciate the City Council approving Bamboo last month, which I represented. I am just requesting that we waive one reading. In preparing for this, I reviewed all the prior meeting minutes for every prior club that has gone before the City Council and I didn't notice any time in which anyone had asked for a waiver of a reading. So, this is a matter of first impressions as far as I know for the City Council. So, please waive a reading.

Mayor Perrin said I know you were in there and trying to get over here. I think you and I talked by phone. This was a first reading. Right? Mr. Baker said correct. Mayor Perrin said so, on June 4, the City Council will have to decide at that time if they are going to waive the second and third totally in one night. Councilmember David McClain said I would like to say something real quick. First, a point of order because we've already discussed this item, and second, I don't think we should set a precedent of waiving readings for this type of stuff. We have set a precedent that we are going to read each one three times. I don't think we should move forward to please a business owner. I understand they have deadlines, but at the same time, everybody else has had deadlines they've had to meet. Mayor Perrin said thank you very much for your comments, and we'll be back here on June 4 and see what the City Council decides. Mr. Baker said thank you. Mayor Perrin said thank you.

[COM-19:035](#)

Legal Report presented by City Attorney Carol Duncan.

Attachments: [Legal report](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said I saw where the Downtown Association got their accreditation. That was a pretty good goal because there are certain criteria that you have to meet. I think the people down there, especially with the opening of Centennial Plaza, have done a great job, and I think that is going to accelerate the growth and use of downtown even more. When we get the corridor up and going, I think everything is looking very positive for downtown. I just wanted to recognize those people for all the hard work they did to get that accreditation.

Councilmember L.J. Bryant said it was nice to see so many people involved. That was

an impressive speech.

Councilmember David McClain said Praise in the Park will be held this Saturday at Fullness of Joy from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. We'd love to see everybody there.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Frierson, seconded by Councilperson Gene Vance, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk