



# City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center  
300 S. Church Street  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

## Meeting Minutes Public Safety Council Committee

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Tuesday, May 16, 2023

5:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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### 1. Call To Order

### 2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

**Present** 6 - Mitch Johnson;David McClain;Chris Moore;Brian Emison;Janice Porter and Chris Gibson

**Absent** 1 - LJ Bryant

### 3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-23:043](#)

Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting on April 18, 2023

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

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

**Aye:** 5 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Brian Emison;Janice Porter and Chris Gibson

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant

### 4. New Business

#### *RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED*

[RES-23:092](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 305 Airport Road, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel 01-144153-00600, OWNER: I & C Rentals Inc.

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement

- Attachments:** [305 Airport Inspection Report](#)  
[305 Airport Map](#)  
[305 Airport Precondemantion Notice Affidavit](#)  
[305 Airport Precondemantion Notice Returned Sig Card](#)  
[WIN 20220926 11 08 41 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220926 11 09 03 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220926 11 09 16 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220926 11 18 23 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220926 11 18 43 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220926 11 19 02 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220926 11 20 32 Pro](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Brian Emison;Janice Porter and Chris Gibson

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant

[RES-23:093](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 309 Mockingbird Cove, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel: 01-144303-28100, OWNER: Gateway Mortgage Group, LLC.

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement

- Attachments:** [309 Mockingbird Inspection Report](#)  
[309 Mockingbird Map](#)  
[309 Mockingbird Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)  
[309 Mockingbird Precondemnation Returned Sig Card](#)  
[WIN 20220712 15 06 54 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220712 15 07 09 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220712 15 10 12 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220712 15 11 13 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220712 15 12 45 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220712 15 16 01 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220712 15 16 27 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220712 15 16 47 Pro](#)  
[WIN 20220712 15 17 05 Pro](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Brian Emison;Janice Porter and Chris Gibson

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant

[RES-23:094](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 812 Sweetheart Lane, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel: 01-144061-06800, OWNER: Tony Tilley

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement

**Attachments:** [812 Sweetheart Precondemnation Notice Returned Sig Card](#)  
[812 Sweetheart Inspection Report](#)  
[812 Sweetheart Map](#)  
[812 Sweetheart Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)  
[WIN\\_20220722\\_10\\_40\\_45\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20220722\\_10\\_41\\_16\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20220722\\_10\\_41\\_37\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20220722\\_10\\_42\\_04\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20220722\\_10\\_42\\_34\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20220722\\_10\\_43\\_33\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20220722\\_10\\_45\\_11\\_Pro](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Brian Emison;Janice Porter and Chris Gibson

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant

[RES-23:095](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 1204 Warren Street, Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel: 01-144074-13800, OWNER: The Heirs at Law of Donald Greer, deceased

**Sponsors:** Code Enforcement

**Attachments:** [1204 Warren Inspection Report](#)  
[1204 Warren Map](#)  
[1204 Warren Precondemnation Notice Affidavit](#)  
[1204 Warren Precondemnation Returned Sig Card](#)  
[WIN\\_20230118\\_11\\_37\\_54\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20230118\\_11\\_38\\_22\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20230118\\_11\\_38\\_35\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20230118\\_11\\_40\\_07\\_Pro](#)  
[WIN\\_20230118\\_11\\_40\\_46\\_Pro](#)

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

**Aye:** 5 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Brian Emison;Janice Porter and Chris Gibson

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant

**5. Pending Items**

**6. Other Business**

[COM-23:025](#)

## UPDATE FROM JIM STARKS WITH VECTOR DISEASE CONTROL, INC. ON MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL

Chairman Mitch Johnson said, Jim, glad to have you here sir. Jim Starks with Vector Disease Control approached the podium, glad to be here as always. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, I assume you're getting geared up? Mr. Stark said, yes sir, already wore out. I'm just going to give an update for April. For the month of May you will receive a written report in your emails. On ground adulticiding we've treated Jonesboro four times in April. If we get to go tonight, if it's not too windy, it'll be five times. We kind of scattered out the zone. We've went north several times, we're going south tonight. We've had no serve request whatsoever, no phone calls but it's coming. The larviciding we've been doing tire piles and artificial containers, roadside ditches. All that's going well. We're finding a few larvae in the tire piles but that's to be expected. All of our new trucks now have our new units in it and are spraying. They're not actually on the road yet but they are ready to go. We're still in the process of hiring some night time drivers. We've got three or four on the books but they have to go through the process of being hired. All the light traps are hung in town. We were going to run them last week but we didn't get to because of the weather. I think they ran last night but I'm not sure, I think they did. We'll know in a day or two what our count is. Ok, the good stuff. Most of the rice is up so the permanent flood should start in about 20 to 25 days. If the predictions are right it should be around the 4th of July as always. That's just the way that it goes here. Sometime this summer we are going to do some resistance testing on our pesticide. We've been spraying the same pesticide on and off here for the past 28 years. So we're going to see what they're resistant to, see if we need to change things up a little bit, or if this stuff is working as it should. Also, in August and September when it gets hot and dry we'll start testing also for West Nile virus, St. Louis Encephalitis and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. If there's any results that come of that it will be in that report. Same thing with the resistance testing, if there is a problem with our pesticide it will be in the report and what we plan to change or do to fix that. Again, the aerials will be around the 4th of July; probably around the 1st of July, and it will be eight consecutive after that and then at eight we start flying as needed up until September. That's it in a nutshell. I look for the next couple of weeks to get up and heavy. Especially as we move through June and the first of July. That's all I've got unless y'all have any questions. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, are you seeing or hearing any activity in your rounds? Mr. Stark said, no, the only person complaining was John, but no, we've received no calls or nothing. I'm not saying there not there. I sit on my deck at night or in the evening and I get a few, but nothing like it's going to be. Again, y'all have my phone number and email so any questions or concerns or anything I can do to help I'll take care of it. Councilmember Chris Moore said, hey Jim, have you been out and scouted the territory and made a list of tire piles? Mr. Stark said, yes, we have a big list. Councilmember Chris Moore said, ok, I assume you've turned them over to Mr. Roper. Mr. Stark said, we have in the past. There's one place that's really bad and I won't say where it is. There are a lot of places that have tires. Councilmember Chris Moore said, Officer Roper has picked up the Code Enforcement this year pretty aggressively. If you'll make a list of the tire piles that may not be compliant or any other property that you think is leading toward to mosquito, if it's not draining, trash or containers, make us a list and get it to Officer Roper and let us do our part and that will certainly help you do your part. That way when we come and say it's horrible over here you're not saying it's because of tires over there. Mr. Stark said, the good thing about tire piles, if there's a good thing about them, that particular species, its flight range is only about a block. But, that particular species is a potential for St. Louis Encephalitis and also West Nile so it does need to be addressed. Councilmember Chris Moore said, I just used tire piles as an example. Maybe there's other things that Code Enforcement can be on. Mr. Stark said, ok. Councilmember Chris Moore said, just make us a list while you have a little time before you get busy. Mr. Stark said, ok, I sure can. I will get it to him

probably in the next couple of days. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, we appreciate you stopping by Jim and we look forward to those reports. Anything proactive that you see out there give us a heads up. Mr. Stark said, I won't say that I'll be able to make it, but if you need me to come to every one of these meetings let me know. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, I don't think that's necessary. We might hit you every few months. Mr. Stark said, ok, especially July and August we'll probably be flying so I won't be able to make those. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, we don't want to take you away from the job during the busy season for sure. We'll just look at those reports, Jim and if the committee wants to discuss further we'll certainly see if you can sit some time aside for us. Mr. Stark said, ok, I appreciate y'all so much. Thank you. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, thanks Jim.

Councilmember David McClain said, Mr. Chairman I have some business I would like to discuss. I would love for us to have a conversation either here at the next Public Safety meeting or at some time with the chief and the mayor with a presentation on the police pay and our plan going forward. I know we've have some other cities throughout the state as well as the State Police who've raised their officer pay, and I feel we need to have a discussion here on what we're doing, how many officers we've lost and also what we're doing to keep those officers here in town. I don't know if I need to send a formal request to have someone present that information. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, I believe we just reach out to the chief. Get him on the agenda for next month. Councilmember David McClain said, ok. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, going back just briefly on the salary, when we did our changes several years back I thought there was a review clause in there to where it was supposed to be reviewed every so many years. I don't know where we are with the last review and bump to where it would be up for discussion again. Councilmember David McClain said, ok. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, chief just walked in. He could probably address some of it for us now. Police Chief Rick Elliot approached the podium and said, I'm sorry. What was the question? Councilmember David McClain said, I had asked what are our plans in terms of how many officers have we lost from January to now. Then also what do we anticipate losing and what are we doing to keep officers here in town. Again, this doesn't have to be something right now. My questions are here and now, but I would like to have a conversation maybe next month so we can start to anticipate and look at, again, what are we going to do to keep officers here and what are we doing for those officers that have been here five, ten, and fifteen years. My thinking and what I'm hearing, of course State Police have raised their pay; other cities have raised their pay. Chief Rick Elliot said, yes sir that is correct. Councilmember David McClain said, so what are we doing and what's our plan going forward? Chief Rick Elliot said, I don't know what that plan looks like at this point. We'll have to sit down with the mayor and see what they're working on. Councilmember David McClain said, ok. Chief Rick Elliot said, as far as shortages, since January we've been down about 14. We hired six two weeks ago. We're testing again. The last six that we hired, we went through about 70 applicants to get six so that's concerning. Getting quality applicants in general is concerning. With the State Police adjustment, their starting salary is around \$54,000, and right now I'm hearing we could lose anywhere from 10 to 25 to State Police. So obviously that's concerning. Again, we have another test coming up this month but the applicant pool isn't looking any better than it has in the past. I do know that we revisited some of the salary surveys from across the state from the one that was done a few months ago, because no sooner than we adjusted ours last April about everybody around us across the state did the same thing. We looked good for a moment and then after that the dynamics changed again. As far as anything else, that would be a discussion with mayor and finance on what they're working on or looking at. Councilmember David McClain said, I would like for us to have a conversation next month that way we can get something started and lay out a plan and show this is what we're working on, this is what we're doing and this is what we're doing to keep

out people. I mean, losing 10 to 25 officers will be detrimental to us. Chief Rick Elliot said, it is. When you look at the department as a whole out of an authorized 175 positions, 100 have been here five years or less. The department is a young department now and the old ones are retiring out and moving on, and in the next few years there's going to be a lot more retirees moving on. So we need to retain what we have and always seek the best candidate that we can.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I think to add to Councilmember McClain's request, I think what I'd like to see is the retention rates broke down into like the three, five and ten year mark for our current PD, and then a comparison of other cities in Arkansas of what the retention rate at the three, five and ten year mark are for them. Maybe it could help narrow down where our problem is and if we have a problem or if that's a problem state wide. Chief Rick Elliot said, to be fair, the problem with law enforcement, not only Jonesboro, not only Arkansas but across the country, it's not the most popular profession to be in now. Every chief and sheriff in the United States will tell you that recruiting and retention are the two biggest challenges. It's not budget, it's not equipment, it's not managing a jail or nothing like that. It's getting good applicants and retaining those good applicants. That's the number one challenge that law enforcement faces due to the scrutiny that law enforcement faces daily across the country. People just walk away like, I've had enough, I can go do something else and make more money and not have to put up with all the daily whatever. It's a tough time and the forecast isn't looking any better. As a whole, as a city, you're right, what can we do different than anybody else, what other incentives or what else is out there that maybe somebody else is not doing. I think that all of that needs to be looked at because we have a young department and we are seeing officers leaving at the five year mark and that's just about the time that they really become a great officer. We were over 5,900 last month just for JPD so they can go to Paragould and half the call volume and \$2,000 difference in pay and not have to go call to call for the whole shift. I'm losing to Paragould, Greene County or Bono just because there's a less call volume. Sometimes they will take a bit of a pay cut just so they're not killing themselves for the entire shift. On the other hand, if I had more people I could lighten the call load but again I can't get the people. The fact that I'm only six or seven short, most agencies are envious of that fact. In the grand scheme of things, if you look at other agencies across the country, we're not in as bad of a state as a lot of others like when I look at like Pine Bluff where they're about 25 short. Councilmember Chris Moore said, what's the total number of officers you have? Chief Rick Elliot said, we're authorized 175. Councilmember Chris Moore said, and you're roughly six to eight short? Chief Rick Elliot said, yes, so percentage wise, it's not too bad. We're fortunate. Councilmember Chris Moore said, you're doing a good job at recruiting, we've just got to figure out how we can address the retention aspect it sounds like. Chief Rick Elliot said, yes sir the recruiting has gone well over the years. We're a more diverse department then we ever have been, so we changed our recruiting techniques over the years and the way to reach out to the public and get people. We see the effects and the positive benefits, but there's just a few more obstacles to overcome that we need to face and deal with. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, we took a big swing at this year's back and that's what I was touching on when you came in. I knew that we had put a review period in that. Chief Rick Elliot said, we did and in just the past two years alone there's about a nine percent increase. So we've made some strides but again we're in the same boat of once again. What I'm looking at come October, when State Police run back to back academy's and are looking at about 160 people to pull from the state agencies. These are certified academy's so they are looking for 160 people out of all the municipalities and the Sheriff's office out of the state. They're going to take the cream of the crop. When you can go to work starting out \$12,000 more and then as a Corporal State Police officer you're looking at making what a Lieutenant would be making here. That's kind of what we're facing. Chairman Mitch Johnson said, thank you Chief we appreciate you stepping up unexpected and helping us look at some of

*these things.*

*Councilmember Chris Moore said, can I ask Craig Light a question about, Craig was the speed bump that we were installing on Main, was it damaged in the chase the other day or is it ok? Because if it was damaged I would think that we would want to file a claim on the insurance of the auto that was being chased, if they had insurance. Engineering Department Director Craig Light approached the podium and said, no I didn't see any damage done to it. We used an early curing concrete on it so it was pretty solid. Councilmember Chris Moore said, so it had a good 24 hours breakout on it? Director Craig Light said, yeah, so it seems to be fine. There's no scratches, tears or anything in it.*

**Filed**

## **7. Public Comments**

## **8. Adjournment**

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

**Aye:** 5 - David McClain;Chris Moore;Brian Emison;Janice Porter and Chris Gibson

**Absent:** 1 - LJ Bryant