



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:20 P.M.

President Protempore Chris Moore asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak for or against the public hearing regarding the issuance of bonds for Risever. No one spoke in opposition.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Mayor Harold Perrin was not in attendance. President Protempore Chris Moore presided over the meeting.

Present 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-19:039](#)

UPDATE PRESENTATION ON THE MBA PROGRAM PRESENTED BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR REGINA BURKETT

Regina Burkett, Community Development Director, said, I am here reporting on the Microenterprise Business Accelerator Program. The City of Jonesboro launched their first of its kind, economic development program in 2018. The Microenterprise Business Accelerator Program or MBA was established to fund startups and micro-enterprises to promote economic development, increase jobs, and promote sustainability. Eleven businesses applied for the first series of grants. To qualify for this, the business had to be located in Jonesboro, provide goods and services for low-to-moderate income residents or agree to hire low-to-moderate income individuals to work with their businesses. Only four were awarded the grants. The Fainting Goat, Granite Works, RJW Plumbing, and Candy Apples BBQ. Candy Apples BBQ was not successful in meeting the requirements so they did not receive funding due to the location of their building and utilities. Nor could they provide correct documentation for the contract. Granite Works, LLC is a startup granite countertop fabricator. They were awarded \$5,920 which is approximately \$987 monthly. The funding was able to provide them with a financial boost for a startup business by paying for a full-time, low-to-moderate income fabricator employee. After four months of the business, they were able to hire another full-time, low-to-moderate income employee to help with their growing

business. The Fainting Goat Board Room is a recreational business that was awarded \$3,800 which is broken down to \$800 monthly that was applied to partial rent. They were able to employ one part-time moderate-to-low income person, heighten the hours of their employees and increase the parties to host. The assistance gave them the opportunity to do more promotions in the community. RJW Plumbing, LLC is a female owned and operated plumbing business. They were awarded \$5,920 which was \$987 monthly. The funding provided a financial boost for a new startup business by paying for a full-time low-to-moderate income employee. Their business is focused on serving new residential areas in the low-to-moderate income areas of the city. The program will end June 30, 2019. This has been a very successful program for the City of Jonesboro. As we move forward with the program in 2019-2020, a review of the regulations guidelines will be examined and discussed by the City of Jonesboro's Community Advisory Board.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

[MIN-19:056](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 4, 2019

Attachments: [Council Minutes 06042019.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-19:070](#)

A RESOLUTION TO RENEW THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) SMALL MS4 GENERAL PERMIT (ARR04000) WITH THE UPDATED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Attachments: [ARR040000-final-permit-20190801.pdf](#)
[SWMP 2019-2024.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-073-2019

[RES-19:073](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA), AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR THE FY19 COMPETITIVE FUNDING GRANT FOR BUSES AND BUS FACILITY PROGRAM

Attachments: [NOFO- FY19 FTA Bus and Facility.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-074-2019

[RES-19:074](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED ON NORTH PATRICK STREET (TRACT 8), JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A CITY SIDEWALK

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - Tract 8.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-075-2019

[RES-19:075](#)

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AMENDMENT THREE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES 457(B) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN AND TRUST

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-076-2019

[RES-19:076](#)

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AMENDMENT TWO TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, NON-UNIFORMED 401(A) DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-077-2019

[RES-19:077](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH SUDDENLINK COMMUNICATIONS FOR SPONSORSHIP OF BASEBALL FIELDS AT JOE MACK CAMPBELL PARK

Attachments: [SuddenLink18.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-078-2019

[RES-19:078](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE BASEBALL FIELD SIGN AND ONE ATHLETIC FIELD SIGN AT THE SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Attachments: [PIAS_Softball_2019.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-079-2019

[RES-19:079](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH LOST PIZZA COMPANY FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD SIGN AT THE SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Attachments: [LostPizzaCo19.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-080-2019

[RES-19:080](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH EAST ARKANSAS BROADCASTERS FOR RENTAL OF JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [JULY 4TH 2019 EAB.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-081-2019

[RES-19:082](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH SAGA COMMUNICATIONS OF ARKANSAS LLC D/B/A JONESBORO RADIO GROUP FOR RENTAL OF SOUTHSIDE SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [Rental Agreement for Jonesboro Radio Group.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-082-2019

6. NEW BUSINESS

[RES-19:061](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 900 Patrick Street, Owner: Cleophus & Lois Bryant

Attachments: [Limited Title Search](#)
[map of parcels](#)
[Supporting Docs](#)
[Tax Info](#)
[County Data](#)
[Inspection report](#)
[pic 1](#)
[pic 2](#)
[pic 3](#)
[pic 4](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-083-2019

[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](#)

Councilmember Gene Vance motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman, to postpone temporarily RES-19:072 until the September 17, 2019 council meeting with the following recommendations: 1) That the Mayor with all do haste appoint a committee to bring back a recommendation on or before September 17, 2019 on a solution to the situation of Jonesboro not having a street named after Martin Luther King, Jr.; 2) That the committee studies all possibilities of the designation of a Memorial Highway or a suitable and acceptable alternative naming opportunity. All voted aye.

President Pro-tempore Chris Moore asked, is there anyone in the audience that wishes to speak on this item? Please form a line right over here and come one at a time to the podium and state your name and address for the record. We will let the proponents go first.

Emma Agnew, 1215 Dupwe, President of the Craighead County NAACP, said, good afternoon councilmembers. I have learned several things during this street renaming process. One thing I have learned is that the majority of those opposed to renaming of Johnson have said they are in agreement with naming a street in honor of Dr. King. This is very encouraging to hear. However, where we disagree is where to put this street and what the location of a ML King Avenue will symbolize and the statement, the location of the street, will make about our city. Another thing I have learned, members of the council, it does not matter where it is proposed that this street be located in honor of Dr. King. There will be push back. There will be those opposed to renaming a street in honor of Dr. King, and/or the location of such street. We are thoroughly convinced that Johnson Avenue is the best location for a ML King Avenue. Johnson Avenue is known as the street that separates north Jonesboro from the majority community, both figuratively speaking and literally speaking. Being a small business owner myself, I understand and sympathize with residents and business owners who will be affected by the name change. Hence, the request for a two-year transition period. They will be allowed to use their current Johnson Avenue address for up to two years. In 2019, members of the council, lets make Johnson Avenue the street that bridges the gap and brings Jonesboro together rather than the street that separates and divides Jonesboro. Thank you.

President Pro-tempore Moore said, thank you. I would ask in order to expedite our time, please hold your applause.

Sandra Combs, 2121 Bristol Drive, said, I have lived in Jonesboro for 11 years. I am a taxpayer. I am a property owner. I am registered voter. I support naming a street after the slain civil rights Nobel Peace Prize winner, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In an article last month in the Chicago Tribune, there was a story about the difficulty

throughout this nation about getting streets named after this great man. Most of the streets proposed are dilapidated, ghettofied areas predominantly housed by poor minority people of color, but we, in Jonesboro, are saying that is not what we want. The non-violence advocate, the Baptist preacher, the one who was for all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion was for all people. He deserves more than a street littered, paved, unfortunately populated by poor people. In a recent article, in the Chicago Tribune, there was a story about how difficult it is to get these streets renamed. I am quoting from the article, "it represents a battle over race, power and symbols of what a community values. The battle determines which groups within cities have the power to claim certain places and express themselves. It is often the case where African Americans have not had a large voice in identifying communities and they now want and deserve an opportunity to have a voice in how their cities look. The fight against naming a major street after Dr. King is the epitome of White Privilege." And according to the article, as of 2017, there were 955 U.S. cities in 41 states that had streets named after this Drum Major of Justice. Arkansas cities such as Fayetteville, Forrest City, Little Rock (our capital) and West Memphis all have streets named after Dr. King. And as an aside, Arkansas has a King holiday. They have had it since 1983 and in March 2017, the Republican governor separated the King Holiday from that holiday of the birthday of the Confederate general. Nevertheless, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, Craighead County, it is time for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue here. Thank you. President Pro-tempore Moore said, thank you ma'am.

Adrian Rogers, 556 CR (now I stay with my son and my daughter-in-law since the demise of my wife at 3509 Derby), said, I pastor Fullness of Joy Church. We bought the former Nettleton Baptist Church at 2120 Thorn Street. I have been in Jonesboro pastoring here since 1994 and moved here in 1996. Johnson Avenue is such a phenomenal street in our city because it represents so many things. When you get on at Dan Avenue, and by the time you drive down past the hospital, you have driven through several different areas of our city. Some areas are poverty stricken where you see that, but you also pass thriving communities that are being built. You also pass the hospital and so on and so forth. Dr. King was a man that represented unity. And, so, I think Johnson Avenue would be the perfect street to be named after him because you see so much. It passes the university. You see so many things that happen. I don't think it is right to consider some street with very few addresses to be Dr. Martin Luther King street because that is not what he represented. He was for all people, not just African Americans, but he was for all people. And, so, because of where that street is in our city, I think it is the perfect place to be named Dr. Martin Luther King avenue. Thank you for listening. President Pro-tempore Moore said, thank you, sir.

Shakitha Robinson, 425 Steele Street Apt. C, Craighead County NAACP Secretary, said, the United States now contains no fewer than 890 streets, boulevards, avenues and courts named after the slain Civil Rights leader. The naming of streets for Dr. King is about honoring his contributions, but it also creates places that retell the history of the United States to include a wider, more racially and ethnically diverse society. The process of naming a street after King can be more than a celebration, but also a test of social equality within this community. At the last city council meeting, someone mentioned maybe renaming the street or maybe any name but that one. I truly believe that it degrades the Civil Rights leader's importance and perpetuates the same aspect of segregation that he once battled. Street names have the power to touch and connect different groups some of which may not identify with King. Street names offer a means of making the past a visible and important part of everyday reality. I ask that you vote yes in renaming Johnson Avenue to Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue. Thank you. President Pro-tempore Moore said, thank you ma'am.

Lisa Melton, 906 Valhalla Drive, said, good evening. I grew up here as Lisa Hunter having moved to Jonesboro when I was three. I attended Jonesboro Public Schools, graduated from Jonesboro High and Arkansas State University. My mother, Dr. Frances Downing Hunter from Hoxie, taught at ASU and was my first teacher about the intrinsic dignity of every person, that education is the great equalizer and that all deserve the opportunity to live as Dr. King dreamed. My great uncle, Leslie Howell, along with Councilman Vance's father, Howard Vance, sat on the Hoxie School Board when they voted unanimously to do the thing, the thing that was "right in the sight of God" and desegregate the Hoxie Public Schools. I am deeply proud of that legacy. And, it is humbly in that tradition that I urge all members of the Jonesboro City Council to vote in favor of the resolution renaming Johnson Avenue after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King, to this very moment, calls us to "the better angels of our nature." His speeches ring in the ears of school children the world over and his teachings of nonviolent resistance to inequality inform and inspire us still today. At times, it seems we are taking steps backwards. He has a federal holiday named in his honor signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. He is an American hero, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, who gave his life for a dream. A dream that all in the land of the free and the home of the brave will have an equal shot at the American dream. The same dream that motivates men and women to fight for this country. Let me be clear, this is not an issue that affects only one segment of this community. In Dr. King's words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." To paraphrase Dr. King, we are damned without equal rights and equal opportunities. Dr. King stood for equality for all people the world over. The City of Jonesboro can send a powerful message the world over that we hold dear the same value in the equality of every person, and that if you come to this city, you will find a place where you, through your hard work and dedication, will "not be judged by the color of your skin, but by the content of your character." Businesses seeking a place to build and sell their products or students hoping to build their futures will view this unifying thoroughfare as an open gate welcoming them to our great city and university. While Johnson Avenue's namesake is a valued part of the history of downtown Jonesboro, unfortunately, the street has served as the great divide between Jonesboro's black and white citizens making it the absolute right road to be renamed in Dr. King's honor. I believe if Mr. Johnson was the man he is purported to have been, he, too, would believe that this is the right thing at the right time for Jonesboro. I know this body prays when opening the council meeting and I know you are people of faith. Quoting the first book of Kings, Chapter 3, verses 11 and 12: "Because you have asked for this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you." It is you, it is this council, it is time. In the words of my dear and respected friend, Emma Agnew, it is time to "bridge the divide and bring us together." Please call on the better angels of your nature, and vote in favor of the resolution honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Thank you. President Pro-tempore Moore said, thank you ma'am.

Yesenia Hernandez, 905 N. Caraway, said, in the 1850s, Arkansas was a frontier state in which the growth of slavery was directly linked to its expansion. By 1860, Arkansas was home to more than 110,000 slaves. Jonesboro, which was incorporated in 1859, was no exception to this. In the early 1860's, Craighead County citizens selected Lester Landing as the delegate to cast the county's vote in the State Convention, and "fearing that he might lose his slaves unless the Confederacy won its contention, he

cast the county's vote in favor of seceding from the Union and uniting with the Confederacy." Our single vote to join the Confederacy was cast because a man was afraid of losing his power over enslaved black people. Almost 20 years after the civil war, a woman was supposedly murdered by four black men. And I quote from, *A History of Craighead County Arkansas*: "A justice of the peace found sufficient evidence to hold the negroes to the grand jury, but before the jury met to consider the evidence, enraged citizens of the settlement seized the negroes and hung them near New Haven church. This action had a decided effect in lessening the negro population of the county." Our county has a history of lynchings. Now, I don't know if those men killed Miss Mattie or not, but what I do know is that time after time our nation (our town not excluded) has had a vengeance in particular against black men accused of crimes before rightfully ever given the chance to a fair trial. I decided to look into streets named after other people. Hattie Caraway was the first elected female senator of the United States of Congress. She was breath of fresh air in the name of progress, that was unless you were black. She voted against anti-lynching, worrying it would "destroy the South". Caraway. That's the street I live on. As I read through the pages of our history, I came across many mentions of the Ku Klux Klan. One in particular stuck out to me, "As a leader of the Ku Klux Klan (referring to Attorney R. H. West, one of the early lawyers of Jonesboro) in this country during the reconstruction period, his life was sought and his home watched and raided many times. Mrs. West and Mrs. T. D. Culberhouse were sworn to secrecy and made all the costumes for the early Klan." Culberhouse. Caraway. Now, I'm not here to try to change all street names that have been associated with racism. But, if we are going to glorify the names of people that were openly against equal rights, why can't we honor the name of a man who influenced history in itself for people of color? And, I get it, we have an overpass named after him. From the time I read the sign letting me know the bypass was named after the Reverend, only ten seconds passed before I was off of it. Ten seconds. I've heard, "Why not name another street?" or "Wouldn't it be a slap in the face of Martin Luther King, Jr. to be associated with a street in that side of town?" Fun history lesson, In the 1930s, as part of the New Deal, loan programs were created to help Americans finance their homes. With the combination of redlining and the federal government encouraging developers to discriminate against non-white people, the results of these policies is that from 1934 to 1968, that is 34 years, a whopping 98% of home loans were given to white families. Our government has systematically oppressed people into living in certain areas of towns. Hence, why the north side of the tracks has a disproportionate amount of people of color living in that area. This is why this particular street is so important. We live in a time that in the studio I work at, Torrence Chunn who is a barber, tells every single black young man that sits in his chair, the extra procedures to take when a cop pulls them over. Not in fear of getting a ticket, but in a fear of not making it out of that interaction alive. Jonesboro has a rich history. A history to be proud of and a history to learn from to help us become a better community for everyone. I keep hearing we shouldn't erase history and that is not what we are doing. Your story isn't erased because your name isn't on a street sign. Mr. Johnson's bloodline ended decades ago, but his story still lives on in books and in the hearts of the people that take time to read his story. But, do you know who's stories we didn't bother saving? Ancestors of little black boys and girls whose lineage includes people subjected to being shipped in boxes, physically and emotionally abused, not to forget raped because as "breeding" was a common practice among slave owners. Many people here support Team Jonesboro whose main objective is to improve the Quality of Life of our citizens. Quality of Life includes knowing your town. Previously a home to enslaving your people not only accepts that you are now an equal, but to see that it is capable of honoring the person that helped us get there. Can you imagine the impact of us creating in this room for the better? Can you imagine the impact of us creating history in this room for the better? To not forget our past, but instead to embrace the

changes that have brought us closer as a community, sealing in its history of our town for future generations to see by honoring the Reverend Civil Rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Thank you. President Pro-tempore Moore said, thank you ma'am.

President Pro-tempore Moore said, we will hear from the opponents.

Garry Tate, 2300 Manchester, said, we talk about not erasing history and when you look at John Mack Johnson, some people have asked if you can tie that street name to him. There is no street name in Jonesboro that has a name that you can actually tie to a certain person, but they are named after families. You can go into the cemetery, the city cemetery, and you can find headstones of names of hundreds of streets inside the City of Jonesboro. In this history of John Mack Johnson, of course, he moved to Harrisburg in the late 1800's and went back to Tennessee to extend his education in agriculture. Then, he moved back to Jonesboro and went to work for the Puryear Company. He worked there for one year and then he moved on and worked for Berger Company. After two years, with the help of his father-in-law, which was Z.T. Matthews, they purchased 66% of that business and he became the managing partner serving all of northeast Arkansas with wholesale goods. Matthews Street is definitely named after Z.T. Matthews, which was his father-in-law. When Jonesboro was founded, it was a 12-block area. Those streets were named Union, Main, and Church and Madison which was after a president. The cross streets were named after the president's with the exception of Matthews Street which was named for the Matthews family that lived on the corner of Union. But this is not about the name Martin Luther King. I think Martin Luther King was a fabulous man and I think Martin Luther King did a lot for this nation that was far overdue. What this is about is changing the local history and it is about the businesses that we have on Johnson Avenue. When I look at the petition that they presented, there is not a single address with Johnson Avenue on it of the 260 names that they presented. We have an additional petition with 755 names that I will present to the City Clerk along with the 51 businesses that signed up on the previous petition that was brought. But, transparency is a problem that the business owners on Johnson have had. This thing didn't come out until June 2, 2019 in the Jonesboro Sun which a lot of people don't get the Jonesboro Sun. The people started contacting me Monday morning when it was on the KAIT news. We had two days to prepare for the public meeting. And, it was a rush trying to get people together. Changing the name of a street, any street in Jonesboro, should not be done. The council changed their ordinance a few years back to stiffen up the process in order to prevent it from happening. But, we have got several streets and every street has a history with some one. If you lived on that street as a kid, you remember it. When I was a kid, I was raised up in north Jonesboro on Cartwright Street when it was still gravel. I have lived in north Jonesboro all of my life except for the years from the sixth to the eleventh grade, I attended Nettleton School. I returned to Jonesboro Schools as a senior. I have many black friends in north Jonesboro. We rode bicycles, terrorized the streets of Main Street. We would gather the coke bottles to go to the movie. And, as a kid, I didn't understand why they had to go into a different door and go up into the balcony. That is just the way it was back then. I didn't understand that until I was in my twenties and that is when I learned to appreciate what Dr. King did. Tyrone Futrell was a friend of mine all the way through high school. Felix Richardson was a friend of mine all the way through high school and beyond. I represented that district on the city council for eight years. I was re-elected two different times. But, this still is not the name of Martin Luther King. We are not against having a street named Martin Luther King. We are against changing a street name that is established, has a history in the city of Jonesboro. Dr. McClain had inquired from Dr. Dougan about whether you could tie that strictly to the Johnson name. But, you can't tie Nesbitt Street to a particular person. The Nesbitt's owned property in that area when it was done. You have got Frierson

Street that was named in honor of the Frierson family. I've got streets that I developed that are named for my grandkids. But, if you go back to look at any of the city history, you are not going to find anything that is actually written that says why I named that street that name. You are not going to find anything that is written that applies to the Hester Street name and hundreds of other streets in the city of Jonesboro. But, we don't need to be changing streets that are established. Every street has memories and memories are histories and as we talk to our grandkids and our great grandkids about memories, that is where history is established. Again, the cost to the people who own businesses on Johnson Avenue is astronomical. The cost of changing the signs alone, you are looking at \$25,000-\$35,000 just to do that. My suggestion is that you name either the easterly bypass or you designate I-555 as a memory to Dr. Martin Luther King. We are not in opposition of having a street named after him. I think we need a street named after him. But, we don't need it at the cost of our local history and the cost of the people that own and operate businesses on that street. Thank you very much. President Pro-tempore Moore said, thank you Mr. Tate.

Andy Adair, 1123 E. Johnson, Adair's Corvette and Body Shop, said, I don't know if some of you may know me. I'm a third generation on Johnson Avenue. My dad and my grandpa started Adair's Corvette and Body Shop in 1972. We bought a burned out apartment on Johnson Avenue, my dad and grandpa did. We turned it into a body shop. Every day on my growing up, that is where I wanted to go. I wanted to go see my grandpa, going to see my dad, going to see the cars that they are working on. I, personally, live in north Jonesboro. My great grandfather had a grocery store on north Church. My grandparents lived in north Jonesboro, both grandparents lived in north Jonesboro, both parents lived in north Jonesboro. I have worked at the shop for over twenty years straight out of high school. I have a passion for it. I tell anybody that has a small business, it is a roller coaster ride. You put your heart and your soul into everything you do. When I first started working at the shop, I was cleaning up. You know, that is what the young kids do. We are going to go in and set the world on fire. I threw away a box of old estimate sheets and dad said, no, let's not throw that away and I didn't listen to him. I threw it away. But, each one of those estimate sheets was a story, was a memory. So and so brought their car to us and we fixed it. It had to be done because they were going on vacation. They needed it done on Christmas vacation, spring break vacation. My dad would come home at 5:00 p.m., eat supper with us, spend a little time with us, and he would go back to the shop and paint a car. The next morning, he took me to school. My grandpa, many of you remember my grandpa James Adair. He had time for everyone he met. In just over the last couple of weeks, the people that I have talked to reinstate how proud of him we are. He treated everyone the same. Family is very important to me. Every single day, I put together a basic price. I have customers that call me that might not call me in five years. I have old customers that send me letters and list the parts that they are looking for. I put a bare bones cost on what it would cost me. Once again, I am a small business. Just going back 18 months, if I was to contact my vendors and contact my customers, change basic estimate sheets, basic shipping labels. Bare bones, my sign doesn't say Johnson Avenue so I wouldn't have to change my sign. My websites do. My banners do. The stuff that I take to car shows, all of that says Johnson Avenue. Bare bones and I even forgot a few things. \$3,929.02 is a bare bone figure. I did a little research on small businesses, 30% of small businesses fail within the first year. 70% fail in the first five years. The life expectancy of a small business is ten years. We went into business on north Church in a small shop in 1972, my dad and my grandpa. They had no money. They rented a shop. It had one bay. They did a few jobs. They worked there a couple of years. They found something on Johnson that they could afford. In their spare time, they rebuilt it and made a shop out of it. I mean so many memories go along Johnson Avenue for me and my family and we beat the odds. I am

proud to say that we have been there. We put in the time. We have stayed in business. Why was a resolution used to rename a street? When I go back to your resolution, the file that you have attached to this is file number RES-05:402. As I look on page two, it says, renaming procedure. A name once selected for a public street or for a public park and/or street should be bestowed with the intention that it will be permanent and changes should be strongly resisted. Me and my wife, I have got a six-month old little girl, small business owner, I don't have a whole lot of free time. We went up and down Johnson. I heard about this on June 3, 2019 and the meeting was on the 4th. June 4th, that afternoon, I got a job out, called what customers I had in the shop, I said, hey, can you give me a couple of weeks? Can I put you off a couple of weeks? They both said, do what you have to do. Me and my wife, we hit the streets, up and down Johnson Avenue, and nobody knew anything about it. Everybody I talked to, I was the first one to tell the people of Jonesboro about this. Like I said, I have a six-month old little girl, in the back seat in the car seat. And, I am not a politician, I am not a public speaker. I have never carried a petition around. But, I am passionate about small business, local businesses, Jonesboro, and north Jonesboro. Once again, I have nothing against Martin Luther King. Like I said, he was a great man that stood for great things. Another thing, the resolution, it says right here, a name once selected for a public park, publically held facility and/or street should be bestowed with the intention that it will be permanent and changes should be strongly resisted. That is a slap in the face to me because nobody contacted me. I found out because there was a wreck coming home from the airport in Memphis and my wife was on her phone. That is a slap in the face for a business that has been in business here in Jonesboro since 1972. A family of minimal means, but I have passion about what I do and I have a passion about Johnson Avenue and north Jonesboro. One of the other things, I noticed that the petition that Emma Agnew has passed around was the title on the petition: Petition to Rename Street in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we the citizens of Jonesboro, Arkansas petition the City Council and the Mayor to rename a street in honor of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Humanitarian and Civil Rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive/Street/Boulevard/Avenue, etc. No where in the heading for that petition does it say Johnson Avenue. If somebody had come to me wanting me to sign this petition, I mean that is a petition that I can get behind. I can't get behind something that places added burden on the city businesses, local businesses of Jonesboro, Arkansas. And, no where in that title, it does not say anything about Johnson Avenue. I was appalled at how the support for this resolution came along. I commend Mrs. Agnew. What she did and is trying to do is great. But, how businesses on Johnson were cherry picked to push what was tried to slip by, was pushed on us, is not right. You want to talk about transparency, this is not transparency. I guess this is all I have to say. Thank you for listening to me. President Pro-tempore Moore said, thank you sir.

Barry Eggers, 914 Vahalla Drive, said, I have lived 66 years and I have lived all of that in Craighead County, the last 48 years in Jonesboro, AR, the last 34 years in business on Johnson Avenue. Never in the 48 years that I have lived here have I heard Johnson Avenue as being the boundary between the north and south Jonesboro. I have heard on many occasions, in fact, one of the opponents here, she said something about the railroad tracks. Usually, it is the railroad tracks that divides the city. I have heard on many occasions that it would be Washington. I have heard Matthews, but I have never heard Johnson before this came up. I don't know if that agrees with anything that you all have heard or not, but that is just my thoughts on it. Like Andy said, there is a lot of cost in changing address names and the thing about it is that it would be more for some businesses, of course, than it would be others. I put a little thing together myself much like Andy did. And, I won't bore you with all of the details of what that cost would be, but mine came up to \$10,700. Now, small business always has a struggle. I mean,

like, he gave you the statistics of how many survive over a period of ten years. The large majority of that problem is cost overhead. Most of you know that if you had a business, overhead is something that you have got to outrun every month that you are in business. If I get hit with a \$10,700 overhead, that really takes the soup out of my sales. You know what I am saying. Even if you can say you can spread that out over two years, that is still quite a payment that you have to overcome when it is not necessary. Like Garry and Andy both said, there are a lot of other things that we could be doing that we can honor this man. There is no question that we need to have something more in this town that is named after Martin Luther King. He was a great man. He did great things. We are not in opposition to that at all. He mentioned about making the I-555, that is one of the longest streets in this town and probably the most traveled. Why can't we make that a Martin Luther King memorial highway? By doing that, there is no address changes because all of the businesses on that is on the access roads. So, I am just giving that as an alternative. I just urge you to vote against this proposition and let's try to find an alternative that works for everybody instead of penalizing the people who are on Johnson Avenue. Thank you. President Pro-tempore Moore, said, thank you sir.

President Pro-tempore Moore said, we will have two more opponents and that will be five for each side.

James Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I am not sure whether I count as an opponent or not. Sometime back, the city considered changing Stadium Blvd. to Red Wolf Blvd. I was against it, but then I heard that most of the businesses along the way were ok with it. If they were ok with it, I was ok with it. I think we really need to look at what do the people that live or own businesses on Johnson Avenue want. Now, we have heard people who say that. I don't know if that really represents the people on the street or not. But, I really think we need to take into consideration, what do the people who live and own businesses on Johnson Avenue have to say about this. They have got a lot more invested in it than the most of the rest of us. President Pro-tempore Moore, said, thank you sir.

Marty Koster, said, I own Three Star Muffler at 1210 E. Johnson. I have been there 18 years. I go to work on Johnson at 5 a.m. and go home at 7 p.m. at night. I put in 65 hours per week for the last 18 years and four months. Nobody here has put that time on Johnson. When I go home, I go back down Johnson, three blocks off Johnson where I live. If I want to see my father and my mother, I take one block right. The tracks relatively divide Jonesboro and if you live on the north side or the other side. I have always been on the north side. In order to change my business, it would cost me \$4,000-\$5,000 to change my business over time. I have a young son that is going to take over the business when I am done. Johnson means a lot to me. The name Johnson means a lot to me. I mean it was from a gravel road. I built a business there. The city and the highway came through and took a third of my parking area. I am still there and I plan on staying there. I will help anybody. Anybody that pulls in there. Anybody knows, I don't care who it is, if they need help, they need air in their tire, I am there to help anybody. It doesn't matter. Not a person in this room I would not help regardless of color. I feel like Johnson has a long, long history like it is. Ninety percent of the people that I talk to in this town voted to put the twelve council people in their seats, they are kind of against renaming Johnson, but most of those people are in favor of a street after Martin Luther King. I am too. I am also that way. I have no problem with that at all. Here I have said, I love Johnson. I have been here 54 years. I'm not going anywhere. I think that Johnson should remain the same as it is right now. There has to be something that is easier on everybody. I do feel like there should be a street named after him and 90% of the people I have talked to, regardless of what

district they were in, feel the same way. It is not just one sided. There is a lot of people that feel that way. But, Johnson Avenue has a 100 year history or older from a gravel road to a two-lane to a four-lane. I have been there my whole life. And, I do not want to see it changed. President Pro-tempore Moore, said, thank you sir.

President Pro-tempore Chris Moore said, alright, we have heard both sides. What is the will of the council?

Councilmember David McClain said, real quick, a couple of points I want to make. I appreciate everybody being here for and against. I think it is great to see everyone in attendance and I am really encouraged, number one that the resolution made it out of committee. I think that is a great step and we are moving in the right direction as a city. I do believe that this naming would show that our city is moving in the right direction. I truly do. For two main reasons, number one I feel as though as I look around the room, I embody everything that Dr. King stood for. I embody everything that he gave his life for. I would love to see us do more than simply name an overpass or a small street. I think a street that is prominent is what is due and what he is owed. I don't want this issue to be something that divides our city. I do think it should be something that brings our city together and that unifies us and makes us better together. For too long, I think this issue has been put on the back burner. There was an attempt in 2013 in which some of the same reasons were given that it shouldn't be done on a different stretch of road. I think it is unfortunate, but at the same time, I am truly encouraged by seeing us have this resolution on the floor to even have this conversation. With that, Mr. Chairman, I will yield the floor.

Councilmember Gene Vance said, I would like to make a motion to table RES-19:072 until the September 17th council meeting with the following recommendations to the Mayor, not telling him what to do, but strictly recommendations: that he with all do haste appoint a committee to bring back a recommendation on or before September 17, 2019 on the solution to the situation of Jonesboro not having a street named after Martin Luther King; that the committee studies all possibilities of the designation of Memorial Highway or a suitable and acceptable alternative naming opportunity. I am making this motion in an attempt to form a Unity Coalition of all parties involved to keep this issue from becoming a divisive. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I second that motion.

President Pro-tempore Chris Moore said, let me repeat that motion. We have a motion and a second on the floor. The motion is that the Mayor, will do with all haste, appoint a committee to bring back a recommendation on or before September 17th, 2019 on a solution to the situation of Jonesboro not having a street named after Dr. Martin Luther King and that the committee studies all possibilities of the designation of Memorial Highways or a suitable and acceptable alternative naming opportunity. All voted aye.

Councilmember Coleman said, I need to ask a question here about the committee. Do we need to wait for the Mayor? President Pro-tempore Moore said, the committee will have to be made by the Mayor's office and then the council approves at-large committees. Did that answer your question Dr. Coleman? Councilmember Coleman said, partly. President Pro-tempore Moore said, that concludes the resolution on renaming Johnson Avenue. If there is anyone that only came for that item, I would ask that you can leave now because there are people waiting to come in who wish to discuss the next items of business. (Someone in the audience asked, was it voted on?) President Pro-tempore said, yes, we just voted on it. Thank you. Councilmember McClain said, you may want to state clearly on it. I don't know if everybody understood that it was voted to postpone. Councilmember John Street asked, can we have a

five-minute recess? President Pro-tempore Moore said, yes. I have a motion for a five-minute recess. Councilmember Bobby Long seconded the motion. All voted aye.

The meeting was in recess from 6:25 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gene Vance, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

[RES-19:081](#)

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO APPROVE THE 2019 CDBG ANNUAL ACTION PLAN THAT INCLUDES THE 2019 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROJECTS, ACTIVITIES AND BUDGET

Attachments: [Assurances_SF-424-D.pdf](#)
[Certifications.docx](#)
[HUD Notice of Allocation_2019 CDBG.pdf](#)
[2019 CDBG Annual Action Plan.pdf](#)
[Application for Federal Assistance SF424 REVISED.pdf](#)

The meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Councilmember David McClain said, we still have one member outside. I didn't know if we wanted to vote or wait until he got back or get his attention maybe.

Councilmember Gene Vance and Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman reentered the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-084-2019

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-19:035](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5410 HARRISBURG ROAD.

Attachments: [Application](#)
[Plat](#)
[Picture of Rezoning Sign](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Staff Summary - City Council](#)
[Rezoning Plat MAPC](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-19:035 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-19:027](#)

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

Attachments: [Application.pdf](#)

James Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I urge the council to reject this. Folks, of all the hypocrisy, students that excel enrichment program and how are we going to enrich those students to excel? By providing booze. I think I am loosing because this place is going to be over here in the red light district and I know the red light district is mainly a place for, you know, alcohol and all that sort of stuff. But, folks, alcohol doesn't help students excel. That is sending exactly the wrong message. If we want students to excel, we need to keep them off of alcohol and all other harmful drugs.

Held at second reading

[ORD-19:028](#)

AN ORDINANCE ABANDONING AND VACATING RIGHT-OF-WAY AND DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENTS IN OAKTREE MANOR AS REQUESTED BY GEORGE HAMMAN OF CIVILOGIC ON BEHALF OF T. ABRAHAM & SONS, LLC

Attachments: [petition with signature.pdf](#)
[RECORDED RP 18-31 OAKTREE MANOR OVERALL REPLAT.pdf](#)
[ENGINEERING ABANDONMENT CONCURRENCE.pdf](#)
[ATT ABANDONMENT CONCURRENCE.pdf](#)
[Center Point Utility Easement Release Form.pdf](#)
[CWL ABANDONMENT CONCURRENCE.pdf](#)
[RITTER ABANDONMENT LETTER.pdf](#)
[Suddenlink and Altice Easement Abandonment - Bradley Street - Jonesboro](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-19:029](#)

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

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

City Attorney Carol Duncan said, on this ordinance under Section 6, it is not technically an emergency clause, but it says this ordinance shall be in effect from and after the date of it's adoption and we need to remove that because without stating an actual emergency, it needs to take effect 30 days after approval of just like any other ordinance. So, that is my request. Based upon our consistency and our use of emergency clauses, I don't know that we have a public health, safety, or welfare emergency that requires this to take effect immediately. Councilmember Gene Vance motioned to remove that verbiage and replace it to where it goes into effect in 30 days like our normal procedure. Ms. Duncan said, well we can just remove Section 6 and

that will happen automatically.

Councilmember Gene Vance motioned, seconded by Councilmember Joe Hafner, to amend ORD-19:029 and remove Section 6 from the ordinance. All voted aye.

Waived Second Reading

[ORD-19:031](#)

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

Attachments: [opposition to sales tax 06042019.pdf](#)
[Iris Stevens Statement 06182019.pdf](#)
[Iris Stevens Email 06192019.pdf](#)
[Iris Stevens Email Correction 06192019.pdf](#)
[Joe Hafner response to Iris Stevens email.pdf](#)
[Response to Iris Stevens Email on June 19 2019.pdf](#)

My name is Iris Stevens, 2714 Turtle Creek. I'm also the coordinator of the Northeast Arkansas Tea Party. What I wanted to do with you all is come and ask for some clarification on some of these items. I have attended all three meetings that we have had on this and I do have some questions. First of all, the projects sound great, but I do have some questions and concerns about the process of this proposal. I hope that I can get some answers from you all. My first concern is that raising this tax 1% (one percentage point) would take us from 8.5% to 9.5% percentage increase of the sales tax and would actually result in an increase of 11.76% or almost 12% percent increase in taxes. President Pro-tempore Chris Moore said, ma'am, what is before us is whether or not to place it on a public referendum, not to debate the merits of it. Ms. Stevens said, I don't intend to debate the merits. That is why I want clarification. Mr. Moore said, I just want to make this clear because of the last meeting. Ms. Stevens said, I am asking for clarification. Is this true? Do you all have any kind of clarification for me on this that this results in almost a 12% increase in taxes based on this one increase from 8.5% to 9.5%? Mr. Moore said, without a calculator in front of me, I would assume that you are probably correct. Ms. Stevens said, well, I did ask a PhD in Economics. Mr. Moore said, I would say that is probably correct. Ms. Stevens said, so, I can probably assume that is correct. By the way, as I said, I have come here for all three meetings. In the first meeting, Mr. McDaniel made the point of referencing that we didn't have a sanitation fee and I have not heard that corrected anywhere. And, of course, you all would know that in the year 2000, we passed a 1% sales tax. In order to pass that, they agreed to remove the sanitation fee. And, I haven't heard that corrected anywhere and I think a lot of people might like to know that. That the reason why we don't have a sanitation fee is not because we just don't have one, but because we

traded it for a 1% permanent sales tax in the year 2000. Mr. Moore said, that is correct in the MATA tax. Ms. Stevens said, ok. Thank you. Is it true, because I have this down, I do research on this, that with a 9.5% rate of taxation sales tax and of course that is combined local and state, that puts us above Tennessee which has the highest average combined local and state sales tax in the country. Mr. Moore said, I am not familiar with Tennessee sales tax rates so I can't answer that. Ms. Stevens said, well, that is what I have been told. As you know, Tennessee does not have an income tax. So, even though they are high, we would be even higher than they are, but of course, we do have an income tax. So none of you all can give me any information to that? Mr. Moore said, no ma'am. Ms. Stevens said, oh well, maybe it will give you something to look up. Mr. Moore said, ok. Ms. Stevens said, I also have a question about something that wasn't clear to me during the last meeting. Ms. Duncan stated that we do have to pass the levy before we can call for the election. Is that correct? Ms. Duncan said, yes. Ms. Stevens asked, does that mean that only after the tax is passed, the committee begins to work on these projects? Is that what that means? Ms. Duncan said, only after the tax has been passed, the committee will start working. Ms. Stevens said, this may not go over well with you all, but that sounds a little bit like we have to pass the bill so you can see what is in it. Ms. Duncan said, no ma'am, it is just the way state law works. The council has to vote to levy the tax and then they have to vote to send that to the voters for the voters to make the ultimate decision. If the voters vote no, then the tax is never levied and it is never implemented. Ms. Stevens said, but if you vote yes, we don't know what is in the committee notes right? Ms. Duncan said, if you vote yes, you have levied the tax. You are confusing two different ordinances. You are talking about the levy versus the committee. Ms. Stevens said, no. What I am trying to find out because this was the part that was not clear to me was that we pass the tax first, correct? Ms. Duncan said, we vote to levy it and then vote to send it to a public election. Ms. Stevens said, yes, I understand that and we have to do that before we actually start working on these projects and the committee projects. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, well, I don't know necessarily if that is the case. Ms. Duncan said, I don't know. Some of these projects may have been in the works somewhere else. I don't know, but the committee doesn't start working. Ms. Stevens said, according to the ordinances, I am asking about the ordinances. Ms. Duncan said, the committee will be appointed by the Mayor after that ordinance passes and takes effect which could be prior to the sales tax. I don't know. That will be up to the Mayor and the Council. Ms. Stevens said, ok, I see. I am looking to clarify this in my own mind so I can share this with other people. And, the other thing in there that was listed, and as I said in this was that there would be no list of projects now because I think Mr. McDaniel said it would remove the creativity, set a floor and ceiling to the projects, it would take away the competition, and it would be unwise to anchor the committee. But yet, this seems to be in the process of passing a tax. I guess I am used to we have a list of things that we are going to do before we go to an election. Ms. Duncan said, there is a list of projects that the money can be used for, but they are broad projects. They are not specific and they don't say in what order. Ms. Stevens said, I noticed that because that was going to be my next question because we have a list in another place. Ms. Duncan said, the list is in the ballot, on the ballot item and on the ballot vote. Ms. Stevens asked, ok, the list will be on the ballot for the tax or the ballot for the committee or the ballot for the election? Ms. Duncan said, there is no ballot for the committee. The list is going to be on the ballot for the tax and it will tell you specifically what the tax can be used for and the money has to be appropriated for that and used for nothing else. Ms. Stevens said, ok, that answers that question and I think that is all I had to ask about that. Thank you very much.

President Pro-tempore Chris Moore said, please keep your comments Mr. Montgomery in line with whether or not you think this should go to a public referendum because that

is the item before us, not the merits of this. Curtis Montgomery, 1704 Smoot, asked, is this not for the one percent sales tax? Mr. Moore said, no. This is whether or not we send a ballot initiative to a public referendum that is what we are discussing right now. Mr. Montgomery said, I am sorry. Is this what you are proposing to go to the voters? Mr. Moore said, yes sir, that is correct. Mr. Montgomery said, then I have a comment. Mr. Moore said, ok. Let's hear it. Mr. Montgomery said, I noticed that the wording has changed from what I saw it the last time. Mr. Moore said, let me get clarification of that. Has this wording changed from the first reading? Mr. Montgomery said, it has changed as to what is was in the paper too. City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I can't speak for the paper, but there has been no changes to the wording other than the amendment on the committee that just happened. Mr. Montgomery said, the latter part of that after you get through with the police department, there has been a bunch of little things added in there that hadn't been in the past, right? Ms. Duncan said, no sir. It is the exactly the same as it was. Councilmember Charles Frierson said, no. Councilmember Gene Vance said, no, they were in there. Mr. Moore said, let's keep order please. Mr. Montgomery said, I am here to propose that you separate the two and make it two issues for the voters to vote on, alright. There is an old saying and it is called piggybacking, alright. Before you had a ½ percent for the police department and a ½ percent for the other, alright. I say you separate that and make one for the police department. You make one for the other part. And, let the voters vote on them separately, two ballot issues. Piggybacking is where you take one issue that you don't know for sure that you are going to get it made and pass it and you attach it to something you know most people are going to go for and they are going to vote for it. So, you piggyback it to that where you have got the second half piggybacking to the police department and the fire department. Now, I am for the police department and the fire department, but I am also for all of the citizens in this city, especially for the poor, the low-income, and etc. You have to think about it and I think you all want to think about it because you are voted. The citizens voted for you to take your position and pay you. So, think about the citizens. You have got to let these people buy things, get what they need, and to get along and to do what they have to do. There are people out there working on low-income trying to get along. Now, this was originally saying for 12 months, excuse me 12 years. Thank you. Now you are going to set this tax and you are going to hit these people for 12 years and you are going to take that money and you are going to put it and you are going to use it however you want to do it and for the items you want, alright. I say let those people have their money and let them go out and buy the items and goods they need and you receive the sales tax from those purchases. You still get sales tax money, but you don't lock them in for 12 years. You have got people on social security. You have got people on pensions. You have got low-income people. You have got business people, etc. They have got to get through. They have got to make it. I say you split them up and let the people make it fair and square. You are not piggybacking this to get one and knowing you are going to get it for police and fire departments. I am for that. I don't like the idea of putting something else on it to piggyback it so that you can get it. I am for the people and I am for the city to get the money it needs. But, I think you need to be fair and I think you need to think about it because this is going to come up again. You make this and put it up there for the citizens to vote on come September or whatever, I wouldn't blame them if they turned you down. You want their money, but you want to put a bunch of other stuff in there that may not be necessary. You have got a tremendous park out here, soccer, football, baseball, whatever. Allen Park has tennis, etc. You have got facilities for recreational for the young people. And, what is a quality of life? A quality of life for one is not necessarily a quality of life for the other. I say you have got to look at all of the citizens in your city. Think about them. You gotta let them make their living and you gotta let them be able to do things. But, at the same time, if you separate them, you let it be voted on and let it stand on its own merits. If the people want it, then fine, let

them have it. But, don't tie one to the other knowing that you are piggybacking one just to get the other. That is not fair to the citizens. And, it is not fair to you because sooner or later, it is going to come back and your constituents are going to ask you, why did you do that? Why did you do that? My answer is I don't know why they want to piggyback one thing on something that they know that they are definitely going to have to have. And, they are going to collect the tax anyway. You are going to take that money for 12 years and pile it up and use it on whatever you want. Well, that is 12 years of taxes that these people pay every day that they go to the store, buy clothes, get something serviced, etc. You are getting that tax money. Why is it sitting over here in a pool until you figure out what all you want to do? You have got some of that stuff right now. You have got a good library. You have got a museum, park facilities, some of the best park facilities in the state. You have got walking trails and etc. You are over doing it. Give these people the chance to have their own money and spend it and you get the tax off of that every time they spend it. Don't take that money and put it in a pool and wait. Let's wait and do that for something else. You have got a lot of stuff up there that I hadn't seen, but I have been to two of them. Anyway, that is what I am saying. Mr. Moore said, thank you Mr. Montgomery, duly noted. Thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Gene Vance said, I would like to make a comment. It would be good if you would allow the chief to say again what he said in front of the committee. But, my comment is that the piggybacking could actually backfire so it's not a sure thing that one is going to pass and the other one is going to fail or that piggybacking will make both of them pass. It could be that both of them would fail because they are piggybacked. So, I don't see that as being an issue. I think they need to stay together.

Kevin Box, 5918 Friendship Circle, said, I ask that you do not split this bill. Here's why. Public safety, public good, and quality of life are inseparably intertwined. Let's say that you build a house. You are going to build a safe house so you get the best doors money can buy. You get the best locks that money can buy and you get the best smoke detector that money can buy. You have got yourself a house. But, you say I am going to wait. I am going to wait on quality of life in my home so you don't buy anything for the quality of life living in your home. That means you have got locks and a door and windows and smoke detectors, but you don't have a kitchen sink. You don't have carpets. You don't have a bathroom or a bathtub or carpet. That is a silly home. Our city is no different. We need public safety. We need the public good, but we also need quality places to be healthy. We need quality places for academics. We need quality places for rest and recreation. There is nothing nefarious in quality of life. There is nothing to be afraid of. A home is a home when it has safety and security and quality of life for the living. A city is no different. I ask you to send this measure straight ahead as it was given to you not separated, but together. I ask that we move ahead as quickly as possible. I am not afraid of this tax. I am ready to move forward. Anybody got a Blackberry tonight? Who has got their Blackberry tonight? Hold up your Blackberry. Nobody has a Blackberry? Do you know why you don't have a Blackberry? Because Blackberry refused to innovate. They didn't want to spend the money that it took to get the software to update and innovate and keep up and pass Apple and those other companies. Who is going to Kmart tonight? Anybody going to Kmart tonight? No, you are not. Do you know why you are not going to Kmart tonight? Because Kmart refused to spend the money to update their stores. They wouldn't buy lights to light their stores properly. They thought it was too expensive. Let's not be like Blackberry. Let's not be Kmart. Let's spend the money to make our city right for our future generations. Let's do it expeditiously. Anybody play football on the council? I played football. Anybody play football? Fourth quarter on a Friday night and the game is on the line. Coach gets the right play at the right time to win the game. Are you

going to wait until next Friday night to run that play? No. You run the right play at the right time to win the game this Friday night. Anything else would be ridiculous. We have the right play at the right time to run right now to win the game. I have given you football which is almost scripture. Now, I am going to give you scripture. Proverbs 3:27 – Do not wait to do good when it is within your power. Do not tell your neighbor come back tomorrow when you can help him today. City Council, let us not wait until tomorrow to do good for our neighbor today. Thank you. Mr. Moore said, thank you Mr. Box.

Pete Lochner, 3309 Springwood Drive, said, it is going to be hard to follow that one. President Pro-tempore Chris Moore said, good luck. I stand before the council tonight as a citizen of Jonesboro, a police officer for the city of Jonesboro, and also a father. I have got two kids. One is at Valley View and one is an ASU student. So, I have a lot of dogs in this fight. As a police officer, I can see the need on a daily basis, the obvious needs for the PD and FD both. We see this daily. I also see the need for additional sidewalks for public safety reasons. We have concerns about people having to walk in the roadways. This is also very near and dear to me because I almost lost my wife to getting hit over by the Circuit Courthouse when she was our Parking Enforcement officer. I understand and agree to other amenities that are mentioned in these future projects while I reflect on the impact of the growth of this city. That is obvious. We bring business and the money comes with it. The people come. Sales tax will give Jonesboro a chance to develop an economy of individuals of all ages and abilities. That is all I have to say on that. Thank you. Mr. Moore said, thank you sir.

Carl Abraham, 311 S. Church, said, I really didn't expect to speak here, but I was passing by somebody who said something about brain drain here in Jonesboro which I really hadn't heard until I was just sitting here. And, if you are smart enough, you know that this is a one percent tax. And, if you are a doc like me, you have seen a lot of drug reps who come in and say this goes from 8.5% to 9.5%, therefore, it is a 12% increase. No, it is a one percent tax increase. I have two daughters. They are both way smarter than I am. One is getting her PhD in Physics. The other is a neurosciences major. They both said that Jonesboro didn't have enough to keep them here. That really bums me out. I really hope you understand what culture, arts, and quality of life does to keep people here and to get people here. Please go ahead and forward this in tact. Thank you. Mr. Moore said, thank you sir.

Held at second reading

[ORD-19:030](#)

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

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

Councilmember David McClain said, I would like to make a real quick comment. The only thing I would like to say is that I appreciate Team Jonesboro bringing this forward and calling for the election, the vote. We are a democracy so we should operate in that manner. So, I appreciate you guys doing that. I think we leave it in tact. In order for us to move forward as a city and to continue progress, I truly feel like we have to start our investment in this type of, these types of facilities. I spent some time at the Municipal League and got to see what is going on around the state and in other cities and seeing what their investment in quality of life has done, has transformed different parts of the city. It transforms entire cities so I would love to see this go forward to the public and allow them the opportunity to vote on this. This is their money so I think they should have the right to vote whether or not we pass it. Mr. Moore said, thank you Mr. McClain.

Held at second reading

[ORD-19:032](#)

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

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

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-19:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR WATERWHEEL HUNTING CLUB, INC.

Attachments: [ROOTS Waterwheel.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-036-2019

[ORD-19:025](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND AWARDING OF CONTRACTS FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Construction revision 5-1-19-clean.docx](#)
[Other prof. services 5-1-19.docx](#)
[Proposed amendment.docx](#)
[Proposed amendments to ORD-19-025](#)

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

Enactment No: O-EN-037-2019

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

President Pro-tempore Chris Moore said, the Mayor is not here tonight. His wife had a medical procedure and he is home with her. Unless there is a question to be submitted to him, I have nothing to offer on his behalf.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, I know most of you know it, but Mayor Perrin was elected President of the Municipal League. We just came back from the Municipal League meeting. It is a fairly big deal for the state of Arkansas. It is going to spotlight Jonesboro in a very positive way. He will be more involved with that this next year. So, if there is any way that you can assist the Mayor with anything, he is going to have a very busy schedule and they will be here off and on. I am sure he would appreciate it. But, I was going to congratulate him. It is an honor. And, so, anything we can do to help him I think would be in the best interest of the city. President Pro-tempore Chris Moore said, that is correct and I assume they will feature him in City & Town magazine and it will bring a spotlight on the City of Jonesboro. I hope his influence will bring us recognition up here. Councilmember Street said, he will be front and center. I think it is going to be a big thing for us. Mr. Moore said, thank you for bringing that up Mr. Street.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I would just briefly say that the level of civic involvement that we have had this evening has been great. I am sure whomever was here when the city council chamber was designed, I am sure no one thought of how often we would have the chamber filled and in excess and Fire Marshall's and all of those things. I am sure in two months from now when we are discussing boring things, we will go back to normal crowds, but genuinely I hope people continue to be involved whether things seem exciting or not. It is important that people be involved and it is good that they are. President Pro-tempore Chris Moore said, well, when it was designed, I thought 92 people was crazy because we were averaging about 7 per night and here we are. Thank you for your comments.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

with the following vote.

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk