



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

PUBLIC WORKS 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 10 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Absent 2 - Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-19:070](#)

Proclamation by Mayor Perrin to the Jonesboro High School Golf Team 5A State Champions coached by Blake Mackey

Read

[COM-19:071](#)

Proclamation by Mayor Perrin to the Valley View Golf Team 4A State Champions coached by Chris Viala

Read

[COM-19:072](#)

PRESENTATION BY CHIEF RICK ELLIOTT ON "SHOTS FIRED IN THE CITY"

Attachments: [Elliott Presentation 11052019](#)

Police Chief Rick Elliott said, this year has kind of been an interesting year as far as violent crime in Jonesboro. There has been a lot of attention to the amount of gun calls for gun shots in the city. In the past several months, it has not only been a concern to the department, but several residents throughout the city. As the Mayor and I have discussed this over the past several months, we have tried to come up with different ways to be more proactive in the way that we do business and ways to maybe stop some of this violence. One of the projects that we came up with was the camera system commonly called SkyCops. So, we will talk a little bit about that tonight, but let me just first start out by talking about the red and how we got to this point.

Between January 1st and October 31st of this year, there were 624 calls for gun crime that came into the Craighead County 911 center. This number includes calls for shots

heard as well as shots fired calls. These calls are classified such by our 911 dispatchers as shots heard being a caller hearing gunshots either indoors or out, and shots fired being a caller physically seeing something taking place. Of these 624 calls that came in, 571 of them were listed as shots heard and 53 of them were listed as shots fired. Out of the 624 calls for service on gun crime, 84 incidents were found to be substantial and ended in a police report being filed. This meaning that someone was either shot or property was damaged, either a building or a vehicle. This includes 50 shots heard reports and 34 shots fired reports. Investigations were immediately launched on all 84 of these cases.

Of those 84 police reports, only 24 resulted in a victim actually being shot. Out of these 24 reports account for 31 victims, meaning we had multiple victims in one incident. A very small amount of the other reports included damage to property and the vast majority resulted in cases closed due to inconclusive evidence, no victim, no participation from witnesses, and no leads. Of all of these reports that we have had, we are still currently investigating three. On the next slide, it breaks down the calls for service of these 24 incidences that we talked about. If you look at the line item on the cases in green, there have been 13 arrests made in these cases. This is better than it was at this time last year. At this time last year, we had about 20 firearms related cases that were unsolved due to lack of cooperation from the victim and/or witnesses. I think between our pleas and reaching out to the public, being more proactive, our media partners, we now have had a better success rate at getting people to open up and cooperate with the police in closing these cases out. The two cases in the yellow, those are cases that were closed by the death of the perpetrator. Those two cases were officer involved shootings.

Again, there is a chart just kind of breaking down how the calls came in, the shots heard versus the shots fired. The shots heard could be fireworks calls you get around the first of January. You have a lot of calls that come in as shots being heard when, reality is, it could be fireworks. Sometimes, we never know the difference. But, however the call comes in and coded, that is how it is counted towards our statistics. So, we look back at our five-year trend over these shots heard and shots fired calls. So, as you can see, over the past five years, we are averaging anywhere from 592 to 671 in 2017 and then by October of this year, we are at 624 already for 2019. We are on trend for receiving more calls this year of shots being heard and fired throughout our city. Again, this is an overall view of all of the calls that came in. You can see that it is not just limited to certain parts of the city. Although, there are areas of the city that there are high levels and concentrations of shots heard or shots fired calls. One of our proactive measures, again, was buying into the SkyCop Camera program. The first camera was deployed last week in the Cedar Heights area. In a weeks time in the Cedar Heights area, we have had zero police calls to the Cedar Heights area which is pretty amazing. Yesterday on State Street, a block over, we had one shots heard call, which resulted in a vehicle backfiring. Residents in the area have already given us positive feedback and already reached out to the media, from the editorial that was on channel 8 last night and had commented to them about the positive feedback from the camera being in the area and how much safer they feel.

The second camera has been deployed at Race and Fairfield, the other side of town. Again, these cameras record 24 hours a day and seven days a week. They will record for a 30 day timeframe and then the loop will start over. So, during that timeframe, if something happens, we access to go back in and rewind the video and watch the video. We can do this from smartphones, iPads, and computers. So, the question you ask is or what we would be asking or should be asking is, "What are you doing?" Over the past five years, I have been working on developing a partnership with our federal

law enforcement agencies. This partnership has many benefits and has saved our strained police department budget thousands of dollars. We now have some of our officers credentialed as federal agents. We refer to them as TFO's, Task Force Officers. These officers have full federal investigative and arrest powers. They are able to open and submit cases to the United States Attorney's office for prosecution. We have officers credentialed with the FBI Safe Street Taskforce, ATF, United States Marshall Service, Homeland Security. We now have one prosecutor in Scott Ellington's office. She has been deputized as a United States Prosecuting Attorney. With this aggressive federal approach, we are putting career criminals in the federal penitentiary for a longer period of time.

Typically, if you had a convicted felon that got with a possession of a firearm, he or she may receive 6-8 months in a state penitentiary and then they are back out. Our state penitentiaries are overcrowded. By prosecuting these individuals on a federal level, these individuals are getting anywhere from 6-20 years in the federal penitentiary. This is day for day time. There is no early release. They do day for day. Their best bet, they may get a year off for good behavior. This folks, is taking career criminals off of our streets. This partnership is working. It is working for bigger cities across the country. I have been working on this for five years. I have more federal task force officers than most big cities in this country. This is a proactive approach. This approach has saved our taxpayers a lot of money. The Feds pay for our overtime on these lengthy investigations. They provide our officers with equipment at no charge. They provide our officers with free training.

Another proactive measure that we started this year was the Crime Activity Taskforce, POCAT. This taskforce brings our law enforcement partners together in Northeast Arkansas to work together on organized crime. We have a gang problem. It is not just a gang taskforce. It is an organized crime taskforce because there is other organized crime just besides gang activity. This unit was designed to work on that. By bringing law enforcement officers together in the 2nd Judicial District, and we have now linked in with the Memphis area gang unit, we have had success and prosecution of more cases where people commit a crime here and flee to Crittenden County or over into Memphis. We have helped those counties clear other cases by working together with each other. Memphis PD has now helped us clear cases by identifying some of their gang members that have come to Jonesboro to commit crimes. Our Street Crimes Unit, this unit I brought back two years ago, they have made over 4,000 arrests in the past two years. We have taken over \$2 million worth of drugs off of our streets with this specialized unit.

Social Media, since January 1st, we brought back our FaceBook page because social media is important to law enforcement nowadays. Partnering with our community on social media, we have solved over 160 cases. And, that is simply by us taking the video that we get from different stores that are victims of crime or video evidence that we get from whatever kind of case and post it on our social media for the public to identify this person and we subsequently make an arrest. And, I am sure at this point, that number is higher than that because these results are coming out daily. Everything we do in the police department, we are transparent about. You can review all of our crime stats. You can view this PowerPoint, this information on the Jonesboro Police Department website. These reports are there every day.

Additional Camera Systems, the West End Neighborhood Association purchased a camera system for the CWL Park several months ago. This system is also being monitored by the Police Department and it also records. This is the type of public and private partnership that we are looking for at this point. We think we can do more with

these cameras, but due to budget constraints, we are limited on what we can come up with. At some point in time, we are going to reach out to the community. There may be people or businesses that want to make donations to add more of these cameras to our city. So, that is something that we will be looking at here in the near future. The Mayor and I have been working on this project. Again, these cameras are being recorded. Eventually, we will have a virtual wall of camera monitors in the dispatch center where we can watch at any given point in time if need be. But, more important, it gives us the chance to go back and review an incident or location if something has taken place.

So we get down to talking about crime stats in Jonesboro. A lot of times in Jonesboro, I hear comments that kind of offends me when people say Jonesboro is becoming a Memphis or a Little Rock and crime has just gotten crazy. Yes, shots fired calls, it is unacceptable, any of them. Yes, the number is up. Our homicide rate this year, we are at 6. Our trend of homicides for the past ten years, we have been averaging 3-5. This year we are at 6. Two years ago, we were at 7. All 6 of our homicide investigations this year have been cleared by arrests. Five of those homicide cases this year were due to gun violence. The sixth one was domestic related and it was a non-gun use for the manner of death. So, we look at our stats over the past ten years and we look at the trends and violent crime has been fairly consistent. The trends, if you look at our monthly reports, they kind of fluctuate up and down from year to year comparison. But, you also have to look at what has happened to Jonesboro in the past ten years. We have grown over 15,000 people. In the fact that our crime rates have been fairly consistent with that kind of growth is pretty good. So, is it acceptable? Absolutely not.

I think we are doing the best that we can do with the resources that I have got right now. Our goal is to do better. It is going to take more than we have now to get there, but by working together with the city, with you, and the public, we can get better results than we have right now. We cannot arrest our way out of the troubles that this wonderful city has been plagued with. These problems begin at home. This country has social problems that have not been addressed. We have children being brought up without being taught the value of human life. Not being taught to respect others. The lack of respect for law. Children being raised in drug infested homes. Too many times, these children, they turn to the gang lifestyle just so they have some sense of family. The life of a criminal is way too glamorized on our tv and in the movies nowadays. The fear of jail is no longer a deterrent for crime. I have said it many times in the past that policing is not a spectator sport. This community must continue to be involved and work together with the police department to keep our city safe. The police department is doing the best that we can do with the resources that we have. We still need additional staffing and equipment to keep up with growing daily demands and try to stay proactive in our crime fighting efforts.

My message to the residents of Jonesboro, always stay vigilant when you are out and about. Stay off of your phone. Avoid distractions. If you see something, say something. Do your part in keeping your community safe. We encourage the development of neighborhood watch programs, community involvement programs, utilizing the different web based resources that are out there to connect yourself with your neighbors. There are neighborhood apps and different programs out there. The Ring app is huge. We have had great success with the ring doorbells. We have solved a lot of crime with those. And, I am not going to stand here and promote a particular company because there are other companies that do the same thing, but the concept has paid off. My message to those of you who are listening or watching and wish to victimize the residents of Jonesboro, we will continue to make our best effort to prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law. The Jonesboro Police Department along

with our state and federal law enforcement partners are committed to take career and violent criminals off of our streets and to make our community as safe as we can. So, thank you. Any questions?

Mayor Perrin said, good job Chief. Councilmember Chris Moore said, Chief, I would just like to ask you a couple of questions. Like you, I am also concerned about the increase in gun violence in our city. While I commend you on the success of solving a majority of these gun crimes and your stats show that all of them except three have been solved. Chief Elliott said, some have been closed due to lack of cooperation. Three are still under investigation. Councilmember Moore said, it is still yet, the end of a case, one of the two. What bothers me is you talk about the five year partnership and the work, I am sitting here looking at the statistics on gun violence and it is the highest it has been in five years. You have an 80% increase over the last two years on that. Nothing I heard you say addressed and told me what you are going to do differently January 1st than what you did this past January 1st. Can you talk about what you intend to do starting January 1st this coming year that you didn't do last year that might curb this 80% increase in gun violence.

Chief Elliott said, well, as I go back to, as we talk with our federal law enforcement partners, these numbers are increasing as we speak. We are able to have more prosecution. We are able to have more people involved in getting federal cases to the federal prosecutors. I didn't just jump up and all of a sudden have twelve federal agents. It has taken me five years to go from one to today where I am getting five credentialed as we speak. Being proactive with the Street Crimes Unit, we take these stats daily and the numbers we have got daily. I have got limited resources. My manpower issues have been the same, an ongoing battle for many years. Recruiting and retention has been an ongoing problem. I am six short today. I have seven officers retiring next year. So, you ask what am I going to do differently, we always have to try to look, to think outside of the box. I have to do more with less.

These SkyCop cameras, I need more of them. I think that is an approach that we want to come back and ask for is for additional funding to add more of these cameras. We need more community involvement. These officers are running call to call. Our accident rates are increasing so officers are tied up having to work accidents. I am looking at moving, at changing up shift structures. I am trying to get our staffing up to where I can get a ten hour shift for our patrol division where I can have an overlap during the 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. hours where we can be more proactive and concentrate on these high crime areas. But, it takes staffing to get there. If things go as I plan with this last batch of rookies being turned loose on their own, sometime at the end of December, unless I have a mass exodus between now and then, I should be able to pull off the ten hour shift concept and be more proactive in what we are doing. Because right now, during the second shift, it is call to call. There is not much proactive activity going on. So, again, it is about resources. So, with tapping in with the feds, they are paying the overtime. I am getting more prosecution. I am getting career criminals off of the streets of Jonesboro and it is not costing taxpayers anything other than that base salary.

Councilmember Moore said, I have no doubt in your success rate of prosecuting them after the fact and I appreciate the federal after the fact, but how is a camera going to help the shooting at the Kindergarten Center that happened on Strawn or Keely? You can't possibly have enough cameras. Chief Elliott said, no, we cannot. I cannot predict anywhere in the vicinity of Jonesboro in 82 square miles where a shooting is going to take place or not take place. Councilmember Moore said, well, but what I am saying is do we need a different approach like stop and frisk or some other type of policing?

Chief Elliott said, no. Councilmember Moore asked, what is our change in approach because what we are doing right now doesn't seem to be working? Chief Elliott said, the solution would be give me some more officers. I could do more. Councilmember Moore said, so, you need more money. Chief Elliott said, absolutely. I have stated this back when we started the sales tax initiative months ago that I needed 30 officers and associated equipment. My stance on that has not changed today. I need bodies. I need bodies now. As I have said, I am doing the best I can do with what I have got. In fact, I am facing shortages and we are in a constant state of having to hire and train. That is eight months that person is drawing down a salary and is not an asset to the department when in training.

Councilmember Moore said, I am not being critical of you personally. I am just trying to get a grip on what it is going to take to get this number of 84 and we have got two months left in this year. If it continues on the rate that it is going, we are going to be at a 100% increase in gun crimes over the last two years and that concerns me. Chief Elliott said, it concerns all of us. This is why we are having this conversation tonight. You are concerned. I am concerned. The Mayor is concerned. We have been concerned. And, frankly, I have been concerned the five years that I have taken over. This is why I try to think outside of the box so to speak and start these federal partnership programs, start these saturation programs. A couple of times last year we ran saturations with law enforcement from the state and county. There have been nights that we have had 50 officers in this town. Has it had the desired effect? A couple of times, absolutely. But, when I have the manpower to do what I call proactive policing, we can do great things. Just like my Street Crimes Unit, it is a small group of officers that has made a tremendous impact on the crime in Jonesboro. If I had the numbers to expand that unit, then I could do twice as good.

Councilmember Moore asked, what is the number on money, Chief, that you need? I mean I know as much as possible, but what is realistically the number that you are looking for that you think would make a significant difference in our crime? How much money? Chief Elliott said, well, ok, let's start with what it takes to hire a police officer. \$43,000 by the time you pay benefits and everything and out of that the officer is going to bring home \$34,500. To outfit that officer, you are at \$12,500 and that is just uniforms, portable radio, and guns. When you add a car to that, it is another \$43,000. Now, I asked for 30 officers. Take those numbers times 30. Then, that is a start. We have other needs that the department is facing. We have a radio system that is soon to be outdated. The price on upgrading the AWIN's radio system is \$6 million. I am in three buildings. We have structural problems in two of them. How efficient are we spread out over three buildings? It is a struggle. So, I guess the answer to your question is, bottom line is, ever however many officers we can budget for, I will take them. I could put them to use. But, those are the associated costs with it. So, it is up to you, the council that controls the money to decide what can we afford, what can we come up with. Do we have the resources to do it or do we have to do something else. As we go through this budgeting cycle right now, it is tight. Mayor Perrin said, it is very tight. Chief Elliott said, again, my needs are not going away. They are only going to increase. I have an aging fleet. I have equipment that needs to be replaced. Plus, what I need in addition to continue to move forward and do what we are doing. So, the answer to your question is I will take all of the money you can give me, but how much money do we have to throw at the project. But, realistically speaking, I am always looking for ways to think outside of the box. The more I can depend upon the public to help us to just report crime when they see crime. The fact that we are finally getting more witnesses and victims to participate is a huge help. The fact that we have partnerships now, better working relationship with this part of the state and over in Memphis, we are going to start seeing better results, more clearances because these

criminals, they are not from here necessarily all the time. They are here. They may stay here for a while. They may go to Blytheville, Osceola, West Memphis, whatever. It is fluid. They commit crimes here and in other places. When we start putting all of the pieces of the puzzle together, we are already seeing success in prosecution by working together. And, that is just since this task force was created.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, Chief, let me ask you a question. This may seem like an outrageous number, but as you were talking, I was adding up police officers plus the new equipment. New equipment by itself, I guess I am going to say right now, you are talking about \$10 million, but that doesn't include a building does it, at all. Chief Elliott said, no. And, I can't tell you what a building would cost. I am not a construction guy. I don't know. Mr. Vance could tell you what it cost to build something commercial per square foot. If we are going to build something and somewhere in the future, I have got to build for the next 20-30 years. Every time we have remodeled a building or bought into a building, the day we moved into it, we had outgrown it. So, if we are going to do something in the future, let's do it right this time and set it up for the growth of the department for the next 20 plus years. Councilmember Coleman said, that makes sense instead of a band aid. Chief Elliott said, today, with all three buildings, I probably occupy 80,000 square feet. What do I need for the next 30 years? Then, factor that times the commercial cost and if you have to do a land acquisition, then there you are. So, you are at \$25+ million, accounting fixtures. Public Safety is obviously expensive. Can we meet our needs on what we have got right now? No. I set with the Mayor and Finance for the past couple of weeks running numbers and this stuff is currently not in the equation. So, we have got to do something different down the road.

Councilmember David McClain said, Chief if I may, just a couple of real quick questions. I think you and I have talked a little bit before. What are you guys doing and how are you using analytics to predict crime? Do we have someone that is dedicated to SkyCop or is that more of we go back and review footage? Chief Elliott said, it is go back and review. It is recorded so if you have an incident take place, you can immediately go back and look at it. There are several officers that have access to this. I can bring it up on my phone now and look at all nine cameras and tell you what is going on. If I need to rewind something and take a look at something that has taken place, then it is doable. So, the fact that we are recording, again, it may tell us what happened at the crime, but that is just as important at times of putting the puzzle together and for successful prosecution. We have used video to solve several homicide cases in the city. Not just our video, but video from businesses that just happen to capture the suspect vehicle going down the road. Like we did on the Dollar Tree kidnapping and murder. We used footage from several businesses along Red Wolf to capture that vehicle going towards the interstate which lead us to believe that they were heading obviously south. So, by using that and using cell phone analytics that we now have capable of doing, tracking cell phone through different tower sites. Back to answering your question on how we use analytics. Patrols take these analytics daily. We are running stats. We do maps and you see our crime maps that come out to you all weekly and monthly and where the hotspots are and whatever. It only makes sense that when you are in your patrol meetings, these are your hot spots and we try to have patrols to increase their frequency in that area. Unfortunately, they have to leave that area to go answer some other calls and then bad things happen. So, again, if I get back to this ten hour shift concept where I can have these power hours where I can double the amount of units that are on the street, we can take those along with our analytics and concentrate on these areas and be more proactive. So, you put enough pressure on, then we are eventually going to run folks out of Jonesboro. As you look at our surrounding communities, some of their stats have changed. We have pushed

people into Brookland and into Paragould. Have their stats changed? Yes, they have. Why? Because of what we are doing here. Life is uncomfortable for the criminal element here. You know here if you get caught with a gun, you are looking at federal time now. Gun crime is federal time now. We did 22 federal indictments with ATF last year, my ATF agent. Those are career criminals that are gone for a long period of time.

Mayor Perrin said, Chief, thank you for that report. We will continue working on that on our program and he has brought up a lot of good points tonight. Obviously and basic line is money and manpower. So, that is two things that we have to be looking at in the future. Thank you sir.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Gene Vance said, I have just one question and I just want to know if that is what it is. Is that the Ice House on RES-19:165? Mayor Perrin said, yes it is. Councilmember Vance said, I just needed verification. Mayor Perrin said, that is the Ice House on Cate.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

[MIN-19:103](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON OCTOBER 15, 2019

Attachments: [City Council Minutes 10152019](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-19:142](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 409 NORTH FISHER, PARCEL 01-144181-10500, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY JOSHUA GAMBILL

Attachments: [Affidavit of Statutory Lien - 409 North Fisher.docx](#)
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[Scan0061.jpg](#)
[Scan0062.jpg](#)
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This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-152-2019

[RES-19:144](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 309 SECOND STREET, PARCEL 01-144182-17700, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY JOHNNY MEADOWS

Attachments: [Affidavit of Statutory Lien -309 Second St.docx](#)
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[Scan0100.jpg](#)
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This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-153-2019

[RES-19:146](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 607 MEADOWBROOK, PARCEL 01-143133-08000, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY KIMBERLY ROBERSON

Attachments: [Affidavit of Statutory Lien - 607 Meadowbrook.docx](#)
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This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-154-2019

RES-19:147

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 500 ALLEN, PARCEL 01-144181-30100, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY KENNY COLEMAN

Attachments: [Affidavit of Statutory Lien - 500 Allen.docx](#)
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This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-155-2019

RES-19:149

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 816 HOOVER, PARCEL 01-144181-14800, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY ROBERT WHITAKER

Attachments: [Affidavit of Statutory Lien - 816 Hoover.docx](#)
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This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-156-2019

[RES-19:161](#) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, CERTIFYING ENDORSEMENT OF PRECISION DIGITAL PRINTING, LLC, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TAX BACK PROGRAM AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 15-4-2706(d) OF THE CONSOLIDATED INCENTIVE ACT OF 2003

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-157-2019

[RES-19:162](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONTRACT WITH S-N-J TRUCK SERVICES INC. FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD AT THE SOUTHSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [Agreement, SNJ Truck Service Softball 2019](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-158-2019

[RES-19:163](#) A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2019 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND GRANT (NHTF) THROUGH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AUTHORITY (ADFA) FOR THE VETERANS VILLAGE PROJECT

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-159-2019

[RES-19:164](#) RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2019 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE FY2019 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FY2018 FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-160-2019

[RES-19:165](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2019

ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

Attachments: [700 Cate, 2018 Abatement and Demo bid results](#)
 [700 Cate St, Resolution 15-057 for condemnation](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-161-2019

RESOLUTIONS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA[RES-19:148](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1004 WEST HUNTINGTON, PARCEL 01-143134-07800, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401, OWNED BY CHRISTOPHER JAY BROWN, ET AL

Attachments: [Affidavit of Statutory Lien - 1004 W. Huntington.docx](#)
 [Scan0037.jpg](#)
 [Scan0038.jpg](#)
 [Scan0039.jpg](#)
 [Scan0040.jpg](#)
 [Scan0041.jpg](#)
 [Scan0042.jpg](#)
 [Scan0043.jpg](#)
 [Scan0044.jpg](#)
 [Scan0045.jpg](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned to postpone indefinitely at the request of Code Enforcement Director Michael Tyner. Councilmember Chris Moore seconded the motion. All voted aye.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

6. NEW BUSINESS*ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING*[ORD-19:061](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE 105-259 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR REQUIREMENTS IN BOARDING AND SECURING OF PROPERTIES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:061 by title only. All voted aye.

Mayor Harold Perrin said, I would like to hold that to three readings so we can get the

word out there more on that one.

Held at one reading

[ORD-19:063](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE RENEWAL OF GRANICUS SOFTWARE, HARDWARE AND MANAGED SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Proposal for Renewal](#)
 [Master Subscription Agreement](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:063 by title only. All voted aye.

Mayor Harold Perrin said, I don't think there is a rush on that. Deputy City Clerk April Leggett said, there is no rush.

Held at one reading

[ORD-19:064](#)

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EXCEPTIONAL SITUATION AND WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR TRUCK BODY WORK ON WRECKED SANITATION TRUCK.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:064 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to suspend the rules and waive the second reading. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to suspend the rules and waive the third reading. All voted aye.

Councilmember John Street asked, is that urgent Mayor? Mayor Perrin said, yes, we need to do three readings on this. The truck has been fixed. We have got an insurance check. The only thing we are out is the \$500 deductible. But, we need to get it back on the deal. Councilmember David McClain said, you said we have paid for it already. Mayor Perrin said, no. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, no. Mayor Perrin said, the truck has been fixed. What we have got to do is we have got the insurance check of the \$29,281.48. All we are out is the \$500 deductible. This truck needs to be on the road.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

Enactment No: O-EN-058-2019

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-19:054](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO NAME THE EASTERN ARTERIAL FROM I-555 TO HIGHWAY 49 THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL DRIVE AND NAME ANY UNNAMED PORTIONS OF SAID ROAD DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE AND TO ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [Letter to the Public Works Committee pdf.pdf](#)
[Emma Agnew 10152019](#)
[Sandra Combs 10152019](#)
[Lisa Melton 11052019](#)
[Sandra Combs 11052019](#)
[Judy Casteel 11052019](#)
[Michael Gray 11052019](#)

Lisa Melton, 605 W. College, said, thank you Mayor. Prior to my reviewing my prepared remarks, I want to comment on whether Jonesboro is becoming a Memphis or a Little Rock. To me that is such code. It is code for fear of black and brown people. And, yeah, we probably will if we don't do a better job of embracing the diversity that is so richly blessing our community. And, one of the ways we can do that is to rename a street now after Dr. Martin Luther King who was a wonderful civil rights leader and who set an example for all of us about how we should treat one another and how people should be treated. So, the problems if you study them in Little Rock and Memphis and I have lived in both of those places, they are wonderful places to live. If you look at those places, the problems that exist are the marginalization of people of color and white power ruling over the way in which power was distributed in those communities. So, I urge that. I also urge you to consider a coalition, a relationship with Moms Demand Action if you are worried about gun problems in this community. It is a fabulous organization doing wonderful work around this country and they would be a wonderful ally for this council, for the Mayor's office. I know the Mayor has given us a proclamation before and we very much appreciated that and that is a wonderful thing. We hope that you will continue to work closely with Moms Demand Action because they can help in this community. Mayor and members of the council, my response is to the failure of Public Works to put forward the renaming of Commerce or Aggie as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as passed by the Unity Coalition. I cannot pretend to understand the thinking of people who claim to "be against renaming streets no matter what." I cannot pretend to understand the thinking of people who claim to "be against changing the name of a street that is named for someone so obscure that it took a retired A-State professor's research to provide any confidence that we knew for whom the street was named." I cannot pretend to understand the thinking of people who claim to "be for keeping street names because I've always known that street by that name and it is a part of me, a part of my story." That last one resonates more than any other but I just can't quite see how any one person thinks her personal memory is more important than our collective history, particularly when in our collective story there are so many wrongs that need to be righted by someone like Dr. King. To be clear, I have only heard white people make these statements. I guess this sort of allegiance to the past comes from having been privileged to have every street around you represent you, your heritage, the values you hold dear. I do not understand this thinking. What I do understand is the difference between a transparent, open process and a sham process. An open, transparent process is one in which: the effected community is fully informed about the process, its charters and goals. People of merit are selected to engage as peers and representatives of a wide range of viewpoints with none having any more or less power in the deliberations. The "coalition" works in good faith doing what is good and right for the community. Plans are developed. Votes are taken. The proposal that carries the day is moved to the next stage of the process for passage or

failure. A sham process is one that is designed to provide cover for those more concerned about "how they appear in the eyes of their influencers" than what is best for the community. In such a process, every move made by those in power has been orchestrated behind the scenes with those having less power yielding to those who are telling them the expected outcome. The work of the appointed members of the Unity Coalition was an open, transparent process with each of us speaking our minds. I believe I was referred to as having emotional outbursts. I don't even recall. I felt we held nothing back. I certainly didn't. I don't think Garry Tate did. He spoke his mind. We were straight with one another regarding our positions. We took our positions and we voted up or down on the proposals before us. When we see the proposal before us now, which, by the way, is not a proposal that was voted on by the Unity Coalition but some watered down supposed middle ground that is insulting to those of us who revere the legacy of Dr. King, and, likely, irritating to those who do not, one can only assume that behind the scenes, members of this body were engaging in a sham process. The powers that be never had any intention of a real vote on renaming a real street for Dr. King. Why, you might ask? I speculate it is either courage or conviction. Either members of this body do not value Dr. King and his legacy enough to stand up and be counted as willing to do what over 1,000 communities have done worldwide since Dr. King's murder just 70 miles from here over half a century ago. I was in the first grade when he was murdered. Or, they do not value his legacy, period. So, it seems this council is playing both ends against the middle, hoping to save your seats next time around. No doubt you have some racists in your wards. Deep within the burning fire in my belly, I know that this community will get a fitting thoroughfare named for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and it will be an important and beautiful street that celebrates all the ways in which we are different, as well as our common humanity and mutual care and concern for Jonesboro and for each other. I have no delusions that it will happen with current city leadership. But it's coming. In the meantime, stop the sham. Pull this proposal down. It is not a Unity Coalition proposal. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

Sandra Combs, P.O. Box 2686, State University, said, good evening. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." This is not the end day for me. I cannot be silent. It matters to me that an appropriate street, a real street, be named in honor of Dr. King. Contrary to popular belief, the facts, the resolutions and the ordinances show that the Jonesboro City Council has unanimously renamed streets throughout the years. Granted, some of them have been in the Industrial Park but some have not. Let's start with Young Road. In 1977, its name was changed to Stadium Drive. In 2013, a portion of Stadium was renamed Red Wolf Boulevard. In 1988, a portion of Parker Street was unanimously renamed CW Post Drive. In 2003, Rogers Chapel Road unanimously was renamed Nestle Road. And in 2005, a portion of Nestle Road was renamed Rogers Chapel Road. In 2008, with 10 council members present and a voice vote, Haworth was renamed Nice Pak Road. In 2009, Cook Road was renamed Nordex Drive and in 2014 Nordex Drive was changed to Trinity Drive. In 2014, Dustin Drive was changed by an 11-0 vote to Cedar Creek Lane. And you can even go as far back as 1949 to see that such changes as Park, Melrose, Strawn, Chestnut, Wilmar Circle, Lotus, Edgewood, James, Donald, Nettle Road, West Lake, Highland, 63 and Joe Martin Expressway. So, renaming a street in Jonesboro has been unanimously approved by the Jonesboro City Council countless times as far back as 1949 and probably earlier. And this is why I can't be silent. This is why this issue hurts me to my very core. Five days ago I visited the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial near Washington, D.C. and I wept. I wept standing at the base of that massive monument honoring the slain civil rights activist because in Jonesboro, Arkansas, the clansmen won't even allow the renaming of an existing city street after Dr. King. I wept because the 150 number pink granite blocks

in tribute to Dr. King is unmovable, while the Jonesboro clansmen also are unmovable because renaming an existing street will upset a clan of business people, university alumni, rental property owners and former officials threatening a recall election if a street is renamed. I wept looking up at that detailed profile of Dr. King, knowing that in Jonesboro, Arkansas, clansmen erroneously hold tight to a resolution, which is not law, a resolution that says not renaming a street in Jonesboro is what they stand by even though one main street has been renamed three times. I wept at the King Memorial knowing that some Jonesboro officials had hoodwinked residents into thinking that they were in favor of becoming a city with a street named after the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King when in actuality they were going through the motions to quiet the pro-King street residents. I wept for my city of 11 years which finally and unapologetically has told me that the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and I are not wanted and are not valued in Jonesboro, Arkansas. I wept and I wept. I wept because a street named after the man with a U.S. postage stamp, a man with a federal holiday, a man with a Nobel Peace Prize, it matters to me. I can't keep silent. I wept for Jonesboro, Arkansas, at the national monument honoring the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and now I speak in the city asking that the right thing be done-rename an appropriate street, a real street, one that exists for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you very much.

Judy Casteel, 1902 Independence Cove, said, I was also on the Unity Coalition Advisory Committee. It was my first instinct to support the Johnson renaming but when we were talking about it in that committee, but when the option of the eastern bypass came up, I decided that was my preference and that was to be from beginning to end. Not a portion in the middle, but all of it. The reason I decided that would be my vote was because I didn't want to see my city torn up any more than it already is. This just grieves my heart. This is something that should have been done long ago and it needs to be done now. I knew that in June of 2009, there was an overpass named for Martin Luther King, but I also knew that it was in lieu of having had a street named for him way back then. And, then in 2010 at ASU at the Martin Luther King celebration, the mayor promised, complete with a street sign that was held by Dr. Adrian Rogers, that there would be a street built named Martin Luther King and that was to be the next street that was built in Jonesboro. Now, granted, developers are the ones that usually build streets in our city so for the city to build a street has been a long time coming. But, we do have one coming and that would be the eastern bypass. And, in conjunction with the county and Judge Day has already graciously said that he would be more than happy to have their portion named for Dr. King. I see this as a very viable option. But, again, the entire thing from beginning to end. And, many of the reasons that I believe that it should be the entire thing from beginning to end Dr. Combs has already mentioned. I can give you resolution numbers on each one of those things going back, as she said, all the way back from 1949. I do not have all of the ordinance numbers on each one of those years, but there were changes made in 1949, 1954, 1957. In 1958, we changed the names of six different streets. In 1962, we renamed streets. In 1964 and again, the two that probably really speak with people are the 1979 resolution 79.1855 changing the bypass from 63 to the Joe Martin Expressway and the 1977 ordinance 77.2121 which changed Young Road to Stadium Boulevard and we all know that changed again in 2013. In conclusion, we have certainly had changes of the names of multiple roads and I can even give you the votes. On the 2003 resolution for Rogers Chapel to Nestle, all the members voted aye, that would include: Councilmember Farmer, Province, Hargis, Moore, Williams, Perrin, Street, Dover, McCall, and Roddy. In 2005, the renaming of Nestle to Rogers Chapel, Farmer moved, Fuhr seconded. All votes in favor were: Farmer, Province, Hargis, Moore, Williams, Perrin, Street, Johnson, Dover, Fuhr, McCall, and Ashley. There is a history. In 2008, resolution 08.202, Haworth to Nice Pak, motion was made by Councilmember Moore,

seconded by Councilmember Street. All present voted aye. Those members included: Dover, McCall, Williams, Frierson, Province, Hargis, Moore, Perrin, Street, and Johnson. In 2009, it was Cook to Nordex. Passed on Consent Agenda by: Dover, Williams, Frierson, Hargis, Moore, Street, Vance, Wood, Gibson, and Fears. And finally, in 2014, resolution 14.097, Dustin Drive to Cedar Creek Lane, moved by Street and seconded by Gibson. Consent vote: 11-0. Dover, Williams, Frierson, Moore, Street, Johnson, Vance, Gibson, Woods, and Coleman. Mr. McCall was absent. So, you can see, this has been done in the past. It has been done quite a bit. I just ask you to please, let's get this done. It is time. It is past time. We need to get this done and move on and heal the city. I appreciate your time and as always, I appreciate everything that you guys do serving. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

Michael Gray, 501 Wilkins, said, a while back when whenever this first got going, I wrote an editorial and submitted it to the Jonesboro Sun and it was published. Some of you may have read it. Some of you may not have. I am going to read portions of it here. Regardless of what the history books tell us, the movement to memorialize the Reverend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through the renaming of streets did not begin in Chicago. That is what my history book told me. We never made it to that chapter, but I read ahead. It did not even begin in America, unfortunately. The first street signs in King's honor were actually raised in Germany, just two weeks after he was laid to rest. Now, the reason for this was because Martin Luther King, Sr. was not born Martin Luther King. He was born Michael King. He changed his name to Martin Luther when he visited Germany because he was very impressed with the history of Martin Luther. So, renaming things is not that difficult. It was months actually before Mayor Richard J. Daley and members of the Chicago city council designated a memorial; and only after conspiring together to block proposals from community leaders for a more prominent cross-town expressway in the civil rights leader's names. The history books have since been amended and corrected. In a move that has ever since been criticized as creating the blueprint for geocultural confinement in cities across America, Mayor Daley and the council opted instead to rename a street located entirely within the city's already hyper-segregated black community. In his book, *Along the Riverbank*, Jonathan Tilove writes, "To name a street after King is to invite an accounting of how that street makes good on King's promise or how it mocks it." The legacy left by Chicago's city leaders is not one of honor in the history of honor and the history books will tell the truth. It is a history of political expediency, dishonesty, mockery, and fear. Our city leaders now stand at the edge of two promises and I contend that keeping both will ensure that the history books of tomorrow tell a story of Jonesboro that future generations can be proud of. Diligence has dispelled many myths once associated with MLK street renaming campaigns. We now know, for a fact, that there is no causal link between naming a street in the memory of Dr. King and economic downturn on that street. That is simply not how it works. The most reliable statistics actually indicate, if we are looking for money, that MLK streets (when appropriately designated) are on par with most Market and Main Streets in America. You can look it up. We know that (when appropriately designated) these streets boost tourism, attract new industry, and connect local generations over time in an ongoing project of unity. You can look it up. But knowing this is just the beginning. Researchers have produced countless detailed accounts of how Dr. King memorialization has been mishandled in cities across the United States. UT Knoxville geographer Dr. Derek Alderman (who writes a lot of books) says: "Depending on the location and spatial extent of these streets, they can represent an expansion of African American influence and cultural expression or a reinforcement of boundaries that have traditionally constrained black identity." So what determines success or failure for each city is not getting it done, but getting it done right. What determines success for each city is how closely the final outcome meets well-known standards for success. You

can look them up. We know how to do this right. An appropriately designated King memorial should be a prominent thoroughfare with good infrastructure and extensive space for development; it should extend beyond traditionally black communities, connecting them symbolically and materially with traditionally white communities. That doesn't do that, not even close. Our city has long promised the people of Jonesboro a street (not a trail, not an overpass, not parts of a street somewhere, but a street) in the honor of Dr. King. And, the people of Jonesboro demand that you find an appropriate way to fulfill that promise. That is not appropriate. Success stories are unfortunately few and far between, but they are well-celebrated in the history books. They really are. The ones who get it right, they go down as heroes and they usually get an economic boost to tell the truth. With each new city's struggle, new data, new narratives, and new controversies inevitably draw attention and interest from researchers, reporters, and writers, like me. What we are doing in Jonesboro, Arkansas at this very moment is no small local matter. This is going national. You can't stop it. It will not fly under the radar. As our city struggles over designating an appropriate memorial, we must be wise enough to see beyond our own personal biases and temporary discomforts. We must consider future histories that we are now committing ourselves to. We know that the distance between the community's vision of a street named after King and the commitment to that vision from Mayors and council members does not create an empty vacuum. It does not go away. Rather, that distance becomes fertile soil for historians, journalists, and rhetoricians to harvest, reproduce, over and over again, what really happened there. For far too many American cities, that space contains a dream again and again deferred, wherein the whole history of black cultural, economic, and geographical dispossession and oppression (from slavery to the struggle to find an appropriate place in public memory) ultimately resides. That space is an affront to decency, we will find no peace there, no unity there. As Tilove writes and I conclude, "For many whites, unfortunately, a street that says Martin Luther King tells them they are lost. For many blacks, it tells them they are found." Personally, I look forward to a day when seeing King's name on a major thoroughfare in Northeast Arkansas tells those of us who live here we are home and those who visit they are welcome. Can we please do this right? Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you very much.

Councilmember David McClain said, Mayor, if I may, I would like to make a couple of comments real quick. This has been a long time coming, but as someone who was an original sponsor, I still feel Johnson Avenue was the way to go. However, compromise came in the form of the coalition or the committee and gave us recommendations. In that, we got Commerce, Aggie, the trail. For me, the question I come back to as the gentleman said, this is state wide and nationally. How do we want to be viewed is my question? You don't have to answer that now. That is an internal thing I feel we should answer. How do we want to be viewed? Do we want to be seen as a city that is welcoming? Do we want to be seen as a city accepts everyone no matter what or are we going to be seen as a city that says, you know what, not here, not now? That is the question I have. I would like to make a motion because as Judy said, I think the street name for Dr. King should be the entire piece. So, my motion is to amend the ordinance that we have in front of us and I would change where Commerce, in Section 2, the sections of the arterial drive that are already named Commerce Drive shall maintain, I would like to strike that and change it to, my motion is to change that to where that it will actually carry the name of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Drive. So, that would go from I-555 all the way north to 49. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, second.

Mayor Perrin said, I have a motion and a second. Let me make sure I understand your motion. The motion is to again, you have on the table for second reading that you want to amend that for it to read that all from I-555 to 49 would be call Martin Luther King Memorial Highway. Councilmember McClain said, no sir. I want the street name to

change from Commerce Drive to Dr. Martin Luther King Drive. Mayor Perrin said, okay, so you are wanting the whole thing to be Martin Luther King Drive. Councilmember McClain said, correct. From Commerce, right there on the interstate, I-555, go north, the city section is not named, and go on out where the Judge has already said he is good with the name. Mayor Perrin said, you are actually changing Commerce Drive to Martin Luther King Drive. Councilmember McClain said, yes sir. Mayor Perrin said, I want to make sure I am understanding you right. Councilmember McClain said, yes sir. Mayor Perrin said, okay. I have a motion and a second. So, all in favor say aye. (There were verbal ayes.) Mayor Perrin said, all of those opposed. (There were verbal no's.) Mayor Perrin asked, how many do you have? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, let's do a roll call. Mayor Perrin said ok, let's do a roll call please. Deputy City Clerk April Leggett conducted a roll call vote. Aye Votes: Frierson, Vance, Coleman, Williams, Bryant, McClain. Nay Votes: Moore, Street, Johnson, Long. The vote is 6 Ayes and 4 Nays with 2 members absent. Ms. Duncan said, it doesn't pass. Mayor Perrin said, it doesn't pass. Ms. Duncan said, I will let April double check, but with two absent, I think it takes more votes. Ms. Leggett said, it is 6-4 with 2 absent. Ms. Duncan said, you need seven to pass, right? Ms. Leggett said, yes. Mayor Perrin said, it did not pass. Councilmember McClain asked, what is the count again? Ms. Duncan said, 6-4. Mayor Perrin said, 6-4. Councilmember McClain said, now, correct me if I am wrong, Mayor you could pass a vote, correct? Mayor Perrin said, let me think. I don't know. Can I? Ms. Duncan said, the rule is that the Mayor can vote to pass a measure. Mayor Perrin said, you have changed all of that at one time tonight and I am trying to think and I have made all of these notes on what has been said tonight on that on Commerce Drive. Councilmember Bobby Long said, Mr. Mayor, can I ask you a question about that? Mayor Perrin said, yes. Councilmember Long said, is that change of that ordinance significant enough for that to be seen as a new ordinance. Mayor Perrin said, that is what I was thinking. So, it will be clear, but we can do that. Councilmember McClain asked, what do you think? Councilmember Gene Vance said, that would be the original ordinance. Ms. Duncan said, that was the original ordinance. Councilmember Vance said, the committee asked that it be changed to this. Mayor Perrin said, right. Councilmember Vance said, so, it is not that much of a change. Mayor Perrin asked, it is not that much of a change? Ms. Duncan said, if the council considers it to be significant, I think all it would do is put it back to first reading. I don't think it would have to go back to committee. But, I don't see it as that significant of a change because that is what the committee recommended. I mean the unity committee, not the council committee. Councilmember Chris Moore said, I don't think the rules prevent Councilmember McClain from bringing that same amendment up on the third reading when the other two councilmembers are here and you can have a full vote of the council also. Ms. Duncan said, that is true, as well. Councilmember Moore said, if it fails tonight, nothing stops from voting on that on the third reading. You can still have that same amendment. Ms. Duncan said, that is true. Mayor Perrin said, okay. We will just move it onto the third reading then.

SUMMARY:

Councilmember David McClain motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to amend ORD-19:054 to change the wording to reflect a name change from Commerce Drive to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Drive from I-555 all the way to Highway 49. Aye Votes: Frierson, Vance, Coleman, Williams, Bryant, McClain. Nay Votes: Moore, Street, Johnson, Long. The vote is 6 Ayes and 4 Nays with 2 members absent and therefore, no vote received from them. The amendment FAILS to pass. The vote must have seven Ayes to pass. The Mayor did not vote. The ordinance will go on to the third reading.

Held at second reading

[ORD-19:055](#) AN ORDINANCE TO NAME TWO SEGMENTS OF THE JONESBORO MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL SYSTEM IN HONOR OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND TO ERECT APPROPRIATE SIGNS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

Attachments: [Letter to the Public Works Committee pdf.pdf](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-19:057](#) AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 14:038 ADOPTING THE 2010 ADA STANDARD CODE BY REFERENCE

Attachments: [COJ ADA Complaint Guidelines+.pdf](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-19:060](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SHJ HOLDINGS, DBA CURRY LEAF INDIAN CUISINE

Attachments: [SHJ Holdings dba Curry Leaf Private Club Application REDACTED](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-19:062](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4301 E. JOHNSON FROM RESIDENTIAL R-1 TO COMMERCIAL C-3 BY RHODES DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LLC

Attachments: [Staff Summary - City Council](#)
[Application](#)
[rezoning plat](#)
[Rezoning Plat Planning](#)
[Preliminary Layout](#)
[USPS Receipts](#)
[Warranty Deed](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-19:048](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD SECTION 66-267 ADOPTING WEIGHT AND SIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGE TRUCKS IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AND REPEALING SECTION 66-301

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

Enactment No: O-EN-059-2019

[ORD-19:058](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT LIMITED USE OVERLAY FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1402 HIGHLAND DRIVE, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY ARMOR BANK

Attachments:

[Rezoning Plat.pdf](#)
[Staff Summary -- City Council.pdf](#)
[Application.pdf](#)
[Elevations.pdf](#)
[Overall.pdf](#)
[Pictures of Building.pdf](#)
[Returned and Signed School.pdf](#)
[Site Plan and Landscape.pdf](#)
[Site Plan.pdf](#)
[Mailing Receipts.pdf](#)
[Application](#)
[MAPC Minutes from 08.9.16 for 1402 Highland Drive](#)
[Wofford letter](#)

Councilmember Gene Vance said, I asked for and received a very detailed report from Mr. Ockert concerning rezoning requests up and down this area, actually from Rains Street to Browns Lane. I found it very informative. I don't want to slow this vote down. I am ready for us to go ahead and vote. But, I would request that you would allow this information to be given to everyone on the council just so we will know what we have done in the past. Not only what we have done, but what other councilmembers have done. I got the information from Mr. Ockert. I think Mr. Downing may have access to it. Mayor Perrin said, we will get it and send it out tomorrow to all of the councilmembers. Councilmember Vance said, and I think it should be sent to the Planning Department too. Mayor Perrin asked, MAPC? Councilmember Vance said, MAPC, the Planning Department within the city, and maybe even you read it. Mayor Perrin said, okay.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

Enactment No: O-EN-060-2019

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Perrin reported on the following items:

I think you all have seen the Jonesboro Airport Commission Financial Statements ending September 30, 2019. We do have a lot more traffic coming into our airport. Particularly on fuel and they are doing a good job at the Airport.

I just have a few items to cover with you.

One is on the budget. Tomorrow, we will enter the budget into Legistar. On November 12, 2019, we will have it presented to the Finance Committee. We are sharing that with all of our Department Heads and they have been through several meetings already. We will have that in place and have that budget in motion.

Phase III on Craighead Forest Park, again, we had to give them an extension. It is not done yet. I had visited with Craig Light and he is meeting with the contractor to see which way we are going. There are several items there. I want to get with Craig tomorrow on this as well as the contractor and meet with them tomorrow. I have had all I can stand on this Phase III. If we have to pull a bond or we have to do anything, I want to make sure its there.

I am very pleased to tell you all the citizens and the council that the Bowling Lane project is complete. That is at University Heights Elementary School. There was always just one way in and one way out and it was very dangerous. Now, we have a road to cut all the way through. It takes it all the way to Aggie Road. So, now, we have the road going all the way through. That is something that has been needed for a long time.

Now that the weight and measures has been passed, I will contact tomorrow the Chief of the Highway Patrol, Jay Thompson, who has agreed to come up and do training for our police officers who will be assigned to that through the Chief. He will make that decision and also the scales and all of that. So, we will start setting that up within the next week or so.

On building permits last month, we had a great month. Residential was \$5,656,000 and Commercial was \$5,234,000, for a total of \$10.8 million. So, last month we issued almost \$11 million in building permits in the City of Jonesboro.

Also, I am, and I am sure you have seen in the paper, with several comments and complaints that we have gotten in our office on Suddenlink. I am in the process of scheduling and trying to get convenient dates on that for a meeting with the people. I have talked with them on the phone. But, I have not talked to them personally. So, as soon as I can get all of that set up, we will start meeting on that.

Also, I think the Chief mentioned in his comments a while ago and in his presentation and we have been talking about this in our administrative meetings, very much in depth of how many more cameras do we need? Where do they need to be going? What function will they have? I am sure that I will be coming back to you all with a ordinance or a resolution to ask for more money to pull from our reserves. I don't know how much that dollar amount is yet because we have IT involved, we have got the police department, we have got several departments that are working on that and trying to put it all together. I would hope that we could come up with some type of figure by this Friday or Monday of next week. And, then I will bring that back to you all. But, you have heard the reason why we need those and how they operate. It is just a matter of us pulling down some of the money out of reserves to start doing that.

Next, on Grants, I have handed each one of you an outline. I am thrilled and pleased to show the public what money we get on entitlement cities through our CDBG, Community Development Block Grant. It shows there, this year, we have done 9 and have one pending that we have enabled to allow people to buy their first home. First home buyers when they qualify for that which is good. And also, we have done over 19 homeowner rehabs assistance program projects. That has done everything from

winterization to new roofs, HVAC units, ADA Compliance bathrooms, appliances, electrical. You name it, we have done it with these people. So, I am real pleased with that. I just wanted to hand that out to you and kindly comment.

[COM-19:068](#)

JONESBORO AIRPORT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Attachments: [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 09_19](#)

Filed

[COM-19:075](#)

CDBG Housing Projects 2019

Attachments: [CDBG Update 11052019](#)

Read

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, the only question I was going to ask you Mayor was answered. That was on the Phase III project. But, do you have any kind of an estimated completion time with that extension? Mayor Perrin said, I want to sit down personally eyeball to eyeball, if you want to know the truth, with the contractor. We have given this contractor, I know one if not two extensions. To give him fair credit on some of this, we have had to change some of the plans in that which means that he had to go back and make some changes. But, I need a confirmed, definite time of when this project can be completed. So, that is why I want Craig and I want him to notify ABI who has that contract. I want to sit down with them tomorrow sometime and go through that and see exactly and to answer your question. When I do that and talk to them, what I will do is just send out a memo to all of you all tomorrow.

Councilmember Street said, I know I get asked that a lot. I just thought maybe with that extension, you might have some idea. Mayor Perrin said, Councilmember Street, I have been out there I don't know how many times, at night, during the day, looked at it, evaluated it, talked to Patti Lack about it and a lot of the neighbors. It is time to get off and get on. The time I went out there, everybody said they had a full crew and I saw three people. One was in the truck. The other two weren't even working. So, I don't believe, to me, I know we don't work that way in our street department. We are the customer and he is the contractor. We need to make that very clear. Again, when you start pulling bonds, you have got to understand on time structure, when you pull the bond, you have got so many days and it takes time to get that out there. I want to let out to him and do that. One thing we have done on our engineering department is that we need to beef up on, in my opinion, is that we need to stay on our projects when we do that. We need to see our inspectors out there more on these projects. So, I am going to take some of that blame for the city. I am just telling you that if you get a contract, we are going to have a dead end date on that and there is going to be a penalty clause in these contracts. So, you need to think real quick before you put a bid in that you can get it done on time and then whatever you have got in there in your bid. That is all I am going to say about that. I think there was enough said on it. Councilmember Street said, thank you Mayor, that is all I had. Mayor Perrin said, you are quite welcome.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, a couple of quick things. A couple of meetings ago, I asked about CWL Park and the closing time. Did you all decide if 10:00 p.m. is the closing time? Mayor Perrin said, that is 10:00 p.m. on the closing time, I think on all of

our parks and are posted. Councilmember Moore said, well, I didn't see a sign on CWL Park. Mayor Perrin said, well, it is supposed to be up. We will find out tomorrow. Danny, do you want to come forward on this because I was thinking that they were all put up on the time. Councilmember Moore said, no, I have been looking and there has not been a sign put up there stating that. Parks Director Danny Kapales said, no, there are not signs put up. There are not signs on most parks as far as closing time. Mayor Perrin said, it is the Miracle League Park that we have got it on. Mr. Kapales said, yes sir. Councilmember Moore said, there is a sign at Miracle League. Mr. Kapales said, most parks do not have signs on them. It is a set time of 10:00 p.m. for all parks in the city of Jonesboro. Mayor Perrin said, it is by ordinance. Mr. Kapales said, yes, but there are no signs. Councilmember Moore said, I just think there needs to be a small sign posted on the chain link fence that says the closing time. Mayor Perrin said, I agree. I yield to that. We will get that started tomorrow.

Councilmember Moore said, second item. What about TRG burning? I know Denise Snider has been sending the videos. Mayor Perrin said, I sent the Fire Marshall and the Fire Chief down there. Basically, what they came back on a conclusion on that was is that what they were doing is legal and so we had to yield on that one. But, I think they went in and got the burning stopped the day that they were there. Now, I am going to go a little further on that and tell you that I have been working on an ordinance to not have any other salvage yards built within the city limits. I have been dealing with John Wilkerson. Carol Duncan has done a great job and spent a lot of time on this. West Memphis has done that. North Little Rock has done that and several cities have done that. So, we are pretty close if not almost ready to present to you all for that.

Councilmember Moore said, the third item. What about the pile of debris by the Salvation Army? I asked about it a couple of meetings ago. I was told by Code Enforcement Director Michael Tyner that that would be done last week. It was not done. It is my understanding that the people that went in there and did that, the lady paid. They left and she had someone else to come in. Am I right on that Michael? Would you come up here please? Mr. Tyner said, a contractor that the lady paid to take that house down had paid another individual to do the hauling for him and he kind of got messed over on that deal. So, he is working with one of our local dumpster companies to go ahead and get some dumpsters out there and get that mess taken care of. Councilmember Moore asked, do you think that is going to happen in the next week or two? Mr. Tyner said, that is my priority. Councilmember Moore said, okay. That is all I had Mr. Mayor. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patti Lack, 4108 Forrest Hill Road, said, I will speak very fast. I gave some invitations to Deputy City Clerk April Leggett to give to all of you. In the last month and a half, I have been working with a gentleman that owns Diego Ranch. It is a 501C3 Horse Therapy place. Right now, what we are trying to do is to find them some land so he can expand because I think this is going to offer Jonesboro a lot of assistance to children and to adults that have either emotional, mental, physical, health problems. I would be the last one to tell you guys that seeing a horse or riding a horse could do that, but I went out to the ranch and I actually got that feeling from them. So, I have given you the invitations and it is going to be on November 16, 2019. It is going to be out at the Gamble Furniture Store. I have also made it kind of a community event where we are going to have Corey Jackson and another local guy right there after the football game. We just want to expand it because I think it would be great addition to expand this business for Jonesboro and the community. The public is welcome to it, but you all got an invitation. So, I hope you come. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and Joe Hafner

Date: _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

Date: _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk