

City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center 300 S. Church Street Jonesboro. AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 PM

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Councilmember David McClain entered at 5:32 p.m. as an attendee in zoom and was changed to a Panelist at 5:35 p.m. He was present for all discussion and voting.

Councilmember Joe Hafner had to leave the meeting at 6:20 p.m. during City Council Reports. He was not in attendance for Public Comment or Adjournment.

Present 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

COM-21:024

PROCLAMATION TO BASIC CADET BENJAMIN STEWART IN HONOR OF BEING AWARDED A FULL SCHOLARSHIP TO THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Mayor Harold Copenhaver presented a proclamation to Jonesboro Senior High School Student, Ben Stewart. Ben was recognized for being one of Jonesboro's finest all around academic students. Ben received many other high school awards, and will be joining the United States Air Force Academy after graduating from the 2021 Senior Class of Jonesboro High.

Read

COM-21:022

JONESBORO RESIDENTIAL HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES BOARD DONATION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Councilmember Brian Emison introduced Matt Modelevsky, Chairman of the Jonesboro Healthcare and Facility's Organization presented a check to the City of Jonesboro in the amount of \$60,000.00. The money was donated to help in the completion of the Jonesboro Veterans Village. Regina Burkett, Director of Community Development accepted the award. Other members of the Jonesboro Healthcare and Facility Organization are: Brian Emison, Jim Goad, Dr. Susan Hanrahan, and Steve May.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember David McClain said he had questions about RES-21:071.

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to adopt the consent agenda minus RES-21:071. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 4, 2021

Attachments: CC Minutes 05042021

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

RES-21:073

RESOLUTION TO EXECUTE A TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE AGREEMENT TO
MAINTAIN A CONTROL DEVICE LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY
18 AND QUALITY WAY

<u>Attachments:</u> Traffic Control Device Agreement - Job 101062

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-074-2021

RES-21:074

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO,
ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FUNDS
AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY21 RECREATIONAL
TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Attachments: 05.11.2021 Rec Trails FY21 RTP Budget

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-075-2021

RES-21:075

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY21 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

<u>Attachments:</u> corrected resolution.pdf2

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-076-2021

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

RES-21:071

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH OLYMPUS CONSTRUCTION.FOR THE JONESBORO SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX PHASE IIC - RANGE BUILDING (2021:20)

Attachments: email 04302021 ssc-br

Agreement
Bid Tab Certified

Councilmember David McClain asked, where we are in the process? Police Chief Rick Elliott explained that the Shooting Range Sports Complex is looking good. As it stands right now, the three trap and skeet combo fields are completed. We are still waiting on the electricity to be ran on that side of the facility. Currently under construction out of last year's budget are the two restrooms. The block work is done. The trusses are up. Hopefully, that part of the project will be completed within the next few weeks. Preparations are being made to get this facility open on a limited basis by August of 2021. Some of the smaller projects that we are trying to get in place are sidewalks, along with a few incidentals to get the facility up and running. The contract before you all tonight, with Olympus, is for building the smaller of the two buildings that are down by the pistol and rifle site. This building will contain a classroom that will hold about 30 people. It will also contain the Range Master's Office. The Range Master will oversee both pistol and rifle ranges during the course of operating hours, along with Line Range Officers on the side to help. No one will be able to just come and go shoot without direct supervision. Safety is our most important goal. The second component of this facility is that it is an educational tool for law enforcement as well as the public. We did have some issues with flooding due to beaver dams, but we are working to eradicate that issue. The public interest in the project has picked up, we receive daily emails regarding the opening date and we are currently working on a new video with updated pictures that will be posted to the city's website within the next two weeks. We are also in the process of trying to schedule the first two trap shoot meets in August. People across the country are starting to see it come together. They are starting to ask questions regarding reserving the facility for events. This is a very exciting project for Jonesboro and I think the economic impact will be huge for our city.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Olympus Construction is a local construction company and I am glad that we were able to use a local contractor for this project. Chief Elliott agreed. We have several contracts that we will be bringing forward regarding sponsorships. As it stands at the moment, there are just three trap fields that haven't been sponsored, but I have several offers pending.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, I know back when we were looking at the budget regarding part-time employees for the Shooting Sports Complex, the Parks Department had increased their part-time salary for this project. As we are looking at opening in August and discussing a Range Master. That does not appear to be a part-time position. So, when are we going to hire for that? Chief Elliott said, when we are talking about range people, I have a large number of officers that are retired that are avid shooters and are willing to apply for part-time employment and they are certified. The Police Department Training Officer will be housed out there on a permanent basis.

Councilmember Long said, okay. I just didn't know what the qualifications were for a Range Master and if there would be full-time people out there. Chief Elliott explained that once the facility is fully operational and activity increases, I am sure there will be some full-time positions open up. Councilmember Long said, I just have one other question. How many parking spaces do we have out there? Chief Elliott stated that we can park about 425 vehicles on the asphalt and can overflow approximately another 200-300 in the grass. Statements from other shooting ranges have said that they love what we are doing, but you will not have enough parking once things start opening up. That is something that we will have to plan for in the future.

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: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-077-2021

6. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

RES-21:078

A RESOLUTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ABANDONING AND VACATING A UTILITY EASEMENT IN A PART OF LOT 2 OF STATON MINOR PLAT ON WOOD STREET AS REQUESTED BY MICHAEL BOGGS FROM TRALAN ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF C3, LLC

Attachments: Petition

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
utilities

Utility Easement_Eng&Plan

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: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David

McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Enactment No: R-EN-078-2021

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-21:020

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT - LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 7201 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY JOSHUA NEELY ON BEHALF OF JEREMY BALTZ

<u>Attachments:</u> City Council Staff Summary

Rezoning Plat

Application

Deed

Pictures of Area
USPS Receipts

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:020 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

ORD-21:015 AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A 12' ALLEY LOCATED AT 101

SOUTH CHURCH AS REQUESTED BY HTHREG, LLC

<u>Attachments:</u> 4.5.2021 Resolution - Alley Abandonment - 101 S Church

SOUTH CHURCH ABAND

Held at second reading

ORD-21:016 AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC

SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC

CONTROL COMMITTEE

Held at second reading

ORD-21:019 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO

I-1 LIMITED INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6515 C.W. POST ROAD, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY JOHN STUCKEY.

Attachments: Staff Summary - City Council

Rezoning Plat

Application

Conceptual layout

Nettleton School Email

Rezoning Sign Pictures

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

ORD-21:017 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR

CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO

C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4503 SOUTHWEST DRIVE, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY DEBRA MANGRUM AND TOM KIRKSEY

<u>Attachments:</u> Staff Summary - City Council

Rezoning Plat

Application

Aerial View of Location

Description
Warranty Deed

Valley View School USPS Green Card

USPS Receipts

Jim Gramling, Gramling Law Firm. This rezoning on Southwest Drive passed unanimously through MAPC, and there have been no neighborhood concerns to date regarding this.

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Enactment No: O-EN-017-2021

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver stated that the April Financial Report is on the city's website and that if any of the Councilmembers have any questions they can address those to Finance Director Steve Purtee now or after the meeting as well as through his city's email account.

I wanted to express my appreciation to Chief Elliott for a conversation we had last week. Your team responded well regarding safety concerns and enforcements on our streets and in our community. We are targeting some areas in which the public has expressed concerns and it is obvious we are seeing a police presence in those areas which has had a calming effect on traffic. So, I want to say "thank you" to our officers and their leaders who are working to endure our safety.

The application period for the Youth Council has been closed. We will soon have 49 future leaders participating in this program including 29 rising seniors, 14 juniors, and 11 sophmores from four high schools and homeschool. Executive Assistant Shelly Anderson is heading up the program and promises it to be educational and productive for these high school students in our community, but more importantly getting them involved and listening to their ideas as we move this community forward.

We are heading the concerns of the citizens who live down stream of the Airport Road water shed area. We have begun making improvements to a retention pond to help mitigate flooding in the neighborhood. It is one of many areas that we are addressing that need assistance as we continue to learn and make adjustments in these low-lying areas.

Last week, the MAPC met. It struck me again and I want to reiterate this, at the

committee level is where the public needs to get involved. I want all of us to debate our ordinances and resolutions when they come to the committee level. Once proposed ordinances and resolutions go to city council, by definition, they come with the endorsement of experts who serve on those committees. Our councilmembers hold their recommendations to the highest esteem. So, early involvement for our community is key in this process. We will do the best in our communication with what the city promotes out as we continue to work with our citizens. It helps our economy and makes Jonesboro a better place to live.

I would like to say thank you to the Metropolitan Area Planning Organization Director Cecelie Cochran who is leaving at the end of the week for a Federal Position in Topeka, Kansas. Ms. Cochran has been a shining example of what that position should be in our community. She was always on hand to perform the service that was required of her. She took her job to heart and had a wonderful ability to communicate with our community. I am proud that she is representing Jonesboro as she moves forward to a bigger role in transportation.

I have also received a retirement letter from E911 Director Jeff Presley. Mr. Presley has been the E911 Director for the past 14 years and with the City of Jonesboro for a total of 29 years. He has played a key role in moving our E911 department forward for the city and county. There are no words to express the appreciation for the work that he has done. I will say that he is one of the most highly recommended and sought after individuals in the state of Arkansas. He truly cares about the individuals in this community and I commend him as he moves forward to his next endeavor.

City Council meetings will return to pre-COVID practices starting on June 15, 2021. That means that we will be open to the public while remaining cognitive of the pandemic. It still resides and we just ask people to be at their comfort level. If you have not been vaccinated, please continue to wear mask in meetings out of respect to our fellow citizens. I would like to say that Chief Operations Officer Tony Thomas is a proud father to his daughter who just won in the Meet of Champions in the State of Arkansas in shot put. Congratulations. I would also like to say that I am a proud new grandfather to Benjamin Copenhaver.

As we progress in this administration, one of the many things that we are studying is programs in other cities that we might be considering here in Jonesboro. You can learn from others and it's important that we reach out through this administration on the pros and cons of various programs from around the state and region. Our obvious goal is to ensure that we are providing the best opportunities and options for our residents. We want to do our due diligence and I want you to know that this administration is striving to do so. But, we also want to assure that we are doing it the right way with efficiency both at production and at the right cost level. So, as we continue to do that, we have got some great announcements coming forward in the next couple of months of partnerships in the community, organizations that have stepped up that want to do their part and participate. We will give you continual updates on what we are seeing departmental wise on where we can make advancements for continued success in this community.

COM-21:023 APRIL 2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS

<u>Attachments:</u> Financials Overview April 2021

Schedule of Changes in F.B. and Required Reserve Report April 2021

Schedule of Revenue vs. Expense April 2021

Schedule of O&M Departmental Overview April 2021
Schedule of Fixed Asset and Cap. Imp. Detail April 2021

Deposit Collateralization Report April 2021
Sales Tax Report (Combined) April 2021
State Turnback Report (Combined) April 2021

Highway Sales Tax Report April 2021

Read

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Bobby Long said, to the residents who live on Hickory Circle or in the vicinity and in the Countrywood Subdivision, I want to thank you for your continued persistence in working toward solutions for the flooding issues in these areas. We are making progress in alleviating the flooding issues by removing some of the eroded sediment that has settled into the retention pond, especially on Hickory Circle. Also, in the Countrywood Subdivision, we have identified what we feel is a significant contributor to the flooding and have made progress toward rectifying that. I have already commended Mr. Thomas in is due diligence. The citizens that came and voiced their concerns, came prepared and they were civil and again, I am glad that we were able to rectify this situation. Also, I would like to say to the Mayor in regards to the Youth Council, I think that it is a great idea. I have looked at one of the reference letters, and if they are all as outstanding as this one we are going to have a great Youth Council. Councilmember Long asked, Mayor Copenhaver, could you speak to some of the projects that the Youth Council is going to be working on. Mayor Copenhaver said, one thing that I have spoken on entirely through this administration is empowering our youth, their minds and their ideas. I will ask Ms. Shelly Anderson, Executive Assistant to come and speak in regards to this question. Ms. Anderson explained that it is our overall hope that the Youth Council students will form their own committees and for it to be strictly student led. Some of the ideas that we had are health and safety, communication and technology, diversity and inclusion, beautification of the city, planning and engineering, and community outreach. So, a lot of the things we do as a city already are now going to involve some of the community's youth. We would like for department directors to also be involved by giving them an overview of what they do. Once the youth figure out what we do as a city, they can begin to give their input along with the ideas that they have. I am very amazed at the ideas of what our young people have to offer, some complex and yet some so simple.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, just to kind of follow up with what Councilmember Bobby Long discussed regarding drainage issues in our city, I have also shared my concerns with these issues with the Mayor and his administration team. Hopefully, we can use some of the funds that are becoming available to us. I know we are still working through the 150 pages to see what we can do with those funds. I know that we have a lot of needs, but hopefully we can devote some of that money to cleaning out ditches and get some more equipment. A person's house is one of their biggest investments and I want to do my part in making sure their investment is safe.

Councilmember LJ Bryant stated that he thinks it's really great that the Jonesboro Police Department is doing bicycle patrol. I feel like it will be useful and beneficial to the community. I appreciate the administration and the Police Chief's efforts in doing

this. I would like to also say how competitive the work landscape is now. That likely will not change in the coming future. We have always had great folks at the city, but I think going forward, we not only have concerns just about the entry level jobs, they have been hard to fill in several departments, but I also know as some of our Directors retire in the coming years, I think not only do we have to look at wages, but we might have to allocate resources to search firms or other resources to recruit employees because it's going to be so much harder to find people in this global competition for talent. My last thing, if we could at some point get an update on the beautification projects that have been going on in the city.

Councilmember John Street said, we would like to also thank Cecelie Cochran. She really shined a light on the transportation needs in the city as well as the region. I would also like to wish Jeff Presley well. I have known him a long time and he has done a great job in the E911 Department.

Councilmember Brian Emison thanked the Jonesboro Residential Healthcare Facilities Board for their donation of \$60,000 to the City of Jonesboro's Veteran Village. We have a great facility that Ms. Burkett and her team as well as the administration team have worked really hard on bringing the Veterans Village to fruition, and I look forward to seeing what new projects that we will have coming up in the future.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said we will have another clean up on June 12, 2021 and July 10, 2021. The Johanson Salary Study Committee that I am chairing is being left open and is ongoing. We are waiting on reports from this group and hopefully a date will be set in the near future regarding the information in their reports once they have been received.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, last year the Chamber and the City produced a promotional video of the City of Jonesboro. I think that we should start a promotional video of the Shooting Range because I know it will take a while for this to be developed. I believe that the video needs to be of a caliber of a full-on promotional video similar to the one of the city that was produced. Also, NEA Tennis asked me to say thank you, as well as, the Parks Department for whoever takes care of the inside of the Earl Bell Community Center. They stated that within the last few months it has been impeccably clean. Mayor Copenhaver said he was glad that Councilmember Moore brought up the cleanliness of the Earl Bell. There is a young man that has been hired by the city that graduated from Project Search. He has gotten his own apartment. He shows up to work every day on time and takes pride in what he does. We can learn from these individuals, their pride in daily work and ethics. Again, I am looking forward to the opportunity for other Project Search graduates to be a part of the city. Councilmember Moore said that as we sat down before the committee meeting started someone sent me a message of that individual cleaning the windows on the inside and outside slightly after 5:00 P.M. today.

Councilmember Chris Gibson stated that the Nominating and Rules Committee will meet next Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 4:45 P.M. to discuss some changes in the council rules. I would appreciate it if every member of the committee made an effort to attend the meeting.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I am excited about all of the meetings fully opening on June 15th. I am also excited about the Youth Council. I am also interested in how do we get adults in our community more involved with what's going on too. I

think with the MAPC, I have heard a lot that you guys take their recommendations highly. I think there are a lot of changes that could happen to the MAPC, especially on one of their issues regarding site planning where citizens have no input. Even though it may not be able to change, at least they will have our input. I know that I have talked to Mr. Lonnie Roberts about meeting with him about some of the ideas. I think that it's important that we get adults involved because we are the ones that are being effected right now instead of the future. One thing that I would like to say is that I appreciate all of the trails we have as well as the Shooting Range that we have because it's going to help Jonesboro a lot. I think the one thing that we need to focus on is fixing our city. I have heard a lot this evening on fixing some of the drainage issues as well as the cleanup projects that are going on in the city. I am thankful for all of those things, but we also need to fix our roads. We have got to fix our city before we start expanding it. We are going to start getting ahead of ourselves and we are never going to be able to catch up. I think it was kind of alarming to us all, that in one day we had a shooting, a stabbing, and a body found in a ditch last week. This should be a wake-up call to all of us. I was in a meeting with Police Chief Rick Elliott last week and one of the things that he touched on was needing to hire more Police Officers. I don't know how to do it, that is your job, on how you get more Police Officers, more qualified people here and pay them, so they stay here and want to work here instead of another city. If we grow so quick and we can't catch up we are going to have problems down the line.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Joe Hafner

	Date:	
Harold Copenhaver, Mayor		
Attest:		
	Date:	
April Leggett, City Clerk	_ =====================================	