

City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center 300 S. Church Street Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 5:30 PM Municipal Center

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.

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

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

COM-18:010 PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION BY MAYOR PERRIN TO MICHAEL DANIELS

FOR "NATIONAL SURVEYORS WEEK"

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to remove RES-18:034 from the consent agenda. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Chris Gibson, to Approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of RES-18:034. The motioned PASSED.

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

MIN-18:022 Minutes for the City Council meeting on March 6, 2018

<u>Attachments:</u> <u>MeetingMinutes CC 030618.pdf</u>

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-18:010

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-18:015 A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE

LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SHANNON KEE CONSTRUCTION,

LLC FOR THE UHI EMERGENCY SERVICES ACCESS (2018:11)

Attachments: Contract Documents 2018 11

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-18:025 A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE

MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT FROM DENNIS & NANCY BURKS FOR THE PURPOSE OF

CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A WALKING TRAIL

<u>Attachments:</u> Permanent Construction Easement - Lots 4 and 5.pdf

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-18:026 A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE

MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT FROM DENNIS & NANCY BURKS FOR THE PURPOSE OF

CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A WALKING TRAIL

<u>Attachments:</u> Permanent Constrution Easement - Lot 2

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-18:029 A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE

LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SHANNON KEE CONSTRUCTION,

LLC FOR LACY PARK ACCESS DRIVE (2018:08)

Attachments: Bid Tsb

Contract Documents 2018 08

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CRAIGHEAD

COUNTY TO LEASE SPACE IN THE JUSTICE COMPLEX BUILDING

<u>Attachments:</u> <u>Justice Complex Floorplan.pdf</u>

Justice Complex Lease Agreement.pdf

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-18:031 A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ADOPT

PERMANENT LAND USE RESTRICTION FOR THE JONESBORO SHOOTING

SPORTS COMPLEX

<u>Attachments:</u> PERMANENT LAND USE RESTRICTION

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-18:033 A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE

LOW BID AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BAILEY CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR THE COMPLEX 4 CONCESSION BUILDING, JOE MACK CAMPBELL PARK

(2018:13)

Attachments: Bid Tab

Agreement.pdf

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-18:036 A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH REBECCA WILSON FOR SPONSORSHIP OF

ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE COMPLEX

Attachments: Rebecca Wilson ML

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-18:040 A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH THE LEARNING CENTER OF NORTHEAST

ARKANSAS FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE

LEAGUE PARK

<u>Attachments:</u> Northeast Arkansas Learning Center

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-18:042 A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH JONESBORO PROSTHETIC & ORTHOTIC

FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK

<u>Attachments:</u> <u>Jonesboro PROSTHETIC AND ORTHOTIC</u>

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

RES-18:034 RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ESTABLISH AND APPOINT A CITIZENS FAIR HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD TO

BE FACILITATED BY THE GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT

Attachments: RES-16-131.pdf

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to amend RES-18:034 to replace Gina Gomez with Leandro Soldi, add Darrel Cook, and change Section 2 to (4) two-year terms and (4) four-year terms. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Frierson, 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; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

RES-18:037

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH VANCE CONSTRUCTION FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK

Attachments: VANCE CONSTRUCTION

Councilmember Gene Vance motioned to abstain from RES-18:037 as it relates to his business.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed . 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; Joe Hafner; David

McClain and LJ Bryant

Abstain: 1 - Gene Vance

RES-18:038

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH JONESBORO OVERHEAD DOOR FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK

Attachments: JONESBORO OVERHEAD DOOR

Councilmember Gene Vance motioned to abstain from RES-18:037 as it relates to his business.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed . 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; Joe Hafner; David

McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent: 1 - Gene Vance

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-17:027

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 117-330, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE PROVISION OF SIDEWALKS WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, WITH THE INTENT TO PROMOTE IMPROVED PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, EXPANDED OPPORTUNITY OF RECREATIONAL WALKING AND RUNNING ACTIVITIES, MORE COHESIVE NEIGHBORHOODS AND EASIER ACCESS TO SHOPPING AND OTHER COMMERCIALLY RELATED PURSUITS

<u>Attachments:</u> <u>Current sidewalk code</u>

sidewalks_1.mp4

<u>JonesboroCoC Sidewalk Approval.pdf</u> Sidewalks Williams 03192018.pdf

NEA Homebuilders Association Presentation on Sidewalks 04032018.pdf

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-17:027 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said that you may have heard this at the Public Works meeting, but I think it is important since I am kind of leading this charge that you all know why I am doing it. Members of the Jonesboro City Council, thank you for hearing my proposed sidewalk ordinance this evening. In 2017, I listened closely to the meetings of the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) and the Sidewalk Committee regarding the need for a sidewalk ordinance and the comments of those both for and against such a measure. The Sidewalk Committee worked hard on the ordinance that they proposed, and when it didn't pass MAPC, I went to work trying to address the concerns that I had heard from both sides of the issue, and, frankly, ones I had for myself about what was proposed. I feel that walkability and connectivity are issues that Jonesboro is well behind on as a city, and, obviously, sidewalks play a huge part in creating a successful network. It's time for us to put a stake in the ground to prevent the situation from worsening.

I firmly believe sidewalks are needed for at least three reasons: Number one - Safety benefits. We need our citizens to have safe places to walk in their neighborhoods and throughout the city. Not everyone drives a car to get places. Pedestrian traffic helps reduce crime by being the eyes and ears of the neighborhoods. Number two — Health benefits. Arkansas is low on every health-related ranking. It is a proven fact that people will exercise more when they have a safe place to do so. Number three — Economic benefits. People want to live in areas where they can have a high quality of life. An adequate infrastructure is part of that and is key in attracting employees to work in each of the many economic sectors that Jonesboro is lucky to have. Studies have shown that property values rise fastest in pedestrian-friendly areas. I haven't found any surveys that say sidewalks negatively impact property values. During the development phase for my ordinance, I looked at several different sidewalk ordinances from cities, both in and out of Arkansas. I looked at cities such as Fayetteville, Springdale, Jackson, TN, Austin, TX, and a few others. I also met with people in development, private citizens and other parties, such as the city planner.

What I am asking to have implemented is not anything new that isn't being done in other thriving cities. Some will try to have us believe that Jonesboro's typography makes it illogical or unfeasible to have sidewalks in residential neighborhoods and other areas. While there are situations where this is true, I do not believe Jonesboro is so unique that these exceptions should prevent a measure from being put in place regarding sidewalks. I do believe that any measure enacted should have wording to deal with exceptional situations so they can be considered, and a decision made by the appropriate ruling body. A couple of weekends ago, I was in Franklin, TN, and during a bike ride was able to observe sidewalks and hills living in harmony. It was a beautiful sight. I realize that change is hard. Change brings fear of the unknown and change takes us out of the way we have always done things. However, change is sometimes needed to improve and remain relevant. I'm sure there was quite a bit of rumbling and grumbling years ago when the City started requiring hard surface driveways instead of gravel ones, but I think people will now agree that it was a pretty smart move.

I feel that my proposed ordinance provides a solid framework for our city sidewalk ordinance, but I also know that a few tweaks may need to be made to it. Over the course of this meeting and the next two, I want the full council to provide input, receive feedback, and if approved by the majority of the council, amend my ordinance as necessary to make it better and more effective. My wish is that the council would vote

to pass a strong, effective sidewalk ordinance after the three readings that will benefit the citizens of Jonesboro and our visitors, and we all will be able to look back in a few years and agree that the decision was the best for the long-term future of the City of Jonesboro. I also want to stress that my ordinance only pertains to new development and sidewalks. It does not address sidewalks or the lack of sidewalks in existing developed areas. That issue will have to be addressed separately from new development. Therefore, I respectfully ask that all discussion tonight pertain to the issue before us. Thank you for your time and consideration.

The other thing I wanted to point out was that I met with Mark Young today and he gave me this resolution 2018-1 that I would like to read.

Resolution 2018-1 from the Board of Directors, Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce

Resolution in support of Providing Minimum Standards for Sidewalks in the City of Jonesboro

Whereas, the mission of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce is to create a thriving city through Service, Leadership and Economic Development; and Whereas, there is an economic development benefit in having a walkable community; Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce hereby supports the intent of promoting improved pedestrian safety, expanded opportunity of recreational walking and running activities, more cohesive neighborhoods and easier access to shopping and other commercially related pursuits. Resolution passed by the Board of Directors of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce this 19th day of March, 2018. It is signed by Ritter Arnold, Chamber of the Board and Mark Young, President and CEO.

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned that this be held at one reading. Mayor Perrin said he thought Councilmember Hafner wanted to do this over three readings.

Councilmember Ann Williams said she would like to point out that there are a lot of people here in attendance that are in support of this measure and I would like to give them an opportunity to raise their hand if they are in support of this measure that we are beginning tonight.

Mayor Perrin stated that obviously this ordinance is going to have on both sides probably a for and against. This reading will be one reading tonight. Then, we will do two more readings which will be over two more council meetings besides tonight. With that in mind, I would like if we could to limit to 15 minutes per side. Again, we are going to do it two more times anyway. The other thing is please don't be repetitive when you are making your comments. Sometimes we get on that and we are repeating the same things and if you can be listening to the person before you. With that in mind, I would like to start off with those who are for the sidewalk ordinance.

James Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said I have talked to the council before. All of us have days that we will never forget. I want to talk about a day that I will never forget. I had been to the Winter Commencement at ASU. It was in December. I returned home and there were eight phone messages on my phone. For me, that is a lot of phone messages. Usually, I might have one or two at the most. All eight of them were about the same thing. One of my sisters had been killed in a car/pedestrian accident. Now, I bear no animosity at all toward the driver. It was an accident. I will say that a lot of the fault may belong to my sister. It was after dark in December. She was wearing dark

clothes and walking on the wrong side. I understand the guy who hit her is a wonderful person even though I have never met him. It was an accident. It wasn't his fault. I wonder how many times he thinks about what if, what if I had been a little more attentive, what if I had done this or that, would I not have hit that woman. He will have to live with that for the rest of his life. Now, some people try to turn this into an economic issue. Let me tell you something, my sister was worth a lot more than the cost of a sidewalk. They want to talk about these people as if they are hypothetical. They are not. They are just as real as my sister. They are just as real as that driver. They are just as real as my nephew Jonathan who was born with a wonderful mother, but had to grow up without one.

Now, I could ask you how you would feel if you had been the driver in the accident or it happened to one of your loved ones. I am not going to ask you that. I am going to ask you something similar. How would you feel if some day you accidentally hit and killed somebody? As you look at that body or the child of somebody's parent who was just killed by your vehicle, as bad as that is and to think had we passed that ordinance, there would have been a sidewalk. Maybe you weren't the driver, but you just saw it or maybe you didn't see it, but you heard about it and you knew where it was and you have to deal with the fact in your memory if we had passed that ordinance, there would have been a sidewalk. Folks, I am begging you, please pass this ordinance. If you need to make amendments, do it to tie things up. Don't make it so loose that anybody can get an exemption for anything. It has been brought up the idea of that if they can't build one, they pay money to be used for sidewalks elsewhere. I realize because of geography and some other things that might be necessary to make some exemptions, but make them rare and make sure that money is more than it would cost to have gone ahead and put in the sidewalk.

Brookshield Laurent, 6259 Alan Drive, said I serve on the Board for the Chamber of Commerce. I am an osteopathic family medicine physician. I am a medical educator at NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine at ASU. When asked what makes a healthy community traditionally, people enumerate hospitals, clinicians, health care providers, health care services. The Office of Disease Prevention Health Promotion is a government agency which affirms and reinforces the experts who point away from a hospital, from clinicians, from healthcare services and points toward the actual centerpiece of a healthy community which is an interrelatedness of social health determinates. Social health determinates is defined as economic stability, education, social and community contacts, health and healthcare systems and deliveries, neighborhoods and built environments. Health does not start at a hospital. It does not start in an examination room. Health begins with economic flourishing. Economic flourishing is not independent of a healthy economy, healthy community. Education outcomes is not independent of a safe environment or built environments. Let's not underestimate the priority of promoting safety, expanding opportunities for recreational walking, running activities, cohesive neighborhoods, and easier access to commercially related pursuits. Making this a valued priority will be a significant return on investment. When we make a concerted effort to promote a thriving and functioning physical environment, expect returns in economy, educational outcomes, community support systems, engagement, and overall health of the community. Thank you.

Mary Margaret Jackson, 715 Morningview Drive, said I think I have told you before that I am a City Planner in a past life. I have worked under many grant funded developments. I have applied for many grants for riverfront developments, redevelopments, master bike and pedestrian plans, community housing. I have also worked at the federal level. I have looked at those grants. I have examined them to see if they were eligible or if they were good ideas. I can honestly tell you that any

corporation or any government agency is not going to take a city seriously for making this wonderful bike and pedestrian plan that you have contracted. The idea that you want to implement here in the city. No government entity, no corporation is going to take you seriously unless you have strong ordinances that back up what you say. You have to show that you are serious about walkability so that you are serious about accessibility for all people of all walks of life if you want federal or corporate money. I am not talking about fixing past problems because you have to take ownership of your mistakes and you have to look forward and say we know we have done bad in the past of providing sidewalks. But, for new developments, new residential, new commercial developments, we are going to demand them and for every public investment we make, we are going to look at accessibility and walkability because this is important to our people, to our community, to our health, our safety, and how we spend our public money.

Mayor Perrin said does anyone want to speak in opposition.

Gary Dunham, 3713 Lakeview Cove, said he had a few thoughts on the sidewalks. I am a runner and a biker so I can concur with that perspective. I have a few thoughts. I read the ordinance that I had access to and if we pass a sidewalk ordinance where developers are mandated to place sidewalks in front of every home, in five or ten years, we may have a lot more sidewalks, but they won't connect to anything. If we have all new subdivisions full of sidewalks, how are children and students going to get to school from their home? That is the purpose to have better access to shopping and other commercially related pursuits, correct? If a sidewalk ordinance was passed ten years ago and Beaver Creek was brought up previously would have had sidewalks. There would still be no sidewalks connecting Beaver Creek to, for example, Valley View School District. That is important. That is the purpose, that is the goal that we are shooting for, connectivity not just down the street, but across town. We are going to end up with islands of sidewalks all over town that don't connect to anything. At the Public Works Committee meeting a few weeks ago, a medical doctor mentioned being able to walk a complete four miles just on sidewalks through a certain city. Creating an ordinance to place sidewalks only in residential developments is going to leave these new sidewalks unconnected. With this ordinance, walking four miles on sidewalks through Jonesboro will not be possible. I feel like we need to have an ordinance that connects those. Under this sidewalk ordinance, developers only have the option to help provide sidewalks in a more necessary part of town if the condition is deemed "impractical." I feel like there needs to be more flexibility with that. I like that Jonesboro is trying to take advances to becoming a more connected community. But, if we are going to pass a sidewalk ordinance, then we need to not only prevent new streets from lacking sidewalks, but we also need to necessitate part of the new ordinance to placing sidewalks where there are existing developments. Beaver Creek was brought up in the Public Works Committee meeting just two weeks ago. If Beaver Creek was started tomorrow and sidewalks are/were required, Beaver Creek would have sidewalks. But, who is going to connect sidewalks from the Beaver Creek Subdivision to the Valley View School District? Who is going to connect sidewalks from Central Baptist Church to the surrounding residential neighborhoods? Who is going to connect sidewalks from the Meadows Apartments to Fox Meadow Elementary School? These things I feel like need to be included into this new sidewalk ordinance and giving the developers the flexibility as far as that goes. Thank you.

Carroll Caldwell, 3009 Vista Court, said I represent local residential developers and Northeast Arkansas Homebuilders Association. We are not opposed to sidewalks, none of us. We are opposed to way the ordinance is written. So, if you will be open-minded enough and have two weeks of patience, we will come back with an

ordinance that we can accept that solves the problems. This ordinance does not solve the connectivity problem. We are going to solve it. So, we are asking you to have two weeks worth of patience. We will be back with an ordinance that I think we can all live with including them.

Councilmember Chris Moore said just as a point of order, Councilmember Gibson's hold it to one reading would mean that it will be read for four weeks, not just two, but that you will have a month. Mr. Caldwell asked if we would be back in two weeks. Councilmember Moore said that you will be back in two weeks, but there won't be a decision made. There will be another two weeks after that. Mayor Perrin said that will give you time. Councilmember Moore said you will have four weeks before there will be any action taken. Mr. Caldwell said I have spent 45 years doing this. I've tried to put sidewalks in umpteen subdivisions. I know every problem and every solution. We are going to solve it if they will have patience in two more weeks.

Councilmember Joe Hafner asked if City Planner Derrel Smith wanted to make any comments. Mr. Smith said he would wait.

Councilmember Bobby Long said he wanted to make a few comments. I had an email today from a lady who is in support of the sidewalk ordinance. I, too, am in support of a sidewalk ordinance. I think we can do a couple of things a little bit better that I would like for everyone to consider. One is that connectivity is the issue. I would like to see prioritization of the connectivity problem that we have in Jonesboro and what we are going to do to attack these in priority. Myself, as a homeowner and as a family, I have to prioritize things. There are a lot of things that I would like to do. But, in essence, there is also a limited amount of resources in which to do those. Not only that, but comes when I make an improvement, I also have to maintain that improvement. So, I think also, a part of that needs to be before we build anything, we need to make sure where the money is coming from and the maintenance schedule to make sure that we don't end up with a lot of sidewalks that in five or ten year's time, those sidewalks become dilapidated and have become more of a problem or a health hazard than when they were built to begin with. I lived in Birmingham, Alabama for 4 ½ years and during that time, I lived in a 1920's bungalow and outside was the original sidewalk. That thing was built to last. I've seen sidewalks even in this city to where it looks like they just poured concrete over the hills and they just go on. When we build a sidewalk, I want to make sure that we build it to last. That it is just not there and it is going to be crumbling in five years or so and we have an issue to where we have to spend tons of money just to repair. As we move forward with this, I believe that the priorities should be residential areas to hospitals and shopping where food is available, shopping centers, and grocery stores. Next would be residential areas to parks and recreation. That is where I think our Parks & Recreation might need to look at pocket parks like we discussed the other day to where we invest money in 3-5 acre parks in our communities that are accessible by sidewalks to where you might have a small amphitheater, running track, pavilion, picnic tables, low-maintenance items, but to where for instance, areas like we were talking about earlier out north east around the new NEA Hospital. That area is severely underserved in parks or things for families to do. Also, then residential neighborhoods to residential neighborhoods. I would love to see that as the priority. For instance, I live out off of Airport Road. Down Airport Road, there are many subdivisions being built and not one of them have sidewalks in them, but I have noticed that a couple of them have sidewalks that are parallel to the main arteries or the main streets. I think that is great and eventually as the build, they will become connected. I think we need to look at the cost of maintenance. From my understanding, the city would maintain every single sidewalk on both sides of the street in every new residential neighborhood. That is going to be some cost, but it

doesn't necessarily address the connectivity issue. I would really like to see the city address the connectivity issue as part of this and make it a part of an overall plan to where we look at our priorities, how we are going to fund them, where the money is going to come from, how we are going to maintain them, get a maintenance schedule for our sidewalks and build them in a manner that we are sitting here 25 years from now and they are still there.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said he appreciates the gentleman that came up to speak about the connectivity. I have been here on this council for about eight years and I have been fighting for the sidewalks on Patrick because there is a huge problem. If you want to talk about connectivity, you are running off of Johnson right onto Patrick where there is nothing. There is a housing area and there are kids walking out there all of the time. I got a call the other day about the same thing. Something needs to be done and I am thinking maybe with the gentleman talking about the connectivity, getting with Councilmember Joe Hafner and maybe some other person on the council and going over that too. I think our problem is that we need to be helping one another instead of fighting each other for this connectivity issues going on. At the same time, there are streets like again, redundantly speaking, Patrick, that bothers me period. I live in that area. When you don't have sidewalks and there are kids out there in the streets, people that live in different places don't see that so it doesn't bother them. It is like most things, if it is not around you, then it doesn't deter you. When you are around it every day and you get the same phone calls week after week and I have been getting the same phone calls for eight years, something needs to be done.

Councilmember David McClain said I want to echo what Councilmember Dr. Coleman said. As far as connectivity goes, there have been so many waivers given commercially, that you don't have anything to connect to. So yes, the problem is connectivity as a whole, but we have to do something to address it now. There is no more kicking the can down the road. There is no more let's wait. The time is now. The time to address it is now and we need to do it now in my opinion.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said that Mike Downing with Jonesboro Unlimited gave a presentation at the Rotary Club meeting today and I would encourage anybody to get his powerpoint. It was very good. For all of us that know Jonesboro and love Jonesboro, that is great, but looking at Jonesboro from an outside perspective is as the Dr. said with all of the walkability and livability issues are very important. We are looking for the best and the brightest to stay in Jonesboro and to come to Jonesboro and I think that is going to be an important part of it.

Placed on second reading

ORD-18:014

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 117-259, SUBSECTION (m), ENTITLED OFF-PREMISES OUTDOOR ADVERTISING SIGN STANDARDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING SIGN PERMIT FEES

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:014 by title only. All voted aye.

Mayor Perrin said this was a cleanup. Section 117-259, subsection (m) be amended by deleting from the first sentence the following "of \$250," and inserting the following: "as established by resolution by the Jonesboro City Council." This is really just a cleanup.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and waive the second reading and hold it. All voted aye.

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

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

ORD-18:015

AN ORDINANCE TO MODIFY ARTICLE 1, SECTION 101-1 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADOPT THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS BY REFERENCE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF GUIDING THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY AS PART OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

Attachments: Land Use Plan.pdf

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:015 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked if Mayor Perrin intended to read this ordinance three times on three separate readings. Mayor Perrin said I think we said that the last time because if there are any changes or additions, we need to do that. We can hold it there. Councilmember Moore said that is what I would ask. Mayor Perrin said he agrees.

Placed on second reading

ORD-18:021

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM RESIDENTIAL, R-1 TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3313 E. PARKER ROAD;

Attachments: Staff Summary - Council.pdf

Plat survey.pdf

Rezoning Ordinance-Mobeme LLC.pdf

Application.pdf

<u>Legal Description for Survey.pdf</u> Property Owner Notification.pdf

Site Plan.pdf

Tower Survey.pdf

Zoning Questions Answered.pdf

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:021 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked if there had been any opposition to this rezoning. Mayor Perrin said he did not know of any. The vote at MAPC was 7-1.

Councilmember Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to suspend the rules and waive the second reading and hold it. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Waived Second Reading . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL

RES-18:003

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS ESTABLISHING THE ELECTED OFFICIALS COMPENSATION COMMITTEE FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to amend the start date to April 1, 2018 and end date of October 1, 2018. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Bobby Long, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

ORD-18:018

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM COMMERCIAL NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT, C-4 LUO TO SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, RS-7 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3703 S. CULBERHOUSE

<u>Attachments:</u> 3703 S Culberhouse Staff Report.pdf

Application.pdf

Plat.pdf

Rezoning Plat.pdf
Pictures of Area1.pdf
Pictures of Area2.pdf

Property Owner Notification Letter.pdf
Property Owner Notification List.pdf

USPS Certified Mail Receipt - Valley View School.pdf

USPS Certified Mail Receipts.pdf

Councilmember Mitch Johnson said that he had asked that this be held up at the last meeting. I wasn't necessarily in opposition to it, just more or less, I wanted some clarification on the drainage and where it would go. I spoke with the engineer for the development for a period of time yesterday and I think I have all of the questions answered that I had.

Councilmember Johnson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Frierson, to suspend the rules and waive the third reading. All voted aye.

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

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

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

ORD-18:017

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM RESIDENTIAL, R-1 TO GENERAL COMMERICAL DISTRICT, C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5925 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AND 5704 CREEKVIEW DRIVE

<u>Attachments:</u> 5925 SW and 5704 Creekview_Staff Report.pdf

Application.pdf
Recorded Plat.pdf
Rezoning Plat.pdf
USPS Receipts.pdf

Ordinance

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

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

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Perrin reported on the following items:

We have a new employee with us this evening, Estelle Montgomery. She is within the Grants Division. Estelle is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree and has a master's degree from the University of Missouri. She worked eight years with the Kansas and lowa legislators. Most recently she was within academic and public policy roles. She move to Jonesboro with her husband who is the Director of Simulation and Learning at NYIT, the OD school here in Jonesboro at ASU. She is really excited to join and help the development team and to diversity funding which is desperately needed within the City of Jonesboro for opportunities for the City. Estelle, welcome aboard. We are glad to have you.

Last Friday, Police Chief Rick Elliott and I along with Stan Jones, one of the Commissioners with the Game and Fish, as well as Barry Phillips went and toured the Remington Plant in Lonoke, Arkansas. We received a very positive reception including our shooting range. The purpose of the trip was to look for major sponsors for our building as well as to look and to negotiate prices of what we would be receiving and having to pay for any ammunition that we could buy from them as well as weapons. We met with the plant manager for probably 35-40 minutes, took a complete tour of the facility and they will be getting back with us. I think the response is going to be overwhelmingly on their sponsorship for this. That is good. He did mention other places where they have plants where they do work with the shooting ranges, particularly when there are children involved, particularly in high schools.

This last weekend we had a softball tournament at Southside Softball Complex. We

had 34 teams competing. We had two teams from Missouri, two teams from Tennessee, and I believe two teams from Mississippi. It went extremely well. This is the facility that the Council has agreed to add about \$1,000,000 worth of lighting. This is all new lighting that should be in this week from Russco Lighting and we will begin putting that up. It will include all new lighting for the parking area thanks to CWL who is working with us on that. We do appreciate that. We had a great turnout.

Last week, we received six mini-grants from Blue and You for \$1,000 each. We can use those for various things throughout our departments.

Tomorrow, Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway and Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek will be going to Washington, D.C. on the fly in with the Chamber of Commerce. They will be visiting with all of our legislators and delegates there as well as their full staff.

Roy Ockert is serving as the Interim Chief Operations Officer. I appreciate that. This is Roy's second round of being the Interim Chief Operating Officer, but he is doing a great job and we appreciate Roy stepping up to that. He is already under contract so he is just doing what he did a few years ago, about 2 ½ years ago.

Lt. Scott Baxter came to my office this last Friday and he was reappointed to the LOPFI Board. We appreciate that. It is a great honor. The governor appointed him back on the LOPFI Board. That is where we send our funds for retirement for the Police and Fire Departments. We appreciate that and I know you will take good care of us.

We had a deal from ArDot. Someone had requested a study for a traffic signal on Casey Springs Road and Robin Nix Lane, the intersection on Hwy. 226. That study was completed and I received the letter yesterday. It was not warranted for signalization. I will certainly try to figure out who asked for that and get information back to them.

Tomorrow, Police Chief Rick Elliott, two officers, and I will be attending a press conference that the governor has called on the Opioid Epidemic. It is real and it is here. It is something that the National League of Cities is really pushing hard and strong throughout the entire United States. We will be attending that tomorrow and meeting with people from some of the other cities to see what they are doing in this regards.

I hope to start interviewing for the Parks & Recreation Director this Friday. The Mayor's Office Manager Chrystal Glisson was trying to get some of those set up for this Friday. I will keep the Council and everyone abreast of that procedure. We will be glad to do that.

I met and spoke with Chintan Desai at the Rotary Club. He is running for congress in this area. I just wanted to recognize him. He did a great job at the Rotary Club meeting. I visited with him for some time and he met with several people in the audience. I apologize for him having to leave.

Councilmember Chris Moore had asked me about the Citizens Bank building earlier. I hope this comes to fruition this year because that is the worst loose tooth that we have in the downtown area. St. Bernard's is adding a multi-million dollar expansion and it will be facing Jackson Street which will close. That is only one block away. That is where Arkansas State University actually started in that building, the old Citizens Bank building, many years ago. I sure hope we get somebody to come in and take that building and put that to use. I will keep you all abreast of that too.

COM-18:015 Financial statements for the Jonesboro Airport Commission for February, 2018

Attachments: JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 02 18.pdf

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said that he would like to commend Code Enforcement Officer Scott Baxter and his crew on the demolition of the old building down there on north Main. That was an eyesore and it was a safety hazard. I know it was a long arduous process, but everyone that was involved with that did a great job and it really makes that area look a lot better. Mayor Perrin said Street Department Director Steve Tippitt and them took it down in about an hour or so. It was pretty fast. We appreciate everyone that was involved with that. It just took a long time with the Railroad to get their consent to be able to do that. We are talking with them on the Round House, the big building. We have some plans for that and we have some drawings on what we are going to do with that. We are talking to the railroad about possibly a donation to the City of Jonesboro for that Round House. A lot of things could be done with that. It could be paved all the way down to Bridge Street. That would be a tremendous addition to our downtown area.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said there is a lot of audience participation and citizen participation and if people are interested in serving on Boards or Committees, I know the Mayor is always open to getting resumes. I know that we need diversity not only in wards, but in men and women and ages and races. I encourage citizens to be involved

Councilmember Joe Hafner asked if it would be possible for Mr. Mike Downing with Jonesboro Unlimited to come and do his presentation at one of the next two council meetings. Mayor Perrin said sure. Councilmember Hafner said he thinks it would be informative. It sounds like it was a great thing and I hate that I missed it today. Mayor Perrin said he did a great job. I think that would be great and I am sure he would be happy to do that. Mayor Perrin asked Interim COO Roy Ockert to make a note of that and get Ms. Glisson to call him tomorrow and set it up. Councilmember Hafner said he appreciated that.

Councilmember David McClain said that Nominating & Rules met today. He said he would like to suspend the rules and walk on RES-18:044. His motion was seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson. All voted aye. Councilmember McClain said that we do have representation from each ward in the city. Per your request Mayor Perrin, you have asked us to move this forward because you want to go ahead and start meeting.

RES-18:044

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ESTABLISH AND APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE LAND BANK COMMISSION

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and walk on RES-18:044. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote:

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

Councilmember Chris Gibson said that Public Services met earlier today. I realize that we are in between Directors of Parks and Recreation right now, but Councilmember Ann Williams has asked for a presentation in our next meeting in June for a comprehensive long-term plan for our Parks & Recreation Department across the city. Mayor Perrin said that should give us enough time. We can do it. So note that Mr. Ockert if you would please. We will get the director to come and do that. We already have one for three to five years for capital improvements for Parks & Recreation. I think you are going to be impressed when you see the report. Absolutely, that is no problem. Particularly for those of you who have not been to Craighead Forest, the new roundabout and bike and walking trail is absolutely incredible. There are a lot of other things that we are going to be doing out at Craighead Forest. Hopefully, some this year and probably there will be a great deal of funds that will be allocated in 2019 for that area. We will do that.

Councilmember Ann Williams said what I mentioned at the meeting was that it has been expressed to me that people in the northern and eastern part of the city are interested in resources or possibilities of a park that they can access in that part of the city. Because even though we are very proud of Craighead Forest, it is the jewel in the crown of our Parks system, but people in some of these areas would like some accessibility to parks in their own nearby neighborhoods. This has been mentioned particularly by those in the northern and eastern part of the city. Mayor Perrin said we have a map showing all of the parks and where they are at. We can have that on a board and present that the next time. You are absolutely right in the north and 49 north, to look at some of these areas of opportunities where we can acquire some property to put some of these parks in that area. Also, before Joe Mack Campbell Park, we had the Darrel Burrow Park over in north Jonesboro which is down there sitting idle. It was acquired through federal monies through federal grants and. It is a big area. The parking lot is there and the lights are there. I have asked Engineering to go and look and give me an estimate on cost. Also, we have 13 acres given to us which joins that area. We are going to look and see what the cost is to cut all of that down. There is a huge ditch there which will be a part of the aesthetics of that when we put it all together. Just put that down and make it all multi-purpose fields. I think you can have a lot of soccer and a lot of things going on there where nothing is going on now. I know that Interim Parks Director Danny Kapales and I have talked about that. We are going to get on that too. We will show you that map.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said he had a couple of things. Mr. Caldwell, I appreciate your presentation. I hope you can get with Councilmember Hafner to work out that plan. The community cleanup that we were supposed to have on March 24th has been moved to April 28th. It will be from Patrick Street to Hwy. 141, from Johnson out to Magnolia. I also want to thank individuals that have been praying for me. I just want to thank everybody. Mayor Perrin said we thank you Dr. Coleman and we will certainly keep you in our prayers in going forward. Dr. Coleman mentioned that on the north side, on April 28th, there will be a community cleanup. We do this every year. There are several associations and if there is anyone in the audience that is with the West End Association, the Fairview Association, or the Scenic Hills Association, would you take that date and look forward to the weekends on that deal and we will work with sanitation and go ahead and get that on the calendar. Hopefully, we can get

that cleanup down in about two months. Councilmember Coleman said he would like to thank the Code Department for doing the work that they do. I don't think they get the accolades that they need to get for what they do in this city. I am really appreciative of the Code Department.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stan Morris, 2118 Sweetgum Drive, said he is a journalist and he owns NEA report. I am here because in the month of February, I began reporting on the resignation of Wixson Huffstetler, the City Parks & Recreation Director. The resignation came on February 12th. It was an unexpected resignation. There was no two-week notice period and it was effective immediate the Monday following. Following that, I began reporting and doing the best that I could to uncover more about the reason why that this resignation took place because the official reason didn't make much sense. It still doesn't with respect to everybody in the city. The next several days, I began to encounter resistance in the reporting. Specifically, I was hung up on twice by Human Resources Director Dewayne Douglas after questions I was approved to ask by Communications Director Bill Campbell. Mr. Douglas followed back up at Mr. Campbell's direction. I did publish my story. I received what I thought was initially a warning text not to publish it from the city's Communication Director. We had a conversation today that was a very amicable one and the discussion was that it was a friendly gesture. But, I have continued to meet resistance along the way as I have worked to report this. In addition to my FOIA not being met of the reason why Mr. Huffstetler was dismissed as it falls under a forced resignation under every shred of evidence under FOIA law marking it as releasable. Along the way, I have had a number of women who have worked at the city come forward and speak to me and detail inappropriate harassment. The issue that some of them had was that they didn't feel like they could come forward and speak to members of authority in this administration. The reason they didn't feel that way was because, I am sure you know, Mr. Huffstetler and you Mayor Perrin are very close. In a similar situation with someone that was not perceived as a close relative or close, as he is not a relative, a close member of the interworking family of a member of the administration, it would be a different situation.

The women that talked to me told me that they are afraid to come forward because they are afraid of losing their jobs. They are afraid of retribution after the fact. Most concerning, some of them that are still in the city were afraid to lose their current job. Around the fifth or sixth woman, I published my first story which then resulted in around four more accusations from four different women. As recently as this last Sunday, another woman came to me who worked at the City of Jonesboro. She doesn't work here anymore. She has left. She detailed, her words were you can add me to the list. This is concerning. This is very concerning. The concerning part to me is that it is not the resistance that I have met in the work along the way because after a conversation I had with Mr. Campbell today, we agreed that there needed to be more transparency. In fact, Mr. Campbell apologized to me after a conversation that we had last Friday that was not particularly kind on his part. I accept that apology. I fully believe that he is passionate about this city and this administration. I believe that he cares and doesn't want to think, just like I don't want to think, any of this was true. The problem I have is when people come to me and tell me things that they are afraid to come to you and tell and at the same time I get a message that says there are vindictive people, watch out and I am told that you should be creative and you can consider this a threat. That is inappropriate to speak to a reporter or a journalist that way. Of course, to anybody. I am doing my best to do my job. That is really the only reason I am here. It would be a lot easier to sit in my office and not stand up before you all. I can't let a number of

people come forward to me and detail problems and harassments and their feeling of not being able to go to the top and deal with it without also speaking up. If I stay quiet, I feel like I am no better than the allegations that are being made against individuals. So, in short, in closing, I want to request, one of which has already been met that is more transparency, a friendlier demeanor if we are adversarial in our journalism. Journalism is not always supposed to be public relations, sometimes, it has to be challenging that brings out the best in all of us.

I believe Mr. Campbell in his commitment to helping me with that. I appreciate that today he reached out and I believe he was earnest in what we had talked about. I would like for you Mr. Mayor and however else this needs to be done to commit to no new nepotism in the city government and any appearance of impropriety, even if it is a close member of your inner circle that you have known forever, I think it puts more than just innocent people at risk. If everything I heard was incorrect and untrue and I want to believe it is, if it was, it still brings our tax money under risk. It brings the city under risk for litigation. It is a reckless policy and if they are qualified for the job anyway, let them get one somewhere else. I hear the beeper. I figure my time is up. Thank you sir, I appreciate it.

Mayor Perrin said thank you very much, so noted.

Tom Elwood, 1520 Pratt Circle, said he wanted to talk about the walkability issue. Mayor Perrin said that the time has passed for him to be able to discuss this issue. Mr. Elwood said he is neither for or against the issue. Councilmember Charles Frierson said the rules say not to comment on something that has already been discussed. Mr. Elwood said that he is neither for or against walkability and connectivity. Councilmember Frierson said you are going to talk about it though. Mr. Elwood said I want to share an idea that I have to make the connectivity and walkability through the drainage districts. Councilmember Frierson said share it on another day, not at this particular time. Mr. Elwood said he didn't know the rules. I don't sit around. Councilmember Frierson said now you do. Mr. Elwood said thank you.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

	Date:	
Harold Perrin, Mayor		
Attest:		
	Date:	
Donna Jackson, City Clerk		