



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman joined the Finance & Administration Council Committee meeting at approximately 4:02 p.m.

Present 6 - Joe Hafner; Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent 1 - Anthony Coleman

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-23:052](#)

Minutes for the Finance Committee Meeting on May 30, 2023

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Anthony Coleman

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-23:110](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A FACILITY USAGE AGREEMENT WITH JONESBORO JETS, INC.

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [JETS 2023 Agreement](#)

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:111](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A FACILITY USAGE AGREEMENT WITH SHARK WAVE AQUATICS TEAM

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [SWAT 2023 Agreement](#)

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:112](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2023 BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP THROUGH THE U.S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Sponsors: Grants, Police Department and Finance

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;David McClain;Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

[RES-23:113](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2023 SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANTS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Sponsors: Grants, Engineering, Finance and Mayor's Office

Attachments: [FY23 Safe Streets for All Budget](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I guess one question I had, I don't know if this is for Craig or Regina, didn't we do another request for the lighting project and was that not approved? Just need my memory refreshed please. Grants Director Regina Burkett approached the podium and said, we applied for this same street grant last year, and we were not awarded the grant. So we are applying again this year for the same thing along with development on Highway 141. Councilmember David McClain said, Mr. Chairman, I had one question. I'm glad you asked that question because I thought the same thing, that we had funds for the lighting. Do we know how this works in conjunction with what the MPO was doing? Isn't there a study there? Ms. Burkett said, we've been working with Allen on this. We've been working with Allen on this grant, yes. I mean, we've been working with him to be sure everything is in the stip. So we have to work with him on all of our transportation grants that we do to be sure that they go together. Councilmember David McClain said, Craig, do you mind, and you may not be prepared with this, but I remember some correspondence between you and I about the MPO putting together a master plan, if you will, for our transportation. I want to make sure, are they working on something like that right now? Do you remember what I am talking about when I say that? Director of Engineering Craig Light approached the podium and said, yes I do. This particular grants application has funds available for development of safety plans for municipalities or MPOs or for safety related projects. The MPO had a draft plan, safety plan, for their MPO region, and there were some

modifications made to it, and it was adopted by the MPO. I am trying to remember if it was adopted by the City of Jonesboro or not, but anyway that plan was updated. So instead of asking for funding to develop a plan that already existed, we're trying to get funding for specific projects. Now, is there additional work that needs to be done to that plan to identify other specific projects? Most likely. It's a living document that identified a few key spots, Johnson Avenue being one of them. We've included the 141 work because we know that there is going to be a swimming pool up there soon. We had a safety study done several years ago through ARDOT that identified some safety measures that needed to be done, so we had those reports. That is the reason why those two projects kind of came together to be in this application. Back to your question, there is a plan. Is there additional work? Most likely there is additional work that needs to be done to that to keep it current and identify future projects to move forward with.

Councilmember David McClain said, I was thinking along the lines of, I'm looking back to my email now, the safe streets and roads for all grant program. I think there was a requirement to put some type of master plan together, and we have a master plan now that, like you said, obviously it's going to be living, breathing. We're going to have to update it as time goes on. Mr. Light said, I met with MPO with Allen this week, and we are looking at a vendor that is able to give us speed data for all our roadways, travel speeds, and combined with accident data that the MPO is already getting through this particular vendor. That, along with volume counts, traffic volumes, we could utilize that information, those three things together, to identify key points that we are having speed issues with volume issues with accident issues. So we can better identify those areas that are really the problem areas that are generally unsafe or could use some attention. So we are looking at ways to get that information and look at it more holistically, but that would go into that same plan. You know, the data that we used for it was just a one-time snapshot. This particular software would be updated on a monthly basis. It would be data that we could look at and take an action and see how the community responds to that action fairly quickly. Now, there is a price tag. You know, there is an annual cost to be able to see this data. So we just had that conversation this week, and I don't know where that is going to go. We have not received a dollar cost proposal from the people yet, but I anticipate that it is going to be a sizeable amount, not undoable, but it's definitely an investment to do that.

Councilmember David McClain said, Mr. Chairman, one last question just to follow up, not to you, Craig. Brian, if you want to, so if we aren't successful in receiving the grant, this would be round two of applying. What is our follow-up plan if we are not successful? Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson approached the podium and said, well, correct me if I am wrong, Ms. Burkett, but last year it seemed like most of the awards for this grant were for the creation of plans. We actually already have the plan created, so we are actually seeking funding for the initiation of a plan, because Engineering and MPO had been working on a plan to better light up Johnson Avenue. So we were actually asking for construction dollars last year. It's the first year of a new grant. I think the anticipation was that it would be a lot of study funding and stuff like that. So we're just hopeful that this year, a lot of the plans that got funded last year that was the priority, and hopefully construction will be a priority this year. You know, just like any grant, you just cast your best line out there. We are actually offering a little over the minimum. I think the match requirement is 20%. We are actually offering 25% to help maybe position us a little more competitively, because this is a really important grant. I think that, there is obviously statistics that point to it, but I think we can all identify with the fact that Johnson Avenue needs some safety upgrades and needs some better lighting in that general area. It just seemed like a great way to accomplish that with only burdening 25% of the cost. So if we don't get it, just like any

other grant, we will regroup. We will see what we did wrong and we will see if the grant is available again next year. If so, we will come back to Council again and ask for permission to apply again. We will just keep trying until we get it.

Grants Director Regina Burkett approached the podium and said, they only awarded two construction grants last year out of all that was awarded throughout the U.S. So most of them, like he said, were planning grants. We already had the plan, and we had a debriefing. They told us where we needed to pick up on some of ours on the lighting on Johnson, so we made sure we added all that this time in the grant; because we always try to have a debriefing to see what we can improve the next time around with the grants if they are not awarded. Councilmember David McClain said, this is just for lighting. This is not the actual crosswalk. That is another thing I was thinking of. Ms. Burkett said, no. The lighting is the only thing that we applied for last year, not the crosswalk. Councilmember David McClain said, got it. Okay.

A motion was made by John Street, seconded by Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

Chairman Joe Hafner said, under Other Business, I did want to bring up something and just mention it since we didn't have our last finance meeting. Obviously last week the Public Safety committee had a discussion on police pay. Obviously that will involve Finance at some point, hopefully here pretty soon. I will say that, in my opinion, this is an area that definitely needs to be addressed quickly. You know, some steps were done last year for recruitment. We haven't really done anything for retention; and with some of the changes that were made at other municipalities and here in just the last two or three months, we are significantly behind other comparable municipalities after that round of adjustment. The mayor told me he has been working on this for some time, and I've asked him to share with me any proposals that he is looking at. I haven't received anything yet. I know they are spending some time on it. You know, I am hoping that this round we can have a fix based upon what we currently know is facing our police department. Not only due to statewide, but local issues and nationwide issues. This is something that needs to happen quickly within the next month or two. It doesn't need to drag out. Just wanted you to know that will be spending quite a bit of time on this outside of these meetings, and I am really looking forward to getting our police department taken care of.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, if you don't mind, Chairman. To piggyback off of Chairman, I do also think it is imperative, but I would ask, and I know the mayor is not here, but I see Steve and the chief. With those talks, if we could at least have either the chairman to be on those talks already or someone he chooses from the committee before rolling this out in a month. I think that is imperative especially when we're coming up with the budget in the next few months. Chairman Joe Hafner said, well, I will tell you that after last week's meeting, I did see Mayor Copenhaver after the meeting and requested to be part of those talks, and he assured me that I will be. And any information that I get, I will share with the committee as I am able to.

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by David McClain, seconded by John Street, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; David McClain; Brian Emison and Anthony Coleman