



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Tuesday, August 20, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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

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

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

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

#### 3. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

**Present** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

#### 4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-24:038](#)

##### PROCLAMATION HONORING THE JONESBORO TRAP TEAM

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver stated we do have a proclamation. Well, good evening everybody. I appreciate parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles being present this evening to show gratitude to the young men in front of us and their hard work and dedication. As I look through your qualifications and Council, this is the Jonesboro Trap Team. They are between the ages of 11 and 21. They have multiple coaches. Their head coach is Shane Bray, Joey Glaub, Steve Wilson, RJ Smith, Randy Thompson, and Shad Pickle. They qualified, first of all, for we are talking here nationals. So, they had to win in the state of Arkansas. The 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place divisions in multiple arenas in Jacksonville to qualify for the national events. And, I would be remiss if I mentioned all of their accomplishments. So, the national event tournament and as I read the proclamation, if I read a few names, you'll just step forward with that name. I am sorry if I mispronounce the name too. I worked on it. But, we are here tonight to, whereas the aim Grand National Trap Shooting championships tournament was held July 25th through July 29th in Sparta, Illinois. The Trap team took 22 young people ages 11-21 to compete in sporting clays, skeet, handicaps, doubles, and singles. Scoring designations were awarded to Junior Gold-Class C Squad Craighead Crushers, Junior Class A Squad, Uncoachables (how does that occur?), Sub-Junior A Squad, Diamond State, Sub-Junior Class A Squad, Another One Bites the Dust, and two members of the Jonesboro Pre-sub Junior Class A with Black River Busters, all award winning classifications. Now, as I look at their qualifications and their achievements, they had personal best, 92 out of 100, 90 out of 100, 99 out of 100, 193 out of 200, 98 out of 100, 97 out of 100, 97 out of 100, and folks this is under*

*pressure and stress and competition with the best in the United States. So, whereas, Hunter Harpole, Braden Kirk, if y'all want to step forward, Luke Orkowski, Eli Norton, Piper Smith, Cole Schaefer, Aiden Kiser, Parker Bray, and Fox Thomas and placed within the top 15 and scored their personal best. Whereas, the community is proud of your hard work and commitment by each of these youth athletes this summer. And, without supportive parents, grandparents, and sponsors, these accomplishments would not be accomplished. So, I, therefore, now, Harold Copenhaver, Mayor of the City of Jonesboro, by the virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim this to be Jonesboro Youth Shooting Sports Day and I want to commend you on your accomplishments and to much more continued success for you and you represent our city well. Thank you. Job well done.*

**Read**

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

### *Approval of the Consent Agenda*

*Councilmember Chris Moore asked that RES-24:088 be removed from the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson that the Consent Agenda be adopted less RES-24:088. All voted aye.*

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

**Aye:** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

[MIN-24:074](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 6, 2024

**Attachments:** [CC Minutes 08062024](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

[RES-24:078](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1617 RICH ROAD, PARCEL 01-143252-25000, OWNED BY RANDOLPH & JUDITH REYNOLDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:** [1. 1617 Rich Rd Notice of Violation](#)  
[2. 1617 Rich Rd Billing Request](#)  
[3. 1617 Rich Rd Invoice Notice](#)  
[4. 1617 Rich Rd Council Notice](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-076-2024

[RES-24:079](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1804 COVEY, PARCEL 01-143253-11800, OWNED BY MARTA W. STONEMAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$315

- Attachments:**
- [1. 1804 Covey Notice of Violation](#)
  - [2. 1804 Covey Billing Request](#)
  - [3. 1804 Covey Invoice Notice](#)
  - [4. 1804 Covey Council Notice](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-077-2024

[RES-24:080](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3119 RHONDA, PARCEL 01-144312-07100, OWNED BY LEIGH ANN ROBINSON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

- Attachments:**
- [1. 3119 Rhonda Notice of Violation](#)
  - [3. 3119 Rhonda Dr Mowing](#)
  - [3. 3119 Rhonda Invoice Notice](#)
  - [4. 3119 Rhonda Council Notice](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-078-2024

[RES-24:081](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 122 COLEMAN STREET, PARCEL 01-144063-02500, OWNED BY BOYCE TATE & LARRY BEATY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,933.36

- Attachments:**
- [1. 122 Coleman Notice of Violation](#)
  - [2. 122 Coleman Billing Request](#)
  - [3. 122 Coleman Invoice Notice](#)
  - [4. 122 Coleman Council Notice](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-079-2024

[RES-24:082](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1313 PARDEW, PARCEL 01-144212-20200, OWNED BY MICHELLE NUTT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

- Attachments:**
- [1. 1313 Pardew Notice of Violation](#)
  - [2. 1313 Pardew Billing Request](#)
  - [3. 1313 Pardew Invoice Notice](#)
  - [4. 1313 Pardew Council Notice](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-080-2024

[RES-24:083](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2612 CRAWFORD, PARCEL 01-144273-02300, OWNED BY RANDY & ALEY CRAWFORD IN THE

AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**    [1. 2612 Crawford Notice of Violation](#)  
[2. 2612 Crawford Billing Request](#)  
[3. 2612 Crawford Invoice Notice](#)  
[4. 2612 Crawford Council Notice](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-081-2024

[RES-24:084](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1703 DARRICK CIRCLE, PARCEL 01-144122-03200, OWNED BY JOE SPENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**    [1. 1703 Darrick Cir Notice of Violation](#)  
[2. 1703 Darrick Cir Billing Request](#)  
[3. 1703 Darrick Cir Invoice Notice](#)  
[4. 1703 Darrick Cir Council Notice](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-082-2024

[RES-24:085](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2107 TURTLE CREEK, PARCEL 01-143351-03200, OWNED BY LAUREN HATTEN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**    [1. 2107 Turtle Creek Notice of Violation](#)  
[2. 2107 Turtle Creek Billing Invoice](#)  
[3. 2107 Turtle Creek Invoice Notice](#)  
[4. 2107 Turtle Creek Council Notice](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-083-2024

[RES-24:086](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1500 SALLY LANE, PARCEL 01-144214-15700, OWNED BY ARTHUR RAY OSBORNE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

**Attachments:**    [1. 1500 Sally Ln Notice of Violation](#)  
[2. 1500 Sally Ln Billing Request](#)  
[3. 1500 Sally Ln Invoice Notice](#)  
[4. 1500 Sally Lane Council Notice](#)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-084-2024

[RES-24:089](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO,

ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT A SUB-ALLOCATION FROM THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA), FY 2019 49 U.S.C SECTION 5307 FORMULA GRANT FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION (JET)

**This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.**

Enactment No: R-EN-085-2024

### RESOLUTIONS NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

#### [RES-24:088](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AND GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2025 OUTDOOR RECREATION MATCHING GRANT FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

**Attachments:** [171073-01-01-Allen Park Proposal](#)

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Council, this is required by state law for this to be pulled off and to be voted on separately. There was no discussion by the council or by the public.*

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

**Aye:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Nay:** 1 - David McClain

Enactment No: R-EN-086-2024

#### [RES-24:092](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE JONESBORO CITY COUNCIL TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 210 PINE FROM SANCHEZ & ISLAND INVESTMENTS, LLC AND AMEND THE FY2024 BUDGET

**Attachments:** [210 Pine St - Appraisal](#)  
[Overview of Site](#)  
[Land Bank Minutes - August 13, 2024](#)

*Councilmember David McClain said, Mayor, I have a quick question. I know we have worked on, we have talked, we purchased the property last year I believe to the east it looks like to this property. Number one, what's our plan around Parker Park or any of our parks such as Parker Park, Allen Park, Earl Bell to make us want to continue to purchase land. That is the first question. Then, a second is, do we fee like this is, in the appraisal, if I am not mistaken, the appraisal seems like it was \$66,000, but we are looking to spend a little more than that at \$80,000, and they only paid \$40,000 for it. I think that is a little over, but too much. Planning Director Derrel Smith said, the appraisal was \$66,000. However, it is adjacent to property that we already own. We bought the house last year which was 0.9 acres. This will be 0.87 acres so that will give us a total of 1.85 acres that is adjacent to the park right now. So, it is worth a little bit more to us than it would be for somebody else. It is R-3, which means they could put multi-family housing on that lot if it were to sell. We are not going to do that. So, as far as plans for the park, I know Danny wants to expand. We are looking at some expansion, the parking lots. It has been very popular over there with the pool and*

everything and we need all of the property around it. Councilmember McClain said, I got it, okay. I will tell you I feel like for me, the price is a little high. I know they are probably like well, we will do something else with it if you don't buy it, but I just think it's a little too much. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I believe when the negotiation started out, it was much higher than that. Mr. Smith said, it did. We got them down. It took a while before they would even make contact with us because they didn't even want to contact us or didn't even want to talk with us at first. We negotiated it down to \$80,000. Like I said, it is over the appraisal, but with us owning all of the property around it except for a little bit more to the west, it would be worth it for us to have this. Councilmember McClain asked, is there a plan to go and try and purchase those two because those properties are vacant right? Mr. Smith said, if it were to become available, we would like to get those also.

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

**Aye:** 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

**Nay:** 1 - David McClain

Enactment No: R-EN-087-2024

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

#### [ORD-24:022](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY (FIS) AND FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) FOR "CRAIGHEAD COUNTY ARKANSAS AND INCORPORATED AREA," DATED SEPTEMBER 26, 2024; AND AMENDING BOTH THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS AND THE STORMWATER DRAINAGE DESIGN MANUAL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO

**Attachments:** [Sec. 112 67. Decision of the board.](#)  
[Floodplain Guidelines Article 3.](#)  
[Sec. 112-62 APPEALS AND VARIANCES Article 2 Sec F](#)  
[Sec. 109 1. Special flood hazard areas.](#)  
[Sec. 112 1. Def Article 1](#)  
[Sec. 112 10. FDP Article 2 Sec. C](#)  
[Sec. 112 63. Variance Article 2 Sec. E](#)

*Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:022 by title only. All voted aye.*

**Held at one reading**

## 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

#### [ORD-24:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CITY TRAILS

AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**Held at second reading**

[ORD-24:024](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3, GENERAL COMMERCIAL FOR 0.91 ACRES LOCATED AT 5441 E. NETTLETON AVENUE AND IS BEING SUBMITTED BY PAMELA H. WARD

**Attachments:**    [Application](#)  
[Rezoning Plat](#)  
[Rezoning Signs](#)  
[Certified Mail Receipt and Letter](#)  
[Staff Summary - CC](#)  
[Publication Receipt](#)

**Held at second reading**

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

*Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:*

*I am going to go ahead this evening and begin with the establishment that was passed last time by the Downtown Entertainment District by Council. With the announcement of the committee member nominations, one legal qualification, obviously, is that we have members that meet certain criteria of the Downtown Association. So, a list of those members will be Chris Gibson, Casey Johnson, Chad Campbell, Katie Dorton, James Best, Sarah Nobles, and then I am waiting on one confirmation. I just got an email here and I'll make that announcement later. But, the committee could go ahead and get together and we'll bring that forward through Nominating & Rules for Council to go ahead and hopefully approve that committee. So, I wanted to make that announcement so they can get together and start their action as quick as possible.*

*So, beginning tomorrow, Public Information Meetings regarding the Capital Improvements will begin. The first one will be at 11:00 a.m. to noon at First National Bank at Hilltop. The second meeting will be offered Thursday, August 22, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers. By the way, the public input sessions for the Gee Street Rail crossing earlier this month went very well and we appreciate all of those who participated. Now, in that, we also visited with Riceland Foods. They are very interested in working with us on this and they support the Gee Street Overpass as well as many residents and BNSF and UP. So, those negotiations are well within the works and we appreciate the public involvement.*

*Also, CDBG facilities and improvement structure funding applications are now open through September 13th. CDBG funds may be used for public facilities and improvements assisting non-profit organizations.*

*I am especially happy to announce that our MPO Organization, known as the Northeast Arkansas Regional Transportation Planning Commission, led by Alan Pillow, was selected to receive the outstanding overall achievement award for a non-TMA MPO. Non-TMA refers to commissions serving an area of less than 200,000 in population which is the majority of MPO's in the country. Each year the association of the MPO hosts a conference and awards ceremony. In the leading months up to the event, the MPO's were given opportunity to compile and submit their work for*

consideration in various award categories. That's about 300 MPO's across the United States that are represented. Director Pillow will be picking up the award at Salt Lake City at 2000 on September 26, 2024. So, Alan, congratulations, job well done. We appreciate your work.

From the Real Time Crime Center, the person who robbed Plato's Closet back in February was convicted in Circuit Court and received a life sentence. The suspect was out of Mississippi and had a lengthy criminal record of committing robberies. The success was due to the Real Time Crime Intelligence Center. The suspect had removed his Mississippi tag while in Trumann. Then, proceeded to Jonesboro and committed the robbery. The system was able to analyze video data and we found the vehicle before the tag was removed. With the vehicle description and now tag information, area law enforcement stopped and arrested the suspect within 45 minutes of the robbery on the interstate in West Memphis. This is just one of the daily success stories from the Real Time Crime Intelligence Center. Now, I will say, in watching the court, within four minutes, it was resolved and the decision was made due to the footage that was on the camera. So, again, this is working right here in Jonesboro. And, this suspect, if I am not mistaken, was also guilty of crimes in a tri-state area, multiple, none of which he had been put away for. Job well done. Thank you AC.

On Saturday, August 10th, I had the pleasure of proclaiming Northeast Arkansas Gamers Guild Day for the fourth game fest in July which raised more than \$11,000 for Friends of the Craighead County Library. The proclamation was shared in both official style as well as a style fitting for the Gamers Guild participants with a Renaissance twist artfully pinned by Sir Brian Richardson.

A week ago we held the official grand opening and ribbon cutting for the Bark Park named by its very own residents. Jonesboro Bark Park came to life with 245 name suggestions over 1,000 votes with 297 votes, Bark Park won top dog. In case you don't know about the Best in Show Bark Park is located on Parkview Street off of Highland Drive between Culberhouse and Hampton. This dog friendly haven features gated areas for both small and large dogs. 8,000 sq. ft. for little ones and 20,000 sq. ft. for the bigger pups. The park also boasts a 20x40 ft. pavilion, a water fountain with a dog watering station and two hydrants for cooling off during play time. There's plenty of space for free running, mild play entertainment, and future opportunities for a memorial area as well. Special thanks to Bonesboro of Jonesboro for donating tennis balls and to the American Made General Store for providing water bottles. Your contribution made our park even more fun and refreshing. We were also honored at the same time to have Miss Arkansas, Camille Cathey, join us for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Bark Park. Their presence made the day even more special and we were grateful for her support. Kudos for our Jonesboro Parks & Recreation Department for bringing the vision to life as a part of our Master Parks Plan which aims to add community parks where they are most needed while also helping with flood and mitigation.

A couple of fun things to add, on August 15th, was City Hall Selfie Day. A Nationwide event to help educate the public on where their City Hall is located helping to create more community engagement.

JETS is gearing up for Paint the Town Red and all of the ASU Football season with the Red Wolf Express including season passes to transport fans from parking lot on Church and Creath and adding location yet to be determined, more in the Hilltop area to the stadium and back.

I'm pleased to announce the Grinch did not as well steal the Christmas Parade.

*Heather Talley has stepped up to be the official Christmas Parade Coordinator. So, the parade wasn't stolen, not once, not at all, thanks to our new parade coordinator Heather who answered the call.*

*One more accolade to share for you from another Jonesboro citizen, it is my good friend John McKnight who is set to receive the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance Award for acting out against hunger. He will receive the award next week in Little Rock. McKnight, said Christie Jordan, Executive Director of the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, contacted him to congratulate him on the award and he didn't even know he won the award. He is not only a board member of the food bank, but he has served there the last six years as a volunteer as well. McKnight has worked at Riceland Foods for the past sixteen years where he is the Senior Quality Assurance Manager. He has spent eight of those years heading up the company's food bank fundraisers with fellow employees. Through fun competition such as chili cookoffs, they have raised around \$60,000 over the last eight years. He's even recruited his children to be involved. We have many charitable and kind and gracious citizens of our town and county and I am proud to know so many of them.*

[COM-24:035](#)

JUNE 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Attachments:**     [June 2024 Financials](#)

Filed

## **9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I have two things. One, I would like to propose a motion, I know it is a little bit early, but we are starting early for this year for our National Night Out which is on Tuesday, October 1, 2024. So, I would like to propose a motion that we move the council meeting from that Tuesday evening. And, the second one, we are also starting our toy drive early this year too because of the expense of all of the toys going up. Anyway, those two things. I would like to propose a motion that we move city council on that night of October 1, 2024 to maybe that Thursday or another day. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Dr. Coleman, would you consider amending that and also amending the November meeting as well since that is the first Tuesday and that will be the election night? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, the rules state that they automatically go to Thursday unless there is a reason as to why they cannot. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, yeah, alright, that's fine. Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, if I could get him to put into that motion to include Public Works as well. Mayor Copenhaver said, we can do that. Ms. Duncan said, why don't we just say any committees that on the days of those council meetings, those council committee meetings would also be moved to the Thursday of that week. That is what Dr. Coleman said.*

*Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Moore, to move the Public Works Council Committee meeting and the City Council meeting from Tuesday, October 1, 2024 to Thursday, October 3, 2024 due to National Night Out. This motion would also include moving the Public Works Council Committee meeting and the City Council meeting from Tuesday, November 5, 2024 to Thursday, November 7, 2024. All voted aye.*

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said I just want to tell you a little story of what has*

happened every since March and April and I don't know if some of you have known this or not, but in March and April of this year is that the Thompson's who own Doric out on Caraway Road applied to have a crematorium put into their business and it was zoned as commercial which they were allowed to. The process of opening up a crematorium is that all you have to do is put an ad in the classified paper three times and if no one objects to it, then they automatically get that permit unless there are two to three people that write a letter of objection to the Board of Cremation down in Little Rock. And, then what they will do is they set a public hearing and that is exactly what happened. There were a lot of neighbors in that area that got alerted to this and they attended the public hearing or the meeting and that was on May 7th and it was held at the public library. I got there a little bit late. The room was full. There was at least 10-15 of the citizens that spoke up about the concerns of it. There wasn't a lot of discussion from the board members of the cremation board. There were 12 of them there in attendance. There's normally 15 so three of them were absent. There was a little discussion and at that time after the talk of the citizens, they decided to take a vote and they voted for the Thompsons to open up the cremation place. To tell you the truth on that is that was not the legal way to do it because they needed to do it at their next board meeting which was on June 18th. So, that's when the crematorium got approved on that day. From my understanding, is that there have been a couple of citizens that have been really concerned about that speaking up for the citizens and the residents and that area because they did not want to have a crematorium located in that area because it is close to their houses. They were disappointed not only because of the process of how it was established and told to the people, just in a certified ad in the newspaper, but they were concerned about their health concerns. They were concerned about their property values. And, then, also too, the failure of notification from really the kind of state of what was going on. And, I guess this is where kind of like neighborhood meetings whenever we do a rezoning I think that we really need to make those mandatory because then everybody knows. But, what I want to say is that as of right now, I guess there is kind of I want to say, not a standoff, but from what the Thompsons had said at the meeting, they said that it was approved by the Fire Department to have this crematorium in their business. And, that's what we were told at the public hearing. Apparently, is that they have not been approved yet to the fire safety so they need to install fire sprinklers throughout the whole. So, I don't know really what stage is happening with that crematorium. But, what I want to say is that there have been a couple of citizens that live in that ward that have been really active and I appreciate them. And, what I also want to say is that to all of you and especially where you guys represent those people in the wards and at this time is that it happened to be, LJ, you were there at one of those meetings that we were talking to and what LJ and Katie Durham is doing right now is that they are trying to work with, I know Katie has talked to Carol and has talked to Derrel, is that they are trying to establish an ordinance that will prohibit a crematorium from being so close to a neighborhood. And, I think that is really important, not only because we weren't notified of it, but also to just all of those concerns that the people had with this one right here. So, hopefully, I don't know what is going to happen with this one over on Doric on Caraway, but hopefully it won't happen to another neighborhood. So, I just want to say thank you LJ for working with Katie because I know I talked to her yesterday and she is very appreciative of that because its really hard to figure out how to establish an ordinance. So, I just wanted to give you guys that brief history of it. So, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, yes, I know we are talking about what would be appropriate in the process and further discussions. Thank you so much.

James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said I really don't know what the forum I ought to say this in, but you all are elected. It is actually for Animal Control people. There is a stray dog in the area of Ridgecrest and Circle Drive that Animal Control has been trying

*to capture and that dog has won the hearts of a lot of us in that area. Now, I am going to tell you I think I really believe his background is this, you all will remember the incident, unfortunate incident, on Burke just east of Culberhouse which may be the only homicide we've had in the city so far this year. But, anyway, I have reason to believe that dog belonged to them. It is obvious that the dog has had a lot of trauma and maltreatment. And, if Animal Control can take that dog, find a good home for that dog where that dog will be shown some affection and kindness, I will pay the adoption fee for that family to take it. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you very much.*

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Aye:** 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

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

**Harold Copenhaver, Mayor**

**Attest:**

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

**April Leggett, City Clerk**