



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

AUDIO STARTS AT 4:18 DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES

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

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:20 P.M.

Mayor Harold Perrin asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak for or against the 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. No one spoke in opposition.

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-19:013](#)

PROCLAMATION PRESENTATION FOR GUN VIOLENCE DAY TO REBEKAH EVANS FROM MAYOR HAROLD PERRIN

Read

[COM-19:037](#)

PRESENTATION BY MAYOR PERRIN TO COACH TEAT & VALLEY VIEW BOYS SOCCER TEAM FOR 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to remove RES-19:037, RES-19:062, RES-19:066, and RES-19:067 from the Consent

Agenda for discussion. All voted aye.

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-19:054](#)

Minutes for the City Council meeting on May 21, 2019.

Attachments: [Council Minutes 05212019.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-19:063](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TOTAL LIFE HEALTHCARE TO SCHEDULE JET SERVICES

Attachments: [routematch-04162019152809.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-065-2019

[RES-19:064](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENTRY INTO AN AGREEMENT TO ISSUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN THE FINANCING OF INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO BE LEASED TO RISEVER MACHINERY, LLC, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY AMENDMENT 65 TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION AND THE MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BOND LAW

Attachments: [Agreement to Issue Bonds \(Risever\) \(2\).docx](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-066-2019

[RES-19:065](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TATE GENERAL CONTRACTORS, INC., FOR FORUM RENOVATIONS PROJECT (2019:22)

Attachments: [2019-05-14_Bid-Tabulation_Certified.pdf](#)
[A101-2017 - Agreement - Forum-Renovations.pdf](#)
[A201-2017 - General-Conditions - Forum-Renovations.pdf](#)
[Bid Form.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-067-2019

[RES-19:069](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, AUTHORIZING THE

MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH APEX, INC. FOR THE SALE OF PROPERTY

Attachments: [Apex - Delta.pdf](#)
 [Complete Commitment.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-068-2019

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

RES-19:037

A RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF PRIVILEGE LICENSE FEE SCHEDULE FOR SHORT TERM RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [RES-19-037 Amendment 05282019 Finance.pdf](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said I appreciate you guys listening to this. I have been contacted by a lot of people talking about the resolutions and how important the decisions you make are for this city. I was looking at the short-term for this agenda on RES-19:037. There is an ordinance that is at the end of the meeting here, ORD-19:019. It is talking about how there was a purpose to modify the definitions to include the short-term residence and levy a tax. Can you answer my question and is there a 3% sales tax on the bnb's now? Councilmember Joe Hafner said, the ordinance that is later in the agenda is A&P (Advertising & Promotions) tax. Hotels pay A&P taxes so we thought that it was only fair that the short-term rentals who compete with hotels also pay the A&P tax. Ms. Lack said, so you are talking about the schedule that was on if you had 0-9? Councilmember Hafner said, no. The A&P tax applies where if someone rents a room, they pay 3% of that in A&P tax. This resolution right here only sets the privilege license in accordance to the ordinance we passed. Ms. Lack said, ok, that is what I thought I understood on that because of the first and second reading, there was no mention of any type of what percentage of the tax that was going to be. So, I wasn't sure on that. So, thank you for clarifying that. When this resolution came to the Finance meeting and that was on April 30, 2019 is that, Joe Hafner, I will call you Joe or Joe Hafner, is that we were really excited because when you open this up and you are talking about a privilege and it is a privilege to have a business here in Jonesboro, we were excited because we thought when you said long-term rental privilege license because we could really see a difference. We can't really see a difference between them and short-term in this community. So, we thought short-term and long-term were going to be included in this and I know that you were going to do some research. I know you, David McClain, backed it up too saying that you would like the longer term businesses here to be included.

When we were asked how many short-term units that we had, Carol Duncan said that there is not very many of them and the research on how much tax revenue that this would bring in it wasn't going to be an astronomical amount. But, if this was linked to long-term units that we have here in town, you know if you put \$50 on a long-term unit and you think of how many long-term units places that we have here in Jonesboro, it could be just kind of included in the person's rent. The owner of that apartment complex could add \$5 per month to their rent and you would have a fee that you could collect on all of these long-term units that we have. We don't see that long-term. You could incorporate that into this. But, we were focusing on just with the short-term. When I turned to the privilege of it is, I know that Mr. Ockert was comparing all of the

fees and this was on the website. If you had 1-9 units, is that you are just going to be charged \$100, not per unit. If you have nine of them, you are just going to be charged \$100. That is not going to add up to very much money. Also, there are 16 hotels on how this was based on. There are 16 hotels with 50 rooms or more so if you do 16 x \$275, because that is 50-74 units would be \$275, that is only going to be \$4,400. Still, once again, it is not a lot of money that we are putting into this. When it came up at the Finance Committee, I asked what happens if I rent out my guest house? I was told that if it is not 30 days or more, I don't have to have a privilege license. So, I would like to know if I have it 30 days or more, is that considered long-term? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, no. Well, there are different definitions. Under the short-term rentals, we said 30 days or more per year, not necessarily in one block. There is a definition of long-term rental that defines long-term rental as renting it over 30 days that separates it from a hotel. Long-term rental is separate from a hotel. A&P tax does not apply to long-term rental. The A&P tax is to bring in advertising and promotion. It is people who are visiting Jonesboro that are spending their money here that are coming to events that are ballparks and things like that. That is what the A&P tax is and that is why it is more applicable to a short-term rental which is comparable to a hotel versus a long-term rental which is a renter who lives here. Does that make sense?

Ms. Lack said, it does. To be honest with you, it is probably not going to add up to a lot of money. I hope that we can look at this one a little bit better and go back to the drawing board and include the long-term rentals on this because, once again, I have looked back at all of the meetings that I have attended and I have looked even at impact fees. We talked about impact fees a long time ago, but we don't talk about them anymore. So, I am afraid that if all of a sudden we do a short-term and we don't include the long-term which would generate a whole bunch of money and if our concern is to get money so we can have the police department and the fire department, this would bring in a lot of money. So, I guess my concern and a lot of people's concern is that if you can just go ahead and add long-term and work on this a little bit better and clarify it and make it a stronger type of resolution than what it is right now. So, that was my concern of why I had pulled that. We could generate a whole bunch more money because we have everything available to us. Councilmember Charles Frierson said, we can always amend it later if it doesn't work exactly right.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Mayor, I would just say, maybe as your staff researches it, at least from visiting with a lot of landlords and I know many already have business permits, many might not, so as we look at that in talking with the folks that own a couple of hundred units, they have called and said, hey, I already have a permit for John Smith Rentals or whatever so I think there will be some opportunity there, but there might not be as much as we think. Ms. Lack said, well, I think the concern is that this is kind of like not punishing the short-term rental units and not doing anything to the long-term ones because I think the short-term rentals, they are going to take care of those places. The long-term units, you know, are probably owned by people who don't even live here. So, that is the concern right there. So, I think it is like you are kind of punishing the short-term by trying to do a little bit and not do anything with the long-term. You know, hopefully, something can be done in the future because I think it would be important and we could raise a lot of money.

Councilmember Hafner said, one reason we needed to go ahead and take care of the short-term rentals right now is because the ordinance called for a privilege license and we didn't have one. Ms. Lack said, ok. Councilmember Hafner said, I kind of look at short-term and long-term separately because of the functions that they have as far as visitors or residents. So, I mean I think it is something that we can look at down the road, but for right now, I just feel like we need to leave this dealing with short-term

rentals only. Ms. Lack said, I think we need the short-term and hopefully that road will be kind of short and we can look at the long-term on there. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Frierson, 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: R-EN-069-2019

[RES-19:062](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS CERTIFYING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF BUSINESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM (AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003).

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said this is just a comment and a concern. I should have probably pulled RES-19:064 because I think it deals with RES-19:062 which, from my understanding, is looking at the construction side of it and RES-19:064 is looking at the financial side of it. I see that they want to go back and get their sales tax that they paid ever since 2003. And, if you look at that, that is sixteen years ago. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, no. Mayor Harold Perrin said, no. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, that is not what it is. Ms. Lack asked, why did it mention 2003 then in the law? Mayor Perrin said, that was when the law was enacted. Ms. Duncan said, that allows them to do this going forward. It doesn't go back to 2003. Ms. Lack asked, so, how many years can they go back? Ms. Duncan said, they don't go back. It goes forward. Councilmember Charles Frierson said, it is for the current year. Ms. Duncan said, yeah, it doesn't go backward. Councilmember Hafner said, this is for construction of the plant that they are about to build. Ms. Lack said, on the finance and administration, they were going to get sales tax money back. Mayor Perrin said, let me explain that. Councilmember Hafner said, no, it is going to be on the construction. They won't pay sales tax on the materials used in construction. It is nothing back sixteen years. It is now moving forward when they are building the plant. After they get the plant built, they will pay sales tax just like everybody else on what they buy. Ms. Lack said, ok. And, I think that is the point right there. It is really unclear because I watched that tape over and over again and I think there needs more clarity because that was the understanding that I had.

A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Frierson, 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: R-EN-070-2019

[RES-19:066](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NORTHEAST ARKANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NEAIDC) FOR FUNDING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Attachments: [Contract NEAIDC19_received 05222019.pdf](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said, I looked at the attached contract. In the contract, it says that it agrees to provide funding effective January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 for this year. So, my first question is, why are we paying the money right now versus instead of at the beginning of the year? Mayor Harold Perrin said, I can answer that. The Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce basically, again, Mr. Young is in the audience here who is President and CEO of the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce. You basically have two things that we budget each year. We budget \$167,250 in industrial development, which again, he gives a quarterly report to the Council. The second one is NEA Development on the \$227,500 which will total the total that you are seeing of \$394,750. What they do is they send this to their board. I think their board just sent us an invoice probably about three or four weeks ago so that is why we are doing it. It doesn't have to be paid in January. It is just that they will normally get around to somewhere in February or March and this time, they got it back to us in May. Ms. Lack said, ok. Well, thank you for clarifying that and then also too is that I know that Joe, you said at the meeting, that the updates weren't coming as soon as you thought. The last report that you got was in December on that one. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I just asked for another report. Ms. Lack said, because that is a lot of money to give that I know personally I would like to see the updates.

A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Frierson, 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: R-EN-071-2019

[RES-19:067](#)

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FY19 BUILD GRANT FOR THE SOUTH CARAWAY ROAD WIDENING EXPANSION PROJECT

Attachments: [07 - S Caraway Widening_AERIAL EXHIBIT.pdf](#)
 [S. Caraway Widening Expansion Cost Estimate.jpg](#)
 [Citizen Comment 06042019.pdf](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said, on this one, I am not really opposed because you know how I am with five lane roads and stuff like that. But, I noticed that Fisher & Arnold has already drawn up the plans on that. I know that on Caraway Road, some of the utilities have already been moved. They were moved several years ago with the telephone poles and all of that because I guess we had planned that a while ago. So, some of that has been done. But what concerns me is that we are applying for this grant, but we have already put or we are already accepting proposals on this without even knowing that we are getting the grant. So, it is kind of like putting the cart before the horse. I have no doubt in my mind that we will probably get it and I hope that we do, but once again, it is that we are already taking applications and we have already spent money on this project and we don't have it for sure. I think the only thing with that is that if you look at the 80% and the 20%, I think our city is going to be responsible for like \$1,400,000. That is a lot of money. And, so, I hope that, you know,

we don't have any problems raising that and also too, I think that would be a perfect street for sidewalks because that is where a lot of people walk. So, I appreciate your time and the concerns that the people had with these, but I think it is just being a little bit more open and knowing what is going on with the city because you guys do make a lot of big decisions for what everyone here in the room is living with. So, I appreciate your time. Mayor Perrin said, I am going to answer one thing for you. The question was, why do we do this? We have a deadline on these grants so we go ahead and apply for those whether you get them or not. This is the one that Trump just passed down. Within the next deal, we have a cutoff on that so that is why we are applying for this now. Ms. Lack said, thank you very much for clarifying that. Mayor Perrin said, you are quite welcome.

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: 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-072-2019

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-19:027

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR STUDENTS THAT EXCEL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM, DBA ADDIE'S SOUL FOOD & GRILL

Attachments: [Application.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:027 by title only. All voted aye.

Mayor Perrin said, I think we will want to hold it like we do on all of them.

Held at one reading

ORD-19:028

AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING AND VACATING 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](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:028 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I would ask if there is no emergency that we read that three times before we abandon that right-of-way. Mayor Perrin said, alright, we will hold it there.

Held at one reading

[ORD-19:029](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE JONESBORO OVERSIGHT INTEGRITY COUNCIL TO IDENTIFY, RESEARCH, INVESTIGATE, REVIEW, AND PRIORITIZE POTENTIAL FUTURE CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENTS OF A PUBLIC NATURE WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO.

Attachments: [Bobby Long Speech Notes 05282019.pdf](#)

Councilmember Gene Vance motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Frierson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:029 by title only. All voted aye.

Mayor Harold Perrin said, on the agenda there are three ordinances by Team Jonesboro related to a 1% sales tax that they would like to have on the ballot for a special election. I typed up some notes to kind of clarify some things after watching the Finance and Administration Committee meeting the other day. I was unable to attend due to the fact that my wife had surgery, but I was at home trying to watch it on my telephone.

The first is ORD-19:029. This would create the Jonesboro Oversight Integrity Council, which will only be an advisory committee composed of nine Jonesboro citizens, including two members of the City Council, the chairman of the Jonesboro Advertising and Promotion Committee, plus six other residents appointed by the Mayor. All have to be confirmed by the City Council. This ordinance will not be on the ballot. If passed by the City Council, the committee would only be formed if the sales tax is approved by the people. The advisory board is just that – advisory. It will make recommendations to the administration and City Council for projects to be funded under the sales tax, and the City Council would have the final authority to approve any and all of these projects.

The second ordinance is ORD-19:031. This ordinance would levy a one percent sales tax, but it would only go into effect if the people approve the sales tax. It will also not be on the ballot. State law requires that the city establish a levy so that it will be in effect if the tax passes. The City Council also has to consider the levy ordinance before the election ordinance.

The third ordinance is ORD-19:030. It is the one that would set a special election for Tuesday, September 10, 2019, for a one percent sales tax. This ordinance limits what the revenue from that tax can be spent on and that will be spelled out in the ordinance, which we will read in just a moment.

Mayor Perrin said, I know we're going to hold this for three readings. There's no question about that. I'm sure there will be a lot of public comments, but I would like to say to the City Council and ask that if you want to limit any discussion tonight or whatever, that you consider somewhere around three minutes and would alternate sides if the sides are here this evening. If you want to put a timeline on each ordinance, that is your prerogative. If anyone in the audience does not get a chance to speak or would rather submit a written statement or question, you can do that by sending all of that to the City Clerk. Under the City Council rules, the chair reserves the right only to cut off debate that becomes repetitive. Remember, this is the first reading of all of these

three ordinances. If the City Council agrees and we want to again set a timeline, either by each individual speech or comment and/or a total for each ordinance, I would ask that you all make some type of motion, if that's what you want to do. It was somewhat unclear when I was going through those three ordinances. This is the first time we've ever had a sales tax with what I think is a transparency advisory committee. You've always had the levy and the other, but I think that there has been a lot of confusion with people coming up and asking why we have three parts to this. I'm going to ask Communication Director Bill Campbell to put something like this on the website tomorrow just to be very clear. I like to get it down to real earthly words so I can understand what is going on. So, what would be the desire of the City Council?

Councilmember John Street said, we're going to talk about this several times so I think 10 minutes per side per issue, considering what we've already heard and what we'll hear over the weeks to come, would probably be accurate. Councilmember Chris Moore said, I say we see how it goes. Councilmember Bobby Long said, I do, too. Councilmember Street said it's up to the Mayor. Mayor Perrin said it doesn't make any difference. I'm just asking what's the desire of the City Council. Councilmember Moore said, I say we see how it goes. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, we need to put it on the floor first.

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, if I could speak for one second to the numbering. When these were entered into Legistar, they were entered in the order that they were received. There was some question because we do have to pass the levy before we can call for the election. If we could renumber them so that there was less confusion and we would be taking them in order, but once it's entered into Legistar it messes up the whole system, apparently, if you try to renumber anything. So, they could not be renumbered, but we are voting on them in the correct order. That's why they are out of order on numbering if there is any confusion there. That's for purpose of state law requirements. Councilmember Gene Vance asked, have we got it on the floor, yet? Ms. Duncan said no.

Councilmember Vance motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Frierson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:029 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Bobby Long, 4121 Oakhill Lane, asked, can I go ahead and ask some questions prior to the comments about the committee. Mayor Perrin said, that would be fine. Councilmember Long said, in your presentation, you said that the oversight council would have the job of vetting these various projects vying for the money. So, tell me if I'm correct in that the only way this money can be used on a project is that it has to be vetted by the oversight council first. Second, it has to win the approval of the oversight council, and then, and only then, the oversight council will bring a recommendation that the winning project be funded.

Mr. Scott McDaniel of Team Jonesboro said, let me make sure I understand the questions. The first one is does the oversight council have to approve it before the City Council can? Councilmember Long said, yes. That's the only way that the money can be used on a project is that it has to be vetted by the oversight council first. Second, you have to win the approval of the oversight council, and then, if it wins the approval of the oversight council, you make a recommendation to the City Council. Mr. McDaniel said, I was always cautioned in school to be careful when you see the words only, always, forever, and all that kind of stuff. My understanding is that the City Council, as a body, cannot exceed its authority over to an independent agency. That's correct. So, to answer your question of only, the answer to that question is no, not only. Theoretically, you all could override everything they say and do your own thing if you

wanted to as long as it was in the confines of the restrictions outlined in the ordinance. As I said before, the power of the Oversight Integrity Council is the power of politics, but the process is to go before the oversight council, the oversight council references it to the City Council, and then you all decide. I don't know why you all would ever usurp that if it's the will of the people. I don't know why you would ever do that. You all will have two spots on that, but who knows.

Councilmember Long said, so if I get this right, the oversight council is for vetting these different projects and within the vetting of these projects you're going to let them compete against each other. Mr. McDaniel said, that's right. Councilmember Long said, then the projects that win the competition, you are going to recommend those projects be funded by the City Council. Mr. McDaniel said, that's how I'm envisioning this. Councilmember Long said, right. So, the ordinance forming the oversight council was just proposed last Tuesday night and now we're in the process of reading these ordinances. If that's so then, on your initial presentation, you said that you believed all of the projects or all of the needs could be met with this sales tax. Mr. McDaniel said, I believe I said that. Correct. Councilmember Long said, so when the oversight council is charged with vetting, evaluating, and bringing these projects to the City Council and it hasn't even met yet, how can you feel remotely confident that the 1% sales tax will be enough? Mr. McDaniel said, so that I'm clear, what you're asking me is, everything else aside, you're asking me if I think 1% is going to be enough to meet our immediate quality of life needs. Councilmember Long said, I think that's what you said in your presentation that you feel confident that the 1% will be enough to meet all of the needs. Mr. McDaniel said, all of the current needs. I do. I feel confident based on the current needs with the projects we all know and the projects we've advertised and so on and so forth. Councilmember Long said, the aquatic center, water parks, trail systems, and bike trails. Mr. McDaniel said, yes. Councilmember Long said, you feel confident that those needs can be met, along with police and fire, with 1%. Mr. McDaniel said, yes. Councilmember Long, asked what committee would those recommendations run through? Mr. McDaniel said, it's whatever's the normal process. Councilmember Long asked, Mayor, what committee would those recommendations run through? Mayor Perrin said, if it's capital improvements, most of those go through the Public Works Committee and then in some cases can go on to the Finance Committee and then on to the City Council. Ms. Duncan said, police and fire would go through Public Safety just as it always does. Councilmember Long asked, is there a provision in this ordinance that requires or ensures that this committee seek out and gather bids from companies whose business it is to buy land in our city, employee people, run it for a profit, pay taxes, and support our schools? Councilmember Moore asked, Councilmember Long, please restate the comment. You lost me. Councilmember Long asked, is there a provision in the oversight council that would require the committee to seek out and gather bids from companies whose business it is to buy land in the city, employee people, run it for a profit, pay taxes, and support our schools? Mr. McDaniel said, so the ordinance is what the ordinance is. I don't believe the Oversight Integrity Council would have any authority to go out and solicit bids.

Councilmember Vance said, I have two questions. Where is the word vetting found in the ordinance? Section 2 is pretty plain about what this oversight council will be doing. Councilmember Long said, the word vetting is not in the actual ordinance, but that's exactly what I believe they're doing. Is it not? Councilmember Vance said, I can't read vetting into Section 2. Maybe you can, but I can't. Councilmember Long asked, so if this oversight council is supposed to evaluate different projects based on the merit, what would you call that? In your definition, what is vetting? Councilmember Vance said, my definition is that they're going to identify projects, they're going to research

them, they're going to investigate them, they're going to review them, they're going to prioritize them, and then turn them to the City Council to make a decision. Councilmember Long asked, so that, in essence, is not vetting of projects? Councilmember Frierson asked, why are you still hung up on vetting. I don't understand that. Councilmember Long said I didn't bring it up. Councilmember Frierson said, it's doing those things Gene just mentioned in Section 2. Mayor Perrin said, you did bring it up. Councilmember Vance said, you've been using the word vetting since the first question. Mayor Perrin said, yes, you have. Councilmember Long said okay, okay. Councilmember Vance said, they're not going to say this project's good and this project's bad. They may give us a list of five projects with one through five and we can take five and make it number one. The City Council is going to spend the money. Councilmember Long said, I understand that. So, you will be evaluating these projects based on certain criteria? Mr. McDaniel said, I won't. It will be whoever is on the oversight council. Councilmember Long asked, whoever is on the oversight council will be evaluating these based on certain criteria? Mr. McDaniel said right. You wouldn't just evaluate them on a gut instinct. You would obviously set some criteria.

Councilmember Long said, let's move on then. When I looked at the oversight council there was not a definition of reasonable expenses in the ordinance, but the city is going to be responsible for the reasonable expenses of this oversight council. Mr. McDaniel said, we're not going to envision this as being a profit-making venture for anybody. If you don't like it, take it out. I think that's boilerplate language provided by the attorney. So, if you don't like it, take it out. I don't think anybody that would ever serve on this council would ever want a dime from the city. Is that fairly boilerplate language for committees of this nature? Ms. Duncan asked, which language? Mr. McDaniel said, about reasonable expenses. Councilmember Long said being reimbursed for reasonable expenses is not making a profit it's being reimbursed for reasonable expenses. My question is can you give me an example of what some reasonable expenses would be? Would it be travel? Mr. McDaniel said, it's whatever is the standard. Like I said, if that's a problem then take it out. I don't believe anybody here who would ever serve on this oversight council would want a dime for their service. Here's my request. Whatever is standard for what you all do then make it say that.

Councilmember Vance said, one thing on the reasonable expense is if the City Council approves the oversight council to maybe make a trip somewhere to look at a facility then the City Council would approve the reasonable expense for that travel. Councilmember Long said, so it's approved first, then it's incurred, and then it's reimbursed. Councilmember Vance said, I don't see where they have the authority to spend the city's money in this ordinance at all. Councilmember Long said, okay. Councilmember Moore said, I'll give you an example of that. About 15 years ago, the water park came up and George Stem volunteered his plane to fly a group of councilmembers to different facilities in the country, and the only thing he asked was for us to pay for the fuel. That would be a reasonable expense. Mayor Perrin said, that was approved. Councilmember Moore said, that was approved by the City Council. They agreed to pay for the fuel and George flew us and we went and viewed water parks in St. Louis, Mo., and somewhere else. I would envision that as being what they may have to do. Mr. McDaniel said, as far as Team Jonesboro goes, if that's a problem, then take it out, but I do ask that whatever is currently standard is what our desire is.

Councilmember Long said, so when you're evaluating the projects would reasonable expenses mean feasibility studies, architectural drawings, and things like that. Mr. McDaniel said, the City Council would define that. Mayor Perrin said, sure, but it would go under the same procedures that we do right now just like we did for the Veterans'

Village and just like we did for the shooting range, etc. Councilmember Long, said okay. That's all.

Mr. Nick Wysocki, 107 Harvester Drive, said, so really this oversight council has no power from what I understand this to be. They are a group of Jonesboro individuals who are getting together and saying we want to help Jonesboro move forward and we're going to help the City Council prioritize projects. I also heard Mr. McDaniel say that there's a group of projects already out there that he thinks this will fund, which are the trails, the water park, shooting complex, streets, and sidewalks, and whatever. I don't understand the procedure. Are you going to turn all those projects that are already in front of the City Council, such as the water park, the shooting complex, and the trails over to this Oversight Integrity Council for them to evaluate, review, and tell you which ones to do first? They just handed you \$8 million if this is approved next year. What are you going to do with that \$8 million? Do you turn it over to them and say here is a list of projects that we would like to do so prioritize them, or are you going to ask them what's on their list of projects for \$8 million? If you don't like their projects, I guess you are the City Council so you have the authority to vote what you want. Councilmember Frierson said, and we only vote when they bring a project to us. We don't tell them which ones to investigate. Mr. Wysocki said, but you also already have projects on board. Councilmember Frierson said, they may look at those that haven't been funded. Mr. Wysocki said, they don't look at those. We have a wonderful trail, the Greenway Trail, and I don't know who's behind that, but there are several more segments of trails. With the \$8 million, are you going to complete all of those trails and in what sequence. Do they have any say in that?

Mayor Perrin said, that's where they do their due-diligence. Let me just give you an example of what you're trying to say on the trails. First, the City Council approved an estimated cost of around \$140 million worth of trails throughout the entire city that's called a Master Bike Pedestrian Trail. That doesn't mean they may do all of those. They may do some of them. They've had many public hearings, so all these projects you've been hearing about have been on public hearings through our city advisory committee, here in the City of Jonesboro, and that's who came up with all these projects you've been talking about. The first one, obviously would be, and it has been discussed, is the connectivity between Arkansas State University and downtown Jonesboro. The total estimated cost of that is around \$6.4 million, but they're working on that now and coming back with another drawing. Whatever that cost may be, however, the City Council has already approved moving the monies we had that we've already collected from the highway department. So, we have about \$1 million over there now already to offset whatever that cost may be. If in fact the balance of that cost was \$4 million or whatever, that may be one of the venues that they may come back and say that might be one of the first ones we want to do. Mr. Wysocki said, I guess that's what I'm getting to. Is that their decision to spend the \$4.5 million there or to say we want the trail from Craighead Forest over to wherever it goes done first? Mayor Perrin said, their job is only to recommend. Mr. Wysocki asked, is there was a list of projects that are on the boards right now besides the trails that can be published somewhere that says here's your \$8 million a year, here's \$100 million over 12 years and here are the projects currently on the books that we want you to evaluate and we're voting on? I'm not talking about safety, fire, and police. You all deserve the money. Take your money and do what you need to do with it. I'm talking about those secondary projects. Mayor Perrin said, right. Mr. Wysocki asked, I'm just wondering if there is a list that can be published?

Councilmember Frierson said, we would be extremely foolish as a council or the administration to hand the list to this committee and have them work on that list.

That's against everything that committee says in this document. Mr. Wysocki said, but it's part of the projects so I don't understand why it's against what the committee says. I don't understand that statement. They may bring other projects to the table, but okay, I'll end it. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

Councilmember Joe Hafner asked, Mr. McDaniel would you like to speak? Mr. McDaniel said, so, just to reiterate what Councilmember Frierson said regarding the list. We believe that if we establish a list right now then in doing so that establishes a ceiling and a floor that totally erases the creativity and the opportunity for these organizations and people who want projects because you take away the competition once you do that. So, I echo what Councilmember Frierson said and I hope that answers your question as far as how I envision it. That's just how we envision it as Team Jonesboro. Thank you. Councilmember Hafner said, there has been some polling done, public hearings, etc. that has kind of outlined projects that people would like to see. There's no secret to that. Mr. McDaniel said, exactly. We just figured it would be unwise of us to anchor this committee and kind of set the tone of their debates. We want it to be fair and open. We don't believe that we, Team Jonesboro, have a right or that it's even good policy for us to set the tone and begin to make a decision for the entire city. The entire city deserves an opportunity to go before that oversight council, whoever they may be, and let the projects compete. We want competition and we believe in competition.

Mr. Harold Carter, 902 Tony Drive, said, I see you have a sizable list that you can work on and spend a lot of money on and I don't oppose that necessarily, but I can't say that I'm not interested in the portion of the 1% sales tax that will go to police, fire and city employed. It's all right to say the sky's the limit, but it's not really. I'd really like to know how much of this money is going to be used to balance out the capital budget that, as far as I can tell, has been where most of the money or a lot of the money has come from to pay these last raises for the whole city employees, including police, fire, and other city employees. I mean is that going to be part of the process to get a balance on the capital funds and capital funding, or alternatively just devote the entire portion to funding these past raises because the past raises are going to have to be funded.

Councilmember Moore said, just as a point of order, that's not the question before us Mr. Carter. The question before us right now, if you want to speak on it, is over appointing the citizen's committee to be an advisory committee. It does not have anything to do with what happened in the past and renegotiating police and fire salaries from last year. Mr. Carter said, I don't want to renegotiate. I want to know what the Oversight Integrity Council is going to be doing. Councilmember Moore said, you're going to have to stick with the point and question that's before us. Mr. Carter said, I'll sit down, but this question will come up. I'd like to know when it's appropriate so I can address it then because I'm going to want to know an answer to it and I'm not going to be satisfied without an answer to it. Mayor Perrin said okay. Ms. Duncan said, the ordinance doesn't say that the oversight council will look at police and fire expenditures. So, the City Council will look at police and fire expenditures. Mr. Carter said, well, that's what I thought. Ms. Duncan said, the oversight council says they're going to look at the public improvements, if that helps. Mr. Carter said, the part I'm talking about specifically is police and fire. Ms. Duncan said, that's not part of this committee the way I read their ordinance. Councilmember Moore said, that's the point I'm making. That's not the item before us. The item before us is on the appointment of the oversight council for the public part of that. Mr. Carter said, I understand. I'm sympathetic and will go along with it 100%. I just want to know where we stand and what we're really talking about. Mayor Perrin said, and it will be covered. Thank you, Mr. Carter.

Held at one reading[ORD-19:031](#)

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF A ONE PERCENT (1.00%) SALES AND USE TAX WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS; TO PROVIDE THAT ONE-HALF OF ALL NET COLLECTIONS DERIVED FROM THE SALES AND USE TAX SHALL BE USED TO FUND THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, EQUIPPING, AND IMPROVING OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF A PUBLIC NATURE FOR CITY'S POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS, AND FOR THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND STAFFING OF SUCH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS; TO PROVIDE THAT ONE-HALF OF ALL NET COLLECTIONS DERIVED FROM THE SALES AND USE TAX SHALL BE USED TO FUND THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, EQUIPPING, AND IMPROVING OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF A PUBLIC NATURE FOR THE ARTS, AQUATICS, BEAUTIFICATION, LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, PARK FACILITIES, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, SIDEWALKS, AND TRAIL SYSTEMS AND FOR THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND STAFFING OF SUCH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO.

Attachments: [opposition to sales tax 06042019.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Gene Vance, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:031 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, I have one question for the City Attorney, Carol Duncan. The ordinance reads that the tax be levied within the City of Jonesboro. However, I couldn't find any provision that stated that the money would be spent only on those projects within the City of Jonesboro. Is there any ordinance, that maybe outside of this ordinance, that would prevent the tax collected from being utilized to fund maintenance of existing structures or complete existing projects still underway or fund new projects not yet started that are outside of the city? Ms. Duncan said, first of all, we can't spend any tax money outside of the city. Second of all, when the tax is voted on, it will have the specific language in it and then it will be at that point designated for those purposes and cannot be spent for any other purpose. So, it would be in the language of the ballot measure and it would say specifically for the one percent for these items or against the one percent which is the next ordinance that we have coming up. That designates it and it has to be segregated into a separate fund and only used for those items. Councilmember Long said, so the sales tax collected on this could not be used out in the county or anything like that. Ms. Duncan said, no. Councilmember Long said, ok. Councilmember Gene Vance said, that is the first paragraph after the title. It explains exactly how it is going to be spent. Mayor Perrin said, well that is on the next ordinance he's talking about.

Meridith Pierce, 2908 Turtle Creek Road, said, I am a lifetime Jonesboro resident. I am a graduate of Nettleton and Arkansas State where I obtained my Masters in Education before teaching in our public schools for six years. And, I now work as the Associate Director of the Foundation of Arts. I love this city because it holds dear friendships, family, and precious memories of a happy life. I am here today because I care about my hometown and its progress. I care about the quality of life and the opportunities provided to the citizens as well as the level of public safety. As an active mother of young children, I understand the importance of safe, accessible, family-friendly enriching activities. I want to be able to raise my kids in a place where they have those opportunities. I have been fortunate enough to travel to other cities throughout the South and elsewhere who are doing some things better than we are. Cities that have invested in infrastructure and promotes health, livability, and quality of

life. Some of these are smaller cities with fewer people in their reach. So, when I learned about Team Jonesboro and the proposed improvements, I knew I had to become a part of that movement. I needed to fight for those kinds of changes in my hometown to help make Jonesboro what I know it can be. When considering the kind of community that I want to live in, sure, I want to include arts events and aquatics centers, museums, more trails and walkability, but I also know that all of those things can't be enjoyed without public safety. A good community needs both to produce well-rounded individuals. If we do improve our quality of life, it is not just having a cool place in which to live and be active and participate civically, but it is having a place that attracts the brightest minds, the creatives, the outdoorsy types. It attracts industries that want nice places for their employees to inhabit and better serves without the means to go elsewhere. It's an investment. An investment in the kind of hometown that I want to be a part of. Thank you for letting me speak today. Mayor Perrin said, thank you very much.

Louis Lancaster, 2916 Dacus Lane, said, you have no idea of how I feel like a fish out of water up here. I appreciate the opportunity to address the council. My remarks are to the people behind me and the people who are going to be stuck with this tax burden. Where to start? You want me to believe that the city can't properly fund the emergency services of fire and police within its normal budget processes. If that is true, then go ahead and pull this thing through for a tax, a vote on a tax separated out from this stuff because you have no idea or you cannot tell me what kind of projects you have got, how much they are going to cost, how long you are going to be stuck with it. You know, hiding these projects in for arts, aquatics, beautification and museums inside essential services is dishonest. It is smoke and mirrors and it smells like pork and I don't approve of this. Councilmember Chris Moore said, once again, I am going to call a point of order. We are not here to litigate the merits of this sales tax. We are just being asked whether or not to send it to a public referendum. The time to litigate this is not tonight. So, we are not here to debate the merits or not. We are here to ask do we want to send it and let the public vote on it. And, if the answer to that is yes, you will have a full opportunity because these people are going to have to sell it. Feel free to ask them and feel free to vote against it. Mr. Lancaster asked, you can't separate the two? Councilmember Moore said, why would we separate, why would we amend a proposal brought to the citizens, to us, who have asked us to put it on the ballot? Why would we take it upon ourselves to split their proposal in half and then send it out? Mr. Lancaster said, you would have a better chance of passing something for fire and police. Councilmember Moore said, then vote against it. Vote against it. Mr. Lancaster said, well I will. There is no doubt about it. I will see you at the polls. Councilmember Moore said, ok. I am just telling you that we are not here to litigate the merits. And, if we want to have a ruling on it by the City Attorney, then that is what we are fixing to do, but we are not going to get into back and forth on here on the merits of a sales tax. That is not what we are asked to consider. Mr. Lancaster said, I understand we have some people here with some banking experience. If you was to take this mess up to a banker and say I want to borrow money for this stuff. Councilmember Moore said, once again, Mr. Lancaster, we are not being asked to give an opinion on this. We are being asked to send it to a public referendum. We are not here to debate the merits of the bank or anything else. Mr. Lancaster said, I suggest that you don't send it to the public referendum. Councilmember Moore said, thank you for your comment. Mr. Lancaster said, I appreciate it. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

Vic Moore, 3133 Sistine Chapel, said, I am the CEO and Director of the Jonesboro Aquatics Club. I moved here in September. It was a two or three month courting process. And, part of the reason why I came here is because you all took four days to show me around the school districts of Jonesboro. I met the Athletics Director at

Valley View. He took me on an hour and a half tour. He told me all about the schools. We toured everything just about from Paragould there. The purpose of what I am saying is I would not have come here if I didn't hear quality of life a billion times in that four days that I was here. I would like to think that I am very good at my job. I would like to think that my resume will back that up. And, I would like to think that the last seven months of what we have been doing, you know, renting pool spaces, has been nothing short of tremendous. And, to what we could do as a community and we, because I have bought in at this point, what we could do with a community pool in Jonesboro, I can't even describe to you. I mean we are sitting in a corridor of where we can hit Memphis, Nashville, St. Louis and bring in people. I came up from New Orleans. I have already sent our team to New Orleans to my old team. The way it works is that you send people this way and they come back to you. There are 250+ kids in that program. They travel with 75. There are 900 kids in a meet. I would encourage all of you to watch a video on utube from the City of Huntsville talking about one meet. One large meet, they brought in \$1.5 million in one weekend, a four-day weekend for one swim meet. It's out there. I can get that readily available to everyone of you. I strongly encourage you to put this on the ballot and put it to the people. There are a lot of people in this room that are for it. I respect the people who are not. But, I specifically moved here, uprooted my family, my two kids, my wife because we believe in what these people are standing here for. I thank you for your time. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

Held at one reading

[ORD-19:030](#)

AN ORDINANCE CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS ON THE QUESTION OF LEVYING A ONE PERCENT (1.00%) SALES AND USE TAX WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS; TO PROVIDE THAT ONE-HALF OF ALL NET COLLECTIONS DERIVED FROM THE SALES AND USE TAX SHALL BE USED TO FUND THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, EQUIPPING, AND IMPROVING OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF A PUBLIC NATURE FOR THE CITY'S POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS, AND FOR THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND STAFFING OF SUCH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS; TO PROVIDE THAT ONE-HALF OF ALL NET COLLECTIONS DERIVED FROM THE SALES AND USE TAX SHALL BE USED TO FUND THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, EQUIPPING, AND IMPROVING OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF A PUBLIC NATURE FOR THE ARTS, AQUATICS, BEAUTIFICATION, LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, PARK FACILITIES, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, SIDEWALKS, AND TRAIL SYSTEMS AND FOR THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND STAFFING OF SUCH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS; AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO.

Attachments: [opposition to sales tax 06042019.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:030 by title only. All voted aye.

T.J. Thompson, 3816 S. Culberhouse, said, for the past two, two and one half, three years, I have been pretty involved in the quality of life movement here in Jonesboro through different efforts, through different groups of people. I am not at all saying that I have done more than anyone else. I certainly haven't. There are a lot of people who have worked very, very, very hard. The things that I have been involved with have afforded me to, in some instances, get a viewpoint into other communities. The common thread in those communities is that at some point, in their story, the community says, you know what, we are at a critical point right now. It is the time, the weather is right if you want to think about it in those terms, it is time that we do

something. This election is about that. Asking for this special election, a group of citizens, not the government, not an alderman, not a Mayor, not a business person alone, a group of citizens said, you know what, we see what we could be. We believe in what we could be. We believe that the people should have a choice and we believe that the people should have an opportunity to have input into what we could be. That is what this election is. We are at a point in our city that we have a decision to make. As Scott said in his presentation, we have to decide what kind of city we want to be. Is this one percent sales tax going to solve every challenge that we have before us? No, not at all. Does this one percent sales tax, namely sending this to the people for election, does it put us on a path where we choose what we want to be and we potentially infuse a tremendous number of dollars that could be used for tremendous good? I refuse to call it a mess. I won't do that. I refuse to say that someone is going to be stuck with it. I won't do that. Does putting this to an election give the people of Jonesboro the opportunity to say, do we want to invest in amenities? It could be a tremendous blessing to people and not just one person or another person, but all people. We have an opportunity here to let Jonesboro say is that the community that we want to be where we are willing to invest in amenities for all people. It also gives us an opportunity to ask ourselves and to go to the polls and answer the question, do we want to be as safe as we can possibly be? In my experience, whatever you want to call it, in the world of quality of life movements, safety is paramount. It doesn't matter what facility you have, trail you have, or park you have, sports facility, museum, you name it, if people don't feel safe, then none of it matters. And, so to say this can be separated into two different issues, I don't believe that. I believe that they are married so closely that you can only consider it together. So, tonight, I want you to know first, personally, I support this going to election. That is what is before us tonight. If we can get the nod and it go to an election after three readings, we will hash out all of the what it is worth and what it is not outside of this forum. But, I want you to know that personally I support this going to election. Team Jonesboro supports this going to election. And, I think that the citizens of Jonesboro deserve an opportunity to go to the polls and let everybody know which side of it they fall on. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you very much.

Held at one reading[ORD-19:032](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM I-1, INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5917 E. JOHNSON AS REQUESTED BY MARSHA BRADLEY ON BEHALF OF STEVE SUKUP

Attachments: [16152 stamped.pdf](#)
[Staff Summary - Council.pdf](#)
[Application.pdf](#)
[Questions - Answers.pdf](#)
[MP 16-10 SUKUP 49 ADDITION - SUKUP MANUFACTURING - JOHNSON](#)
[Warranty Deed.pdf](#)
[USPS Receipts.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:032 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I ask that we hold that for three separate readings. Mayor Perrin said, yes, we will hold that to three readings.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING****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](#)

Mayor Perrin said, I think we will hold that. We have always held those for three readings.

Zac Baker, 110 W. Huntington, Suite A, said, I represent Waterwheel Hunting Club. I was here at the last meeting. I was unable to get over here because of the number of people that we had. I guess that is a good thing with everybody participating. My request at that time was to waive a reading and get a vote in an effort to try and expedite the process because of the timing of this particular application. In the event that it was approved, it would allow for, I believe, the restaurant to get open a month earlier. Councilmember Mitch Johnson said, Mayor, I don't think that. I mean serving alcohol is a privilege that you earn in the City of Jonesboro and we do all of these on three readings. It gives everybody ample opportunity to speak for or against it. And, I don't think we should bypass one and not bypass any others in all fairness to all of those who have applied in the past and will apply in the future. Mr. Baker said, my comment would be that if we have three readings, we can begin the process in the first reading, rather than always wait until the third. In other words, yes, we are holding them to three readings, but if we do nothing on the first two, then why are we holding them to three readings? Councilmember Chris Moore said, because that gives the public three opportunities to come and voice any concerns that they might have to the council. Councilmember Gene Vance said, you can open your restaurant without the alcohol. Councilmember Bobby Long said, I can go ahead and ask them the questions that I normally ask on the third reading for the second reading right now. Councilmember Charles Frierson said, I wish you wouldn't because you will probably do it again if you do it now. Councilmember Long said, I probably would. Mayor Perrin said, I guess what I am hearing on the council is that we have always held these for three and I don't think and you have heard the reason there is to give all of the citizens an opportunity to do that. I don't think it will be the consensus of the council to change that tonight. Councilmember Moore said, well state law says that an ordinance is to be read on three separate readings unless there is a reason to suspend the rules for the public nature. I mean maybe there is some extraordinary circumstance of a public nature that counsel can give us, but otherwise. Mayor Perrin said, this is on the second reading tonight so in two weeks, he will be up for final reading. Mr. Baker said, in reviewing every other application, the minutes for those, no one else asked so I am here asking. Councilmember Moore said, they may not have asked in the meeting, but I can promise you that they called me at home. Mayor Perrin said, if you will just wait two weeks, I can assure you, ok. Mr. Baker said, fair enough. Mayor Perrin said, thank you very much. Mr. Baker said, thank you.

Held at second 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](#)

Mayor Perrin said, I think we are going to hold that I believe didn't you say Mr. Chairman of Public Works, ok. We will hold that.

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD 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

On the vote, councilmember Gene Vance said, no. I have got to be consistent.

Mayor Perrin said, this will not be effective for 30 days because there is no emergency clause. Mike, we have got a lot of work to do with our Collections Department downstairs in the Finance Department to make sure all of these folks are notified. We have the list on that. We will talk about it tomorrow.

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

Nay: 1 - Gene Vance

Absent: 1 - Chris Gibson

Enactment No: O-EN-035-2019

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Perrin reported on the following items:

The first is your Airport Financial Statements and they look real good through April 30, 2019 which means there has been a lot of people coming in and out and buying fuel.

I have got just a few items that I will cover with you.

First of all, I am very pleased to announce our new Chief of Staff who is with us, Mike Downing. Glad to have you very much. Mike's background is that he ran the economic development for the entire state of Missouri for a number of years through about four or five governors. He is from the Missouri area. We are delighted to have him on several of these major projects that we are working on. In fact, Mike has been working with me for probably two or three or four months from the Jonesboro Unlimited. So, we are very glad to have Mike.

Next, our floodplain management program and fuel type deal compliance has been

approved and that was great to get that letter.

Our sales tax for May was up 6.38 for the city and the county versus last year. The city's was 5.99 and the county's was 6.88. That is still good news on our sales tax.

The convention will be next week on June 12-14 in Little Rock. Many of you all are going to that. They offer a lot of great workshops and two of our own people will be presenting workshops. One, Social Media will be done by Bill Campbell and the other one on Opportunity Zones for Economic Development will be done by Mike Downing. The Municipal League had asked him to do that since he has been very much involved in that in the state. So, I appreciate them doing that.

On building permits, residential was \$3.3 million and on commercial was \$5 million for a total of \$8,247,000 which was just for the month of May.

The Arkansas Natural Resource representative Whit Montique presentation on Floodplain will be Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in the first floor conference room. We will certainly get that out on Facebook and website. She will have an interesting program on that. I encourage any of you all to see if you can attend that.

FEMA, again, approved our three-year emergency disaster staging plan, which again, I was pleased to get that letter.

Last weekend was absolutely incredible here in Jonesboro in the fact that we had 89 teams from several states on the Mountain Dew Classic for that weekend. Even our concession stands netted over \$17,000 by itself. Also, the thing that I was very impressed with is that several people had pitched in and did some donations so that we were able to recognize Pop Gibson. Pop Gibson ran that softball field until the city took it over many, many years ago. He did it for over twenty years. A bronze plaque was put up, privately bought, on the entrance to the park at Southside. What was amazing is that his old team, his team many years ago, all of them came in to say that and got the pitch from Pop. They also gave him a championship ring from the Arkansas Hall of Fame in Softball. That was a big deal for Pop. We wanted to do that for him. That was a great deal.

[COM-19:034](#)

Airport Commission Financial Statements ending April 30, 2019

Attachments: [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 04 2019.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, I would just echo if you have the chance to go to the Municipal League Convention. It is the 85th this year. I encourage you to do so.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, just one item Mayor. I was contacted this week and I sent it to Mike Downing's wrong email address. I was asked about the fact that the demolition equipment is no longer at the Ice House and that all of the safety fencing is now gone and the property is unsecured and open. Mayor Perrin said, we were told on Code Enforcement to tell them to get the fence back up. We will check on that tomorrow. We are waiting on ADEQ. I have asked ADEQ and have sent them the bid that we got for \$124,000 to see if there was any money with ADEQ that they could give us to help offset that cost of demolition. \$58,000 of that \$124,000 was abatement of

asbestos. We have not heard from them, but we will certainly check on them tomorrow. Councilmember Moore said, I am alright waiting on them for that. I just want the safety fence back up. Mayor Perrin said, I totally agree. Councilmember Moore said, now that all the fence is gone, you can go around it and the house next door and all of the doors are open. If you will just check and I forwarded it to Mike's new email address. Mayor Perrin said, we will check on that tomorrow. Councilmember Moore said, yes sir, that's all. Mayor Perrin said, we will be happy to.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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: 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