



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Works Council Committee

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

5:00 PM

Municipal Center

ELECTION OF A CHAIR

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk Donna Jackson

Present 6 - Gene Vance; John Street; Chris Moore; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent 1 - Mitch Johnson

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-19:116](#)

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL CALLED PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON DECEMBER 2, 2019

Attachments: [Public Works Committee Minutes 12022019](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Gene Vance; Chris Moore; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Mitch Johnson

4. New Business

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

[ORD-19:083](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES §54-43, KNOWN AS YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Sponsors: Mayor's Office and Sanitation

Attachments: [Paper Leaf Bags Presentation](#)
[Amendment Proposal](#)

Chief of Staff Mike Downing, gave more insight regarding yard waste collection. Mr. Downing said that he had a phone call from the Sanitation Director Donnie Gibson, saying the Sanitation Department had significant backups regarding yard waste as a result of the collection period. Turns out this happens pretty much every year. I didn't

know it before this phone call that the sanitation department had to manually dump the plastic bags of yard waste into the incinerator. As you can imagine, during that period of time that is a significant issue. Plastic bags cannot be put into the incinerator because of the state environmental laws. After the employees of the Sanitation Department completes the process of dumping each plastic bag, they have to take the bags to the landfill for disposal.

Sanitation Director Donnie Gibson said, I have ran five trucks in the last two weeks just to get caught up on the yard waste. I have four to five thousand bags of yard waste stored at the site, and they have to be cut open and emptied. This has tied up ten of my employees in my department for the last two weeks. This city has just simply out grown our staff. Chairman John Street said, you were talking about where to acquire the paper bags, would you please discuss that.

Chief of Staff Mike Downing said, right now I suspect there is not too many stores in this area that carry the paper bags. The ones that I purchased myself, were at Lowes and they were about fifteen to twenty-five cents more than the plastic bags. I am sure they range in different sizes and pricing. Yes it may cost a little more to use the paper bags. Do the paper bags last as long if they are laying on concrete or whatever because of rain, maybe not. We went online just to look around and some other stores do have them, I do not know if they stock them right now. I think if we give a grace period, if we decide to do this for a few months we could inform all of the retail stores, then they have the opportunity to stock those in their stores. Chairman John Street asked if anyone else on the committee had any questions or comments.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I don't have any questions, but I do have some comments. I whole heartedly agree with Mr. Gibson. We frequent the incinerator on a regular basis. One of the other issues, and I've seen where they have to strip all of the bags back and empty the waste, another thing I've noticed is all of the other people that come across the scales to the incinerator that bring their own out there to bag it, we are going to have to make sure that it's not entering into the stream from people who are delivering them not just people who are picking them up. I've noticed on several occasion that somebody would pull in and dump a whole truck bed full of waste and there would be fifteen or twenty that they had bagged themselves and dumped in the pile. We need to get the word out that we cannot accept those at the incinerator also. Chairman Street said, I agree, and that's a good point.

Mayor Harold Perrin said, we will have signage there at the incinerator because of the grace period. It is going to take some time and education like it does on anything when you make a change. As you heard from Sanitation Director, Donnie Gibson, what is happening they are handling those things at least two or three times, and you take that much time in labor cost it's a lot of money tied up. So, with paper bags you can dump the whole bag in the incinerator, and that is why a lot of other cities have gone to the paper bags.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, and that was going to bring me to this question. Do you anticipate instead of having to stockpile them at the Strawfloor facility you will just take them straight to the incinerator, and incinerate them bag and all? Mr. Gibson said, correct they would be burned right there on site. Councilmember Moore said, bag and everything? Yes, that is correct. Chairman Street asked, if anyone on the committee or anyone in the public had any other comments.

Patti Lack 4108 Forest Hill Road. I just looked on Amazon and you can get a hundred, fifty pound paper bags for \$25. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, just one

statement, make sure we get this out to the public. Mayor Perrin said, we will. Chairman Street said we will have the grace period too. Dr. Coleman said, even though we have the grace period we still go through this issue all the time. Hire the media source we need to get the message out in a way that the public understand it. We need to go to the limits on communication for this.

Chairman Street said, I agree. I know we can't make the Jonesboro Sun publish it, but I am sure that the Communication Director, Bill Campbell can get that out through the media and he can put it on channel 24, and we can do our best to educate the citizens on this new process if it is adopted.

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

Aye: 5 - Gene Vance;Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Mitch Johnson

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-19:216](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 3 FOR THE BOWLING LANE/HILL DRIVE STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Change Order 3 - Bowling Lane and Hill Drive Street Improvements](#)

Mayor Harold Perrin said, with that change order, as you can see, when we estimate a project and put it out for bid it is not always going to be exact. The reason that this change order is in there is for the adjustment in the quantity. Chief Engineer, Craig Light said, the major change was the addition of class seven rock. There were a lot of soft spots in the road, and if you remember we had a very wet fall when this construction was going on, and the material that was in place just wasn't stable. The only way to fix that was to take that material out and put this rock in. The contractor actually did not charge or adjust for some of the materials that he used, it was a negotiated final amount. His original bid was almost twice this change order amount, we feel like this is what we do owe the contractor for the work that he did. This is the final contract quantity, and we've reconciled all the quantities, this is the final change in the order to pay out the contractor. Chairman Street said, if you don't do it right the first time, you'll go back and spend more money trying to fix it again. Does anyone else have any questions for the City Engineer?

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

Aye: 5 - Gene Vance;Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Mitch Johnson

[RES-19:218](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH TCHERNESHOFF CONSULTING, INC. FOR ADA EVALUATION SERVICES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENTS AS NEEDED

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Tcherneshoff Contract](#)

Chairman John Street asked Mayor Harold Perrin if he wanted to address this resolution. Mayor Perrin said, I know that the City Attorney, Carol Duncan has been working with Kurt Tcherneshoff and we've had a meeting with Kurt here at City Hall. For budgeting purposes we chose to do this on a year to year basis. Basically what we are doing on this contract is that they will be doing the full evaluation on all the programs that we have, and they will also review all of our existing policy and procedures, so basically a full audit.

Then we start making the changes we need to make in our procedures and policy's. We will not know what the cost is for next year until we get the survey done. I was pleased that they allowed us to do that, in most cases you have to sign the full contract in the beginning. This also tied to the lawsuit we had in which we stated and cleared up on that that we would do this.

Ms. Duncan said, this may not even be the full audit. We have a lot of properties and a lot of parks, and a lot of buildings as well as programs that they are going to evaluate to make sure they are ADA compliant. The first years focus is to be on the sidewalks because that was what a lot of the litigation was about, and also formulating a plan. Just a transition plan or whatever you want to call it, where we have a plan moving forward and a plan on how we can budget to fix it because we know we can't afford to fix everything at once. Chairman Street said, I am going to assume in the lawsuit that hiring someone to do this is going to keep them from filing a repeated lawsuit. Ms. Duncan said that is the goal. This is the expert that they agreed, they trusted his ability to not only inspect, but to make recommendations about improvements, some of which might not mean tearing it out and replacing the whole thing, it might be a minor improvement that would save you money that you could do and still make it ADA compliant, and accessible for our citizens.

Chairman Street said, it has always been our intent to comply with ADA regulations, and I don't think we are trying to skirt around anything. We are a big city, and it's hard to go back and look at everything, and retro fit everything and comply all at once. Ms. Duncan said, this also includes training some of our employees to be able to do self-inspections as we move forward. Chairman Street said I think it demonstrates a good faith effort to comply across the board.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked, Ms. Duncan, as part of that evaluation will they submit to the court a proposed plan for us? Ms. Duncan said, this isn't really anything that has to go to the court unless there is a problem. One of the first things we are doing is having our website evaluated, and a different company is actually going to do that. Ms. Duncan said, making sure that our website is good to go, so that we can also open it up as part of his evaluation, if you see an ADA issue within the city here is where you are to go to lodge it on our website. So, we can include it in our plan. We will give higher priority to the ones that was part of the lawsuit. It wasn't really that we have to go back to the court, in fact I think it specifically says in the lawsuit as long as we are following Mr. Tcherneshoff's plan they believe we will be in compliance. We give priority to the complaints as they come in, and then we just start slowly moving forward, obviously sidewalks are a priority. Councilmember Moore asked, are they going to do some sort of evaluation on real property, and then compile a list of deficiencies? Ms. Duncan said yes. We have talked about miles and miles of old sidewalks. That plan may take many years but hopefully, we will start in the high traffic areas.

Councilmember Moore said, if they are looking at our policy and procedures, I would think they would take a compiled list of our deficiencies on real property, are they going to evaluate our budget also and make a determination on what they think we can afford and what the time span may be on that? Ms. Duncan said, I think that what this company is going to do is, and this is the most cost effective way you can fix this problem, and then we build it into our plan. So, it's something that we can put into this years' budget and get it done, or we can do in-house and make an easy fix, then we do that that year and if it is something that is super expensive then we plan how we can budget for that in future years. But, that part is kind of up to us how to work with them, as long as it's in the plan. Councilmember Moore said, you know the last plan required us to spend a fixed amount of money over a ten year period. City Attorney Duncan said, this one does on sidewalks. It requires the \$250,000 but, the other part is not a specific required amount. Councilmember Moore said, okay. Ms. Duncan said, we just need to work on compliance.

Councilmember Moore said, so you don't have a court order requesting that this be on a certain time frame. Ms. Duncan said, it doesn't really give us a time frame. The key is to get the plan in place, and the inspection process may be the beginning of the process, and as you move forward the plan becomes the repair process, or the replacement process.

The key is getting into one plan, and then the plan be published online so that anybody that wants to can say "Hey I'm worried about this door, or this sidewalk, this park. They can see first of all if it's made it to the plan or has been reported, and second of all where it is on the list of things to be worked on.

Councilmember Moore said, I'm all about having a plan, I'm all about having it published I just want to make sure that we are not fixing to be under some kind of court order if it comes back at an astronomical price. We can't just fix something. Ms. Duncan said, they understand, in fact there was a little bit of that in the lawsuit settlement. We made them take that out because there is no way we can know exactly how much we can spend. Councilmember Moore said, that's right, there is no way you can know how much you can spend without an evaluation.

Ms. Duncan said, we agreed to the \$250,000 on the sidewalks, that part we did agree too. In reality we probably need to spend more than that each year if we have it. On the other things it's just as we can afford it, or depending on the priority status of what the repair is how we budget it each year.

Councilmember Moore asked, did he give you a time frame how long it would take to do the inspection of real property, is it like a year long process? Ms. Duncan said, no it's more like a five year process. Some of that maybe developing the plan and some of it is doing the inspections. I think the first step is some inspections and some training of our employees. He is not physically going to go out and look at our sidewalks. They want to train our people. There was some discussion on using ASU Student Interns. He could train them how to measure, and how to go out and take pictures so that he can do the evaluation. Chair John Street said, any other questions or comments. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, one other question, and I know we covered this. But, remind me of which employee at the city will be the liaison.

Ms. Duncan said Human Resource Director, Dewayne Douglas will be the liaison. HR was dedicated as the department for ADA some time ago, and then it was switched to Building Maintenance for some reason. It is now back with the HR Director, we felt that was the best place to leave it. Mr. Douglas will filter any complaint, and anything that needs to be addressed will be sent to him. he will then send it out to the department that it needs to go too. Mr. Douglas will be expecting a response within a certain

amount of time, so that he can get back to the citizen. Mr. Douglas will be making sure that the response goes out in a timely manner.

Mayor Perrin said, this company does a lot of work and was recommended by the Arkansas Municipal League, and we visited their Legal Counsel, and he highly recommended this firm. Ms. Duncan said, I think they did Sherwood most recently, they've done a lot of work for them with their parks.

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

Aye: 5 - Gene Vance;Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Mitch Johnson

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

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

Aye: 5 - Gene Vance;Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - Mitch Johnson