



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, September 17, 2019

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

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

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

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

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

#### 3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

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

**Absent** 1 - Mitch Johnson

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

#### *Approval of the Consent Agenda*

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Mitch Johnson

[MIN-19:087](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 09032019.pdf](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

[RES-19:116](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL

RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED ON N PATRICK STREET (TRACT 3), JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A CITY SIDEWALK

**Attachments:** [Offer and Acceptance - Tract 3, Patrick St.pdf](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-117-2019

[RES-19:119](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A WARRANTY DEED RESTRICTION FOR 2502 MARY JANE DRIVE, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, ACQUIRED WITH FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDS

**Attachments:** [Deed Restriction, 2502 Mary Jane Drive.pdf](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-118-2019

[RES-19:120](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE WARRANTY DEED RESTRICTION FOR 2504 MARY JANE DRIVE JONESBORO, ARKANSAS ACQUIRED WITH FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDS

**Attachments:** [Deed Restriction, 2504 Mary Jane Drive.pdf](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-119-2019

[RES-19:121](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE WARRANTY DEED RESTRICTION FOR 5713 E. NETTLETON AVENUE, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS ACQUIRED WITH FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDS

**Attachments:** [Deed Restriction, 5713 E Nettleton.pdf](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-120-2019

[RES-19:122](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENTRY INTO A CONTRACT WITH RITTER COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENEWAL FOR THE CLOUD STORAGE FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

**Attachments:** [New COJ Opp-026309 RCOP Cloud Solutions Renewal 08 06 19 \(002\).pdf](#)  
[City Of Jonesboro New MSA.pdf](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-121-2019

[RES-19:123](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT

FROM ESTHER BUTLER FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A CITY SIDEWALK

**Attachments:** [Permanent Construction Easement, Esther Butler.pdf](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-122-2019

[RES-19:124](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONTRACT WITH COACH JOEY'S FASTPITCH ACADEMY FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD AT THE SOUTHSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

**Attachments:** [Agreement, Coach Joey Softball Sponsorship, 2019.docx](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-123-2019

[RES-19:127](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND ACCEPT THE FY2018 FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT

**Attachments:** [EMW-2018-FP-00068 - Award Package.pdf](#)

**This item was passed on the consent agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-124-2019

*RESOLUTIONS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA*

[RES-19:117](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1604 ANGELA LEE; OWNER: PAUL COOPER

**Attachments:** [1604 Angela Lee Inspection.doc](#)  
[1604 Angela Lee County Data.pdf](#)  
[1604 Angela Lee Supporting Docs.pdf](#)  
[1604 Angela Lee Title Search.PDF](#)  
[1604 Angela Lee pic 1.JPG](#)  
[1604 Angela Lee pic 2.JPG](#)  
[1604 Angela Lee pic 3.JPG](#)

*Code Enforcement Director Michael Tyner said, this property was a fire damaged single wide trailer. I have spoken to Mr. Cooper. He does intend to remove it and I am going to be working with him to try to get him some assistance. It is the next one that I have additional comments for.*

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: R-EN-125-2019

[RES-19:118](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2008 PRESCOTT, OWNER: KEITH AND DANICA HOUSE

**Attachments:** [2008 Prescott Inspection Report.doc](#)  
[2008 Prescott Supporting Docs.pdf](#)  
[2008 Prescott County Data.pdf](#)  
[2008 Prescott Title Search.PDF](#)  
[2008 Prescott pic 1.JPG](#)  
[2008 Prescott pic 2.JPG](#)  
[2008 Prescott pic 3.JPG](#)

*Code Enforcement Director Michael Tyner said, I would like to recommend to table this case indefinitely. During the course of investigation and putting this case forward, unfortunately, I came to find out that Mr. House lost his life in the fire here saving his two children. Since then, I have spoken to Mrs. House and she has a buyer that they are going through the process of closing now for the property and that buyer will abate the remnants of the house.*

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

**Absent:** 1 - Mitch Johnson

[RES-19:125](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS AND TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE FY 2019 CDBG ACTION PLAN

**Attachments:** [Request for Release of Funds, Demolition, FY-19 CDBG.pdf](#)  
[Request for Release of Funds, Rehab, FY-19 CDBG.pdf](#)  
[Request for Release of Funds, Veterans Village Business Center, FY-19 CDBG](#)  
[HUD FY-19 Funding Approval Letter.pdf](#)

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: R-EN-126-2019

[RES-19:126](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2019

## ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE SANITATION RESIDENTIAL DEPARTMENT

**Attachments:** [revised for Jonesboro.pdf](#)  
[USBGLF Proposal City of Jonesboro AR 091019 MAC.pdf](#)

*Councilmember Chris Moore asked, are we just buying two new trucks or leasing two new trucks to replace two of them? Mayor Harold Perrin said, we are leasing them. We are leasing what I call the one arm bandits in sanitation and one knuckleboom truck.*

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: R-EN-127-2019

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

## ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-19:051](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR THE TRANSFER OF LOCATION OF PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR THE PARSONAGE

**Attachments:** [The Parsonage Transfer of Location Private Club Permit.pdf](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:051 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

[ORD-19:052](#) AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ACT 1112 OF 2017 AND APPLICABLE ABC REGULATIONS APPROVING THE PRIVATE CLUB APPLICATION FOR THE OPERATION SIDEKICK FOUNDATION OF ARKANSAS d/b/a SUNNY'S ON MAIN ("SUNNY'S ON MAIN") AT 237 S. MAIN STREET, JONESBORO, CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

**Attachments:** [Sunnys on Main Private Club Permit Redacted.pdf](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:051 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-19:049](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 516 W. JEFFERSON BY GARY HARPOLE

**Attachments:** [Application.pdf](#)  
[Plat.pdf](#)  
[Jefferson Replat of Bicentennial Subdivision.pdf](#)  
[RP 19-41 JEFFERSON REPLAT - BICENTENNIAL LOTS 2 -3 BLK 12.pdf](#)  
[Staff Summary.pdf](#)  
[Adjoining Property Owners Notification.pdf](#)  
[Focus Letter.pdf](#)  
[Focus Letter 2.pdf](#)  
[USPS Green Receipts.pdf](#)  
[Mail Receipt.pdf](#)

**Held at second reading**

[ORD-19:050](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1702 AGGIE ROAD BY GARY HARPOLE

**Attachments:** [Application.pdf](#)  
[Staff Summary - City Council.pdf](#)  
[Plats.pdf](#)  
[Adjoining Property List and Letter.pdf](#)  
[Conceptual Rendering.pdf](#)  
[Layout of Property.pdf](#)  
[Rezoning Plats.pdf](#)  
[Receipt for mailing.pdf](#)  
[School Email.PNG](#)

*Councilmember Charles Frierson said, Mayor, just for the record, I think you ought to ask if there is anybody that wants to comment on that out in the audience before we just move along. Mayor Perrin asked, just on these two, the rezonings, is that what you are talking about? Councilmember Frierson said, on what you just did. Just ask if there is someone that wants to speak. Mayor Perrin asked, is there anyone that wants to speak on that rezoning? No one spoke. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.*

**Held at second reading**

*ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN COUNCIL*

[RES-19:072](#)

A RESOLUTION FOR THE RENAMING OF HIGHWAY 91/49, KNOWN AS JOHNSON AVENUE, FROM DAN AVENUE THROUGH CRAIGHEAD COUNTY ROAD 702 AT THE CITY LIMITS IN HONOR OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

**Attachments:** [RES-05-402.pdf](#)  
[Petition Opposing Johnson 060419](#)  
[Proponents for Changing Johnson to MLK.pdf](#)  
[Emails for renaming Johnson Ave.docx](#)  
[emails against renaming Johnson.docx](#)  
[Emma Agnew Statement 06182019.pdf](#)  
[Sandra Combs Statement 06182019.pdf](#)  
[Shakitha Robinson Statement 06182019.pdf](#)  
[Lisa Melton Statement 06182019.pdf](#)  
[Yesenia Hernandez Statement 06182019.pdf](#)  
[Opposition Petition Johnson-MLK 06182019.pdf](#)  
[Memo, Coleman to City Council, Sept 17, 2019, Unity Coalition Advisory Con](#)

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to bring the three suggestions from the Unity Advisory Committee as ordinances to the Public Works Committee. Councilmember Gene Vance motioned to amend Councilmember Coleman's motion, seconded by Councilmember Charles Frierson, to hear the recommended ordinances on October 1, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. at the Public Works Committee meeting. All voted aye.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, Mayor, I have a report of the Unity Coalition Committee that was formed and I would like to read this. At the June 18, 2019 City Council meeting, RES-19:072 was postponed and the council voted to take the following actions: that the Mayor appoint a committee to bring back recommendations on or before September 17, 2019 on the resolution to the situation of Jonesboro not having a street named after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and that the committee studies all possibilities of the designated memorial highway or a suitable and acceptable alternative naming opportunity. The Mayor's eleven nominees to the Unity Coalition Advisory Committee were confirmed by the council on July 16, 2019. The committee met four times. At the committee's last meeting on August 22, 2019, a majority of the committee voted to make the following recommendations to the City Council. The full report is included as an attachment in Legistar. But, number one, I am going to read these three. Do you have information to pass out to the council Mike? While he is passing that out, I am going to continue reading.*

*Number one: Naming of the bike/pedestrian trails from Allen Park to Marion Berry Boulevard, and the proposed trail from Downtown to Arkansas State University as the "Dr. Martin Luther King Freedom Trail." Along the Downtown/A-State trail would be the placement of educational signage with quotes of Dr. King that correspond with those at the Dr. King Memorial in Washington, D.C. Payment for the signage would be from contributions to a newly created city restricted fund for this purpose and the maintenance thereof. The contributors may, if desired, designate a memorial name at the bottom portion of the signage. It is suggested that the Mayor appoint a special committee, confirmed by the City Council, to raise funds for the signage, determine their location, and approve the wording of the memorial designation on the signage.*

*Number two: Rename Commerce Drive and the extension north of the planned eastern arterial as "Dr. Martin Luther King Drive."*

*Number three: Rename Aggie Road as "Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard."*

*I would like to bring a motion to indefinitely put this resolution to rest. What do we need to do with it so that the City Council can make a motion or amend or whatever*

they want to do to these three suggestions and at the same time, postpone that resolution, RES-19:072 indefinitely? Councilmember Ann Williams seconded Councilmember Coleman's motion to postpone RES-19:072 indefinitely. Mayor Harold Perrin asked, so the first motion would be to postpone the resolution, RES-19:072, indefinitely? Councilmember Coleman said, right, indefinitely and let these three proposals go to the City Council so they can be forwarded to the Public Works Committee. Councilmember Ann Williams said, I second that. Mayor Perrin said, the motion on the floor is to postpone RES-19:072 indefinitely. Do I have any comment or do I have any questions? Councilmember David McClain said, I have a quick question. I want to make sure. So, we are taking Johnson Avenue off the list of possible street renaming, correct? Councilmember Coleman said, no, we are not taking it off, but it should be taken off. That is my opinion. Mayor Perrin said, it is just these three here that the committee brought forth. Councilmember McClain said, that is why I am asking. So, are we going to go with these three?

Councilmember Coleman said, these three are going to be forwarded to you guys to study and these three will be forwarded to the Public Works Committee. Councilmember McClain asked, but Johnson will not be forwarded? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, that it won't be forwarded. That is the motion on the floor. Councilmember McClain said, I was making sure. But, also, what timeline are we talking about? How soon are we going to do this? Councilmember Coleman said, well, I am hoping that the Public Works Committee, I can't speak for John Street, but I am hoping that Public Works has a called meeting so we can get this taken care of real soon. Councilmember Gene Vance said, I think it meets in two weeks. Councilmember Coleman asked, is it two weeks? Councilmember Chris Moore said, I was about to say that it is in two weeks. Mayor Perrin said, I think it is in two weeks anyway, Public Works. You may want to have a special meeting. Ms. Duncan said, you may need additional time. Mayor Perrin said, you may have to have more time on it. Ms. Duncan said, right. Councilmember McClain said, I guess the reason why I am asking that is to make sure we get it and get it taken care of. I don't want us to kick the can down the road and keep delaying it. I think not making a decision is making a decision. Ok. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, the first motion on the floor is to postpone indefinitely RES-19:072. Are there any questions on that? You will need to come to the microphone because we are recording this. State your name and address.

My name is Jason Rufkahr. I live in Jonesboro, 710 W. Cherry. I never come here so I don't know how this works. Mayor Perrin said, that is ok. Mr. Rufkahr asked, why do we have to rename a street? Why can't we construct one and name it in honor of? Why can't we construct a street in honor of Martin Luther King? Why can't it be done that way? Mayor Perrin said, well, if you are asking me or if are you asking the council here, we have an ordinance. Mr. Rufkahr said, I am asking this council in general. Mayor Perrin said, well, we have an ordinance on the naming of things that was passed several years ago and that would be for either new roads and/or designated areas. You could do either/or. Mr. Rufkahr said, yes sir, I understand.

Councilmember Coleman said, but you can't just come up here and name a street with nothing on it and no placement. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, and I think the other thing too, is that the city, itself, does not construct a lot of streets. Councilmember Coleman said, right. Councilmember Hafner said, there are a lot of new streets built in developments, but that is the developer building them so the number of streets that we can construct is limited.

Councilmember Coleman said, I know this is your first time to come to the City Council. Mr. Rufkahr said, yes sir. Councilmember Coleman said, so, I want to make



sure I answer this in a proper way. You know, we keep kicking things down the road and keep getting committees to do this and to do that. This was the committee formed to actually make these recommendations. I think we need to go on with this and if someone wants to do something later, then I think that needs to come up through the City Council or someone needs to make an ordinance or a resolution to come up, but we need to get this taken care of. Mr. Rufkahr said, I just feel that I have grown up in Jonesboro my entire life and I have known streets to be certain names and then someone is going to come in here and change it. Councilmember Coleman said, well, they haven't actually. There is a resolution already on the books that talks about not even changing them, the streets and that is one reason this has been brought up so that we can hopefully do something different or actually change the name of a street or the Freedom Trail or whatever. But, it is still going to be left up to the council once it goes through the Public Works committee. Mr. Rufkahr said, I understand. Thank you. Councilmember Coleman said, I want to make sure. Councilmember McClain said, I would like to make one more comment if I may. He asked why we are changing street names. There have been other street names changed within the city. Some have even changed multiple times. I understand everybody's concern with changing street names, but it has happened. It has happened in our past.

Mayor Perrin asked, Dr. Coleman, do you want to make a motion to forward the three that you just read to the Public Works committee? Councilmember Coleman said, I would like to make a motion that these three recommendations go to the Public Works committee, hopefully, as soon as possible. Councilmember Ann Williams said, second. Mayor Perrin said, I have a motion and a second that all three of these ordinances be sent to the Public Works committee to evaluate and to discuss. Are there any questions or comments? Councilmember McClain said, I have one more comment or question. Can we get a date set? Can you amend your motion and say to the next meeting? Councilmember Coleman said, that is really left up to the Public Works committee when they are supposed to meet. I think the next meeting is October 1, 2019.

Councilmember John Street said, it can't be September 30, 2019. Really, the next available one would either be September 26, 2019 or our next normal meeting date of October 1, 2019. I know you can't do a lot with that at our normal meeting date, but it can't be the September 30, 2019 because I have another obligation unless someone else wants to chair it. Councilmember McClain said, I would like a date.

Councilmember Gene Vance said, our next date is October 1, 2019. Councilmember Street asked, is that next Tuesday or the first Tuesday in October? Councilmember Vance said, our next regular Public Works committee meeting is Tuesday, October 1, 2019. If we do, and we probably do, need additional time, could we just meet early that day rather waiting until 5:00 p.m.? Councilmember Street said, absolutely. That is fine with me. Councilmember Vance said, well, then, I would amend Dr. Coleman's motion to say that we would ask that the Public Works committee hear that on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 and that meeting start at 3:30 p.m.

Councilmember Street said, if you think we need that much time then that is fine.

Councilmember Vance said, that will give us an hour and a half. Councilmember Street asked, what does everybody else think about that? Is that ok with everybody else?

Councilmember Vance said, I make that as an amendment to his motion.

Councilmember Charles Frierson said, second. Mayor Perrin said, we have a motion and a second for an amendment that the three ordinances will be heard at the Public Works committee meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. Are there any questions or comments?

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I have a comment. I just want to make sure that you

are going to need a hour and a half to discuss it because I know one issue we have sometimes when we have to schedule out of necessity, these meetings, during business hours is like I couldn't make it because it was during working hours. I don't know if 4:30 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. would be enough time to give people enough time so people don't have to leave work so early. Councilmember Vance said, I don't mind if we take it to another night and not do it on a Tuesday night. If Councilmember Street is busy next Tuesday night, we can do it Thursday night. It doesn't matter to me. We do need to allot at least an hour and a half for it. Mayor Perrin said, you have heard the motion and the second, all in favor signify by saying aye. All voted aye. It will be Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

**A motion was made by Councilperson Charles Coleman, seconded by Councilperson Ann Williams, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely . The motion PASSED with the following vote.**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Mitch Johnson

## **8. MAYOR'S REPORTS**

*Mayor Harold Perrin reported on the following items:*

*Mayor Harold Perrin said, I have a few things to cover.*

*First of all, you do have in front of you, you have had a chance to look at the Jonesboro Municipal Airport Commission financial statements. I will say that the Airport Commission made a good report in the Public Services committee meeting. They are doing good and they are having a good year.*

*I discussed with the council about the railroad additional tracks. We did get \$2.3 million. We are working on that with the federal government, the Federal Highway Administration. However, we do need an additional \$1.2 million. Community Development Director Regina Burkett and I have been working on that with Senator Boozman's office. What we are going to do on that is a grant through the East Arkansas Planning and Development District and go to Austin, Texas and deliver that to the Director of EDA.*

*This Thursday, we will be closing, the City Clerk and I will be closing on the properties for the Veteran's Village Community. We took all of the documentation down last Friday and got that cleared. We got the clearance to go ahead and close on all of the properties. We will be doing that this Thursday.*

*Next, all of you have had a chance to receive the Legislative Audit. I am pleased to report that the audit was completely clear. There were absolutely no exceptions whatsoever on the audit. I think that is good and again, hats off to all of our department heads, the Finance Department, and all of those because for a city our size to get a clean audit with no exceptions is pretty good. And, so, I just wanted to say that to our staff.*

*Next, if you all will remember, we got a TAP grant from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), the highway department. I think a blip on that has been in the newspaper. The amount is \$316,000 through the Transportation Alternative Plan grant. That will be for sidewalks and bike trails from Stadium Blvd. all the way to Fox*

Meadow schools. And, then the roundabout and the sidewalks are coming up to the school. In reality, you could take the sidewalks all the way from Stadium to Red Wolf all the way to Airport Road.

This last weekend, Bill Summers, Program Coordinator with Parks and Recreation, had the 20th Annual Riceland Foods Harvest Cup Soccer Tournament. They had 55 teams there and they came in from several states on soccer which was very successful. Also, I think we have 74 teams for softball at ASU for this coming weekend. That will be for several states and it will be out at the softball complex.

This is the Fair Week. I have passes for you all in my office and I thought they would be delivered down here. Obviously, they were not. (Someone said they were there.) Ok. Good. Thank you. Those are compliments of the Fair Board Association and Councilmember Mitch Johnson.

Last Saturday, we had the "Touch a Truck." I want to thank all of the department heads who took all of the vehicles out there. It seems like every department took something out there. That was a big success. It is growing every year at NEA Baptist Hospital. So, they just wanted to say thank you for that. It is held through Nettleton School and NEA Baptist Hospital.

Also, Saturday, I attended the 50th Anniversary of Crowley's Ridge Development Council. It is hard for me to believe that CRDC has been here for 50 years. I met with CRDC Director Tony Thomas. He used to work here in our grants division. We will be working with them and talking with him and the grants division on several grants. One of them will be for the homeless. They get certain funds and we do too and apply for that. If we join together on that, we think we can get a much larger amount of money for that cause. There are several things that we can be working with CRDC on.

This Saturday is our auction. That will be starting at 9:00 a.m. on Strawfloor at the old landfill. If anybody wants to look at some items, just come on out there. We have got something for everybody, so just come on out there.

I received an email today from the highway department. The Caraway and Highland intersection will be let out for bids in November. So, then they will know all of the right-of-way has been acquired. Hopefully, once we get that done, they will get a contractor on board and we can start redoing that intersection. Caraway and Highland will look just like the one on Highland and Red Wolf. That will be two left, two straight, and one right on that deal. That intersection stacks up all the way back to the Ford dealership if you are having to take a left onto Caraway from Highland. So, that will be a big improvement. Also, there will be another one and that will be Highway 63B to Highway 18. So, we will have two items that will be on the agenda for the Highway Commissioners to approve on the bids.

It was in the paper and on Facebook, but Steve Purtee is our new Director of Finance. We hate to see Deanna Hornback going to Oklahoma, but when you have that many grandchildren in Oklahoma, you are going to go and move. She has done a good job while she was here. We appreciate that. Steve and I have worked together several times at Mercantile Bank. He was President of the Credit Union here and the last job he had was Treasurer of Big River Steel in Osceola. We are very glad to have Steve here taking over the rim of that position.

[COM-19:061](#)

JONESBORO AIRPORT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ENDING AUGUST 31, 2019

**Attachments:** [JAC Jonesboro Airport Financials 08\\_19.pdf](#)

Filed

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Mayor Harold Perrin said, I have a request from Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman to make a couple of comments. So, I am going to yield to him and start with Dr. Coleman.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I guess this is just my night for reports, but that is just the way that it is. Jonesboro is a wonderful place to live with caring, generous people. It's our home and the home of our families. We have a low unemployment rate and a low cost of living. We have A-State, a great system of medical care, and several innovative companies that pay good wages. But, there are warning signs for our community - signs which we as leaders have to address. I've asked Chief of Staff Mike Downing to make a presentation. I asked him to do this presentation on something that he did some time ago when he first moved here on the structure of Jonesboro and how we compare to different cities and different places. Maybe everyone is trying to be coy with words, but I am just going to make the statement. We have got problems and we are going to have problems for a long time if we don't get something to take care of it. When Mike gets through, I still have another part of my reading, if you don't mind.*

*Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, thank you Dr. Coleman. This is according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, this data that I am going to provide. The most telling indicator of economic health is the gross domestic product (GDP). Jonesboro metro area (Craighead and Poinsett County) per capita GDP is 34% less than either Memphis, Little Rock or Fayetteville. Also, compared to four years ago, it is -0.3% less. The per capita income of the Jonesboro metro is 25% below Little Rock and Memphis, and 41% below Fayetteville. The median net worth of Jonesboro metro is 66% less than either Little Rock, Memphis, or Fayetteville.*

*So, if we are going to compete in the "knowledge economy," we must excel at attracting, retaining, and developing "talent", which is the primary driver of the location and expansion of good-paying, innovative businesses, universities, and medical operations. The Lumina Foundation, who specializes in economic research and education, says that by 2025, 60% of Americans will need a college degree, workforce certificate, or other high quality credential beyond high school. Right now, only 36% of adults in Craighead County meet this standard.*

*We're in a competition for this talent with communities 300 or more miles away- primarily Little Rock, Fayetteville, Memphis, St. Louis, and others. Studies indicate that 75% of young talent first decide where they want to live, and the primary influence of where to live is the quality of life.*

*Councilmember Coleman said, thank you. Of course if anyone wants to ask Mike to break that down into a little bit better English, you can talk to Mike because I already understand it. We are in trouble financially. We are in trouble educationally. We are in trouble with job markets and the whole nine yards. I am going to read this statement.*

*Team Jonesboro's initiative in this competition for quality of life and public safety just narrowly lost. I was a supporter, as many of you, and will still be a supporter. I would*

urge Team Jonesboro to continue the effort, because it's the key to our future. I would urge the Oversight Integrity Council to continue their work to refine the best list of projects that will catalyze Jonesboro's quality of life. And, I would urge the City Council and Mayor to support this initiative at an upcoming election to provide for our full set of critical needs in our police and fire department, and not be diverted to a piece meal approach which won't solve our problems.

This initiative is not about me. It's not about the Team Jonesboro supporters. It's not about the City Council. But, it is about whether we want a Jonesboro that will be safe, and a Jonesboro that will compete in the knowledge economy. Abraham Lincoln said, "The best way to predict the future is to create it." So, let's do a better job than we are doing. I am not sure where Team Jonesboro is going to go with this. And, so, I can say this openly and I am sure I am going to get a lot of rebuttal and that is fine. I have been getting that for seventy something years and I might as well continue with it. We need to get this back on an election form in some kind of way. We need to do something because financially, we have problems and we are going to have problems. If I am not mistaken, if I am not speaking out of term, I think we have already started cutting the Jonesboro city budget a little bit more than I think it needs to be, but that is because we just don't have the money to do things we need to do. So, anyway, Mayor, I thank you for allowing me to read that. Do I need to pass this over for somebody? Mayor Perrin said, you might for the record. The clerk would like to have it for the record. Councilmember Charles Frierson said, I would like to make one statement. Amen brother. Councilmember Coleman said, thank you. Even though I know we are going to have a meeting, I want to say this. I got a text a while ago from one of my real good personal individuals. National Night Out is October 1, 2019, but we are still going to have that meeting. We are going to have that meeting early enough that we can still get out for National Night Out. I don't want to keep putting this off and kicking it down the road. I want to get it over with and I want to get it done.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I have a couple of quick things. First and foremost, I received a few calls from the neighbors in the 2600 block of Clayburn Drive. Apparently, they have repeatedly reported a mobile home that is being worked on in a neighbor's yard and it has been going on for several months. They have reported it to Code Enforcement and it has gone to several other departments within the city and they are not getting any answers. So, I would like to get those folks some answers as quickly as possible please. Mayor Perrin asked, do you have that on your phone? Councilmember Gibson said, yes, it is the 2600 block of Clayburn Drive, but I will shoot that on over to you. Mayor Perrin said, we will get on that in the morning. Councilmember Gibson said, in regards to what Dr. Coleman just said, I have got a few piggyback comments that I would like to make, but I would like to hold those for another time.

Councilmember David McClain said, I don't have a whole lot, but I think the question I have for Dr. Coleman is that I think you said something about putting it on the ballot for next year, is that what you said in 2020? Councilmember Coleman said, it doesn't matter. I don't care as long as it gets back on the ballot. I hate to answer a question like that, but with the point being is that we have problems. At the same time, being a councilperson for the city, I always say the city because everybody tries to pinpoint just the north side, but the city as a whole, we have issues. There are a lot of amenities that we already have that a lot of other cities are paying for that we are getting. I know this is probably a rough statement for some other people to say, well, we are paying enough. Well, guess what, I pay taxes too. I keep hearing this. I had a person stop me at Sam's and was talking to me about they were old and they were paying taxes. Well, guess what, my quick statement to her was I am old too. Guess

what, two things I am going to do is pay taxes and stay black, that is going to happen. It is time to get on with it and quit screwing around, that is the bottom line. Councilmember McClain said, I was just curious, looking at you saying that we should put it on the ballot next year. I am just wanting some clarity on that. Mayor Perrin said, I think what he is saying is that probably Team Jonesboro or something is going to make some type of decision on that because there is legal. There are certain times that you can put it on the ballot. Councilmember Coleman said, that is why I couldn't answer that question. Councilmember McClain said, I get it. Councilmember Coleman said, Jonesboro is a place that every time you say something, everybody eats it up and turns it into a different fold. So, I would rather make the statement to Team Jonesboro to get together to make that decision.

Councilmember McClain said, it was brought to my attention that there was a race this weekend and I guess we didn't provide a safe route. Mayor Perrin asked, did we get the request? Councilmember McClain said, I don't know. We didn't provide for runners to not run in traffic. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, they are supposed to let the police department know when they are having a race on city streets. Councilmember McClain asked, do we shut down streets? Ms. Duncan said, sometimes, it depends. It depends on the number of participants and a variety of things, but there is a form that they fill out to make those requests to the police department. I wouldn't be able to answer whether that was done or not. Mayor Perrin said, the reason is that they check the route and they also determine how many vehicles and how many people need to be in that and all of that stuff. Ms. Duncan said, and if officers are needed, how many and that type of thing. Mayor Perrin said, if you will get with me later, I will go back to that organization or whoever it was that put that on and we will find out. We will be glad to. Councilmember McClain said, perfect, alright, thank you, that is it.

Councilmember Bobby Long said, just a few things. As many of you know, I promised to propose a fire and police only designated quarter percent sales tax which is permanent ordinance if the one voted on Sept. 10th failed. With that proposal failing, I will keep my promise. I have been working with our city attorney and will hopefully have the ordinance ready to bring to committee soon. However, the ordinance is not the whole plan, it's just a part of it.

For 14 years, up until August of 2014, the city's general budget operated on a half of a percent with the other half of a percent dedicated to capital improvements. In August of 2014, the voters approved rolling the half of a percent for capital improvements into the general budget thereby eliminating the designated half of a percent for capital improvements. Prior to that vote, according to an April 21st article in the Jonesboro Sun, the residents were assured that the capital improvements fund contains, and I quote the article - "plenty of money to complete a myriad of capital improvements for the foreseeable future." The measure was approved by the voters and the half of a percent designated for capital improvement became part of the general budget.

Since August of 2014, in just a little over 5 years, the city leaders (and for the last 2 ½ years that includes me as well) have made decisions concerning the usage of both the record amounts of sales tax revenues and the large amounts of excess reserve funds. Each year, the mayor, in cooperation with his department heads, puts together the city's budget that outlines what they believe will fulfill the needs of each department and the city. Each year, the needs of the departments including fire and police have been presented and a budget has been constructed based on what the mayor feels is priority for the coming year. This budget is then proposed to the city council for review, questions, and either approval or rejection. I am not here to debate the merits of any of the projects funded, but what I can say with all certainty is that with each of those

decisions, a choice was made as to what was determined vital at the time and what was deemed less pressing.

*I think that it is evident that, without a designated fund to help force saving for future vital projects, we are now in a position, through no fault of the residents of Jonesboro, where we can no longer avoid funding the immediate needs of two departments which provide public safety services which I feel are at the very core of what government should provide. These, of course, are our fire and police departments. It is my understanding that the mayor will present two budgets for review. Either way, I want to strongly urge the mayor to include in both of these budgets a designated fund to be used strictly for funding 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 and maintenance and staffing of such capital improvements.*

*I have put together a spreadsheet containing the needs of both departments broken down for the next several years based on the information I received earlier in the year from both department heads. Attached you will also find four different proposals. Each containing the aspect of the new quarter percent tax I will present and different reallocation scenarios of existing tax collections. By no means is this meant to be an exhaustive list of options. It is, however, a good faith effort to provide not one but four viable options to meet the needs of these two departments. Each variation includes not only the permanent tax part, but a city reallocation aspect as well. This reallocation aspect is not a new tax, it is an allocation of existing funds. If the ordinance, I will soon present, passes and finds its way on the ballot and the residents of Jonesboro votes to approve the tax, it will achieve the funding requirements already endorsed by both the Fire and Police Chiefs and what I feel the residence of Jonesboro voiced with their vote on September 10th.*

*If approached this way, I feel it will do a couple of things. First, it will demonstrate to the residents that the leadership of Jonesboro is just as dedicated to the core fundamental functions of the police and fire as we are asking them to be. In other words, we are not going to ask the residents to do something the city leaders are not willing to do. Secondly, it shares the burden of responsibility between the residents and the city. I have spent countless hours pondering the pros and cons of a multitude of difference scenarios, but I keep coming back to the same thing. The more we raise taxes, the less competitive our local businesses become with competitors in surrounding cities. The less competitive our local businesses are, the less economic growth our city experiences. That is why we should do whatever we can to keep our total tax burden as low as possible. Thirdly, the quarter percent in the ordinance I will propose is a permanent tax but the city's allocation is not. This will allow for portions or all of the city's contribution to return to the general budget side as these emergency projects become a reality or be allocated to another possible future designated fund such as a roads. Each variation provides all the funding needs as expressed by the fire and police departments, and each variation does so within the next five years. Some variations are front loaded meaning that more money is collected in the next few years and tapering off in the last few years. Some are more evenly distributed. But, all variations meet the needs as expressed not only as a whole but for each year as well.*

*It is my hope that the new ordinance will be on the Finance Committee's agenda as soon as possible. The ordinance I will submit will reflect exactly what I promised the people, a quarter percent permanent tax strictly for fire and police. At the same time, I am also counting on working together with each of you to make this ordinance something that can get us past not only the emergency of the moment, but establish a working mechanism for future needs as well. Each one of us brings an area of*

*expertise to the table and I am counting on that expertise to make this an ordinance one that: 1) will meet the needs of our fire and police not only now, but in the future; 2) be acceptable to the residents and voters of Jonesboro; and 3) will continue to maintain a tax environment where our local businesses can continue to hold an economic advantage by retaining a competitive sales tax rate as compared to surrounding cities.*

*In summary, it is my desire is to foster a dialog that will result in a solid plan to supply the needed funds for our police and fire while not undermining the advantages of our cities economy. I hope each of you on the council will join with me in working toward this solution as swiftly as possible. And, attached to this are the needs outlined per year, police and fire, the total amounts, and four different proposals. I would ask that each of you consider these. Thank you.*

*Councilmember Joe Hafner said, we are going to schedule an Oversight Integrity Council meeting for Thursday, September 26, 2019 from 2-4 p.m. to discuss the next steps the OIC will be taking. I feel that it is important that we have a duty set out to us to continue to research, prioritize, and to look at different projects. I think it is important that the OIC continue to do that so down the road, we can make recommendations as funding becomes available, we can know what projects that funding may go towards. This will be just a working meeting. It won't be public presentations. There will be a time for public comments. This will be kind of a next step meeting. Mayor Perrin said, we will get that on the website. Communications Director Bill Campbell is not here today. He will be back tomorrow. Councilmember Hafner said, we are currently working on the agenda so we will make sure that it is submitted to the City Clerk's office and Legistar.*

*Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I will be brief because I feel like every word I say might take away from what Mike Downing and Dr. Coleman said, who said it best. There has been a lot of discussion about important needs and everybody has different opinions and I can respect that. I would think I would say that it is simple. It is about math and to Dr. Coleman's point there, I think as a member of the Finance Committee, and Councilmember Hafner is Chair, that as we go into budget hearings this fall, I would invite people to come to the Finance Committee and see where the money is spent. I think if everybody had a pretty good, full understanding, I think folks would understand the difficulty of where we are. I think I would make kind of a concluding comment as well as far as along the lines of being the cheapest and there are several dimensions of that. But, from a city perspective, and this relates to public safety, we can't be the cheapest. We can't pay our officers the least. We can't have the worst police cars. We can't have the worst fire trucks. So, there are a lot of dimensions beyond public safety as it relates to quality of life as well. So, I think I would say that I don't know if the voters sent a clear message. I believe that the voters sent a clear message that they are open in helping us solve this problem. I do think that our voters and our citizens understand the things that Mike Downing said and will continue to understand those things better. But, I do not think that the voters of Jonesboro said no to quality of life.*

*Councilmember John Street said, regardless of what people think of the events of the election, I know that it is absolutely clear and I have spent many hours over the years speaking with both chiefs. I fully understand the needs that they have got. Apparently, a lot of people don't or don't understand the cost of those things. Regardless of what else happens, there has got to be a public safety tax. No matter what else happens, police and fire have got to be funded. We have got to have two fire stations within the next three years. Our radio equipment is shot. Technology has outpaced the police.*



*We have got to have more officers, more vehicles, more equipment. I mean, that is just reality. Pick up the paper, there seems to be a shooting or a stabbing or a vicious crime almost every day. Our guys are stretched so thin that it is incredible and they can only do so much. You can do anything you want to if there is money, but there has got to be money allocated for that. There just has to be. That is all I have got to say about that.*

*I was going to ask and I talked with Street Superintendent Steve Tippitt, there has been a lot of work done on Craighead Forest Road. It is pitiful. He did say, finally they got some steel plates out there and hopefully, it would be paved shortly, but there are nails. Coach Best had said she got six flats on that thing. The rebar in the ditches is dangerous. It really needs some attention. Hopefully, we can get that fixed fairly soon. I know everybody out there is anxious about that and I don't blame them. It is in pretty rough shape. It has been a while. Do you have any idea Mayor, what the estimated time of completion is?*

*Mayor Perrin said, I don't know what the estimated time is. I know that Engineering Director Craig Light is here. I know that I am going out there about every day to check that job. I know that he has talked to the contractors on that. They had a full crew out there I know, today, but Steve did get the plate down. Councilmember Street said, I talked to you about that and Steve too. I do appreciate that because that was a big concern. A lot of folks bottomed out when they hit that gap.*

*Street Superintendent Steve Tippitt said, they have worked on it. Mayor Perrin said, outstanding, good. Councilmember Street asked, you do have it asphalted? Mr. Tippitt said yes. Councilmember Street said, ok, thank you Steve.*

*Engineering Director Craig Light said, we have requested that the contractor give us a set timeline. They are out of the contract time period right now. We are not processing any pay requests from the contractor until it is resolved. We did discuss declaring the contractor in default, but at this point, you are looking at probably several months dealing with a bonding company to get a new contractor on site. They are talking like they are going to have it done by mid-October. So, we are kind of moving forward with that. But, again, I have not gotten their written proposal of when they are planning to be done. There have been some significant delays on this project. When it first started out, when it was let a year ago, the contractor intended to work on it over the next five months and be done with it in March. One of the first things that happened, we had some issues with the cemetery and we chose to make a change at the cemetery which delayed the contractor. In hindsight, should we have made that change? Maybe not, but we did get a lot of pressure from the cemetery association to make a change and we thought at that time it was the best thing to do. What that resulted in was delaying the contractor, causing utility conflicts, and then, we got into a bad weather season. So, I can't blame the contractor completely for this.*

*During the summer when the weather did get better, he has worked about half as much as what our other contractors have on other jobs. Where he has been kind of dragging, but he wasn't intending to work on this job this summer. He has other contracts he is trying to get completed too. So, we are kind of in this catch-22. So, we have to give the contractor a little slack. I am not proposing that we charge him liquidated damages or anything like that, but we are withholding payments from him. We intend for him to be done by mid-October.*

*Councilmember Street said, I know there are all kinds of things involved with a project like that. I just know that people are really expressing their frustration with that as it has drug on and so, I am glad we are going somewhere with it. I will ditto on what you*

*had to say with Steve Purtee. I saw him earlier, but I remember him, as well, from Mercantile Bank and that has been a while back. Welcome aboard Steve. Glad to have you.*

*Councilmember Chris Gibson said, just real quick Mayor. I want to circle back on one thing real quick. I don't have a prepared statement, but I feel that this needs to be said. Earlier tonight, we had a Public Services Committee meeting and all of our department heads from Public Services came up and they gave a very good, detailed presentation on what they were able to do with the allocations that they were given. And, I think that they are doing a great job and I commend them for that. On the tail end of that, I want to issue a public apology to them and to our community. Several months ago, I received a call from one of our councilmembers and he was a little upset that he was not representing more committees than he was on. And, out of an extension of good faith, I relinquished my Public Services position to him as well as my seat as chair of the Public Services Committee. Hindsight-22, I realize that was self-serving and I made a mistake and I apologize to each and every one of you for that and the one that I am talking about is the only one that stood up against the tax. Thank you. Councilmember Long said, that was me.*

[COM-19:065](#)

Councilmember Bobby Long's Proposal Spreadsheet for the meeting on September 17, 2019

**Attachments:** [Bobby Long 09172019 Spreadsheet.pdf](#)

Filed

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I just kind of have to add to Mr. Street's comment about the Craighead Forest Bike Trail. I've gotten a lot of comments too. I just found out that the project deadline on this 2021. That is a year and a quarter from now. If you all go out there, it is an eyesore. And, that there is no way anyone that I know of at the last couple of meetings have said is that the project is going to be done at the end of September. There is no way that is going to be done. I know that Craig just mentioned something about the cemetery committee. Guess what, I am one of those persons on the board of the cemetery and that cemetery should not have been touched at all. So, I don't know how much can be put on the cemetery for the cost and for the time that extra on there. But, out there, it is an eyesore and I encourage every single one of you to go out there and look at it because if you lived out there and you looked at it every single day, you would be upset too. And, I think my only point is that we have got to stop doing more of these sidewalks. I know that there is another grant coming up. We have got to finish the projects that we have got now. Get them done. Get them complete. I know with the cemetery, my concern is that there are two markers that are on the edge of where a wall is supposed to be going. I don't know if someone is there, buried underneath there or not. The whole thing needs to be done sooner because the rain is going to come. It is going to start washing that away. So, I encourage all of you to go out there and to look at that. And, I hope, I hope that those contractors can work because I go out there every single day too. I only see four or five workers and sometimes I don't see any at all. The weather is hot. It used to be cold and you couldn't work. But, I hope you guys can push them a little bit further because that needs to be complete before we do anymore sidewalks in our town. It will be nice when it is done, but it needs to be complete and it needs to be done correctly. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.*

Metropolitan Planning Organization Director Cecelie Cochran said, hello, I am the director for the northeast Arkansas region. I wanted to inform all of you and I know a few of you are aware, Dr. Coleman, Mayor Perrin, John Street, but for those of you who aren't, we are in the process of conducting a Pedestrian Safety Study in the region. Two locations have already been identified and are well under way. We are half way through. So, the first location is Highway 141, that is on North Church between West Allen Avenue and Alpine. We were thinking about finding recommendations and having a consultant look in that area due to not only the traffic, but the pedestrian activity there. So, we have preliminary recommendations for there, but they have not been finalized. The second location is the intersection of Highway 91, which is Johnson Avenue, and State Street. And, that intersection was identified through a previous City of Jonesboro study due to its proximity to downtown and A-State and also due to the traffic in that area. Now, we will be implementing a temporary pedestrian crossing right at that intersection. I believe that construction is supposed to start tomorrow. I have been giving several interviews regarding this and alerting the public, but I wanted to talk about it now because a couple of months have passed since we got the notice to proceed. So, I just wanted to let you all know that I still will be conducting more interviews. You should be seeing signs go up as well in that area. I just want to encourage you all to kind of be vigilant and slow down with us during this process. And, if you all have any questions, please let me know. One more thing, we have a public input meeting set for this Thursday at Allen Park Community Center. If you all aren't too busy, I encourage every single person out of the City of Jonesboro to come out, give your input on what projects you would like to see prioritized in the region, what goals would inspire you all to kind of improve our transportation system in our community. Councilmember Ann Williams asked, what time is that meeting? Ms. Cochran said, it starts at 6:00 p.m. and I will be there until 7:30 p.m. It is drop-in style. It should only take you 10-15 minutes. It will be interactive. I just want to get your feedback so come out and join us if you can. I am available for questions or comments. Mayor Perrin said, good report Cecelie. I appreciate that very much on those two projects. And, that is in cooperation, I think, with the one in Little Rock as well, if I am not mistaken. Councilmember Williams said, she does a great job. She really does. Mayor Perrin said, thank you.

Judy Casteel, 1902 Independence Cove, said, I want to piggyback on that. Cecelie does a fabulous job and I think everybody needs to be aware of our needs instead of sitting back and complaining when something is or isn't done. Come out and give your input so that it can be done in a way that the folks want it to be done. That is not why I got up here. I got up here to announce the fact that if anybody does not know, National Night Out is October 1, 2019. I know for a fact that Dr. Coleman's group is having National Night Out. The West End is having National Night Out. I assume NJNI is. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I am not sure. I know Fisher Street Community in Action is having one. No, NJNI are not having one, but Fisher Street Community in Action is having one also. Ms. Casteel said, Scenic Hills is having one and I would like to extend the invitation to all of you after the council meeting. I really wish we could change it you guys, every year. But, at any rate, after the council meeting, everybody is invited. We would love to have you come out. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said, thank you very much.

Jason Rufkahr, 710 W. Cherry, said, I just have a question about something that you talked about on here. Ordinances 19:051 and 19:052 about the private clubs. You said you were going to move the title. Did that approve or not approve? Councilmember David McClain said, as a point of order, we have already talked about this on the agenda. Public Comment is for something that we didn't discuss on the agenda. Councilmember Gene Vance said, we just read it. If it says its second reading, we

*read it the second time and it will be read a third time. Mr. Rufkahr said, ok. I was just curious about this. Mayor Harold Perrin said, this is your first meeting and I understand. Mr. Rufkahr said, thank you.*

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Mitch Johnson

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Harold Perrin, Mayor**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donna Jackson, City Clerk**