



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

SPECIAL CALLED NOMINATING & RULES COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:45 P.M.

PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

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

Present 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent 1 - Mitch Johnson

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Jonesboro Fire Department Presentation of Awards

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Council, I stand before you this evening. And, it is not very often that we get to recognize the men and women of our community for their efforts in what they do on a day by day basis that we take for granted as a community. And, in saying this, over the last four years, I have seen them grow in many areas. We have our former Fire Chief here and we have our current Fire Chief and the direction is exponential in this community. I can't say enough about them. But, this evening, I want to honor three individuals that Friday evening of last week, I attended their annual, first annual awards banquet. And, to me, it was wonderful because they included their entire families at this facility. And, it was really nice. They were all one and that is who they are. That is who we are as a community too. So, I am going to announce each individual award for three outstanding individuals and their performance and if Chief would like to speak on that, that is fine. If not, we will just take a picture. They have already heard it, but I would like to have "Rookie of the Year" come up, Colby Stallings. Congratulations. So, Colby, he is a Stallings, okay, police guy, right? So, he transformed into the better image I think. But, we are awfully proud of you. And, he is very dedicated. Being a "Rookie", this is a high honor. So, this was provided to him among his superior officers that made the recommendation and he is always on time. He shows up early. But, he dedicates himself and always volunteers for other attributes that go along with being the best firefighter in Arkansas. So, Colby, again, congratulations and thank you so much for your service to our community.

Mayor Copenhaver said, next, we have "Officer of the Year" and this is Chris Nugent. Congratulations. If you know Chris, you know he also plays the drums, correct? Mr. Nugent said, yes sir. Mayor Copenhaver said, and so he does a lot of ancillary things outside of just being a firefighter. But, more importantly, this recognition came to him unbeknowned, obviously, but more importantly, it was a recommendation of all of the firefighters. They made a recommendation for this. So, this is a very high honor given to him among his peers. So, for the "Officer of the Year," Chris, congratulations. We appreciate your service to our community. Thank you.

Mayor Copenhaver said, and then last, we have firefighter of the year and this is firefighter Terry Poole. Good to see you again. So, Mr. Poole was recommended obviously as "Firefighter of the Year" for what he accomplished throughout the year and challenges that he overcame when he was called upon in our community. And, so, I want to say with great gratitude that we as a community appreciate you. And, obviously, you are leading by example, but more importantly, when you are called upon, you're there and we appreciate that. So, congratulations on "Firefighter of the Year."

Mayor Copenhaver said, before all three of you leave, I would like to present you all with city medallions for leadership. For those in the room, I can't say enough for the dedication of the men and women in our community. What I see and you look at the example of young rookies that come into our organization, police, fire, 911, they are trained by the best and they believe in it and they are an example to other communities and we are leading by example. So, again, thank you for those who are in leadership roles for making that a reality for those young men and women.

[COM-24:012](#)

SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON CONNECTIVITY FROM THE CONNECTIVITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE BY ANDY SHATLEY

Attachments: [Exec Summ Priority List updated 3-18-24 \(003\)](#)
[ConnectivitySlides](#)

Mr. Andy Shatley said, we will have some slides tonight to follow along with me. The Mayor's Administration and several others of you have talked about putting together a previous steering committee that was organized in 2018. It was kind of the steering committee behind the One Jonesboro Connectivity Plan. That was brought in front of council and passed and adopted as our official bike and pedestrian master plan. And, as we continue to try to build that out and plan, obviously Jonesboro makes some changes and some new facilities that potentially may show up and things evolve. And, there were several people in the community that offered their time and energy and expertise to try to be a supplement to Engineering. We worked hand in hand with the Engineering Department, the Parks & Rec Department, and the Mayor's Office. And, we all started together and meeting last fall. And, really the purpose was to try to figure out, okay, the vast expanse of bike and pedestrian needs and deficits within Jonesboro, where do we continue what's next? And, that was really the purpose of the committee and the charge of the committee. The Mayor said, hey, we just need some guidance on where do we go? Where is the best bang for our buck? What paths do we think people need? Where can we connect the most people to the city facilities and then where would be having the plan as far as if we have parks in the future or if we sports complexes that show at places, how can we look prospectively in the future and start to protect easements and start making plans to where it is not so difficult as the one path that we had from downtown to ASU has been a bit difficult with trying to move utilities and right-of-ways and purchasing easements and such. We are trying to plan to make sure the next projects go smoother and faster. So, that is kind of the reasoning for the committee put together. We do have several committee members here. And, I

will tell you, I am presenting, but the committee did the majority of the work. We do have a few of our committee members here if you would please stand. I do want to recognize the committee members. I want to tell you that we have met monthly since last fall and we have given up time and I appreciate the efforts of the committee. I am just presenting. So, this is certainly not something that I have done. We have done it jointly. So, I appreciate everyone for being here tonight. We put together an executive summary so it kind of breaks down projects. I was asked by Chris Gibson to bring this to the Public Services. He thought that would be the best kind of entry. They seemed to be a passionate committee to see some of these projects come to fruition. So, we started there and they appreciated the presentation and said, would you please bring this to full council so we can all hear the work that you have done from the committee. So, that is why we are here. What I will do is I'll go through the different segments and the reason these segments were selected is because they were put into a formula and the formula, like I said in paragraph two of the executive summary, takes into the consideration distance of the connection, the number of closely approximated address points. Once again, Ryan Parsons was great with us in giving us this information so we can rank these projects, potential for alternative funding, milestone connections says its Parks or retail destinations. And, you can see, I won't belabor the RAISE grant one because you have already seen that presentation, so we will breeze right by that one. And, then connections with other systems. For instance, if we can open up a neighborhood by just a small section, let's go ahead and do that even though we don't feel like it ranks really high. It opens up an entire neighborhood maybe to a park. And, so, as a committee, we ranked that even higher. So, we are just going to kind of go quickly through this executive summary. I know that you have lots of things to discuss. So, I will try to breeze through this. If you do have questions, I don't really know where that needs to happen and I don't know if it needs to happen today, but maybe later. I'll be happy to try to answer those questions.

The first one, let's go down the list. The downtown to ASU trail, you know that is going on right now. Fully funded, that is at the top of the list because we feel like it connects, I don't know, 7,000 or 8,000 or 9,000 students to our downtown. So, that is a big deal. And, you are going to see this map build as we go here. This is the RAISE grant. Once again, I won't belabor that. You have already seen the presentation for the RAISE grant. So, we will go next and the reason why it is on here is because that is pending funding. So, if we don't get the RAISE grant, I will tell you that Jeremy Biggs did a rock star job. He worked along with our committee too. He wrote an outstanding application. We feel great about how that's another thing that will. You see the funding status this year. There are lots of different funding mechanisms and we are trying to match paths and segments with the correct characteristics of the funding. For instance, the RAISE grant wouldn't be a soft trail at Craighead Forest Park. It's not going to work. So, we are trying to really be creative and make sure that we are matching segments and paths with how the application and the grant reads. So, we will go past the RAISE grant one.

The Aggie Road to Farmer's Market UH is funded, but it is in the planning stages. I suppose that there are just a few different things left. Is Craig behind me? There are just a few different things left as far as when they actually start that project. We feel really good about that because once again, it connects ASU to several neighborhoods on that east side. The next one the Aggie Road extended to new proposed park. That eastern park that is being eyeballed. We want to go ahead and put that on our radar screen because there are lots of different neighborhoods that we are trying to traverse through. And, once again, if we are going to get you to a city facility and we can connect a bunch of neighborhoods, let's do it now before anything gets in the way. So, that is one of the reasons why that is there and that is also a segment of the RAISE

grant, but if you pull it out separately, it ranks really high. So, if we don't get the RAISE grant, that specific segment to get to that park and finish that pathway because that's an eastern spoke on the One Jonesboro Plan. You will hear me talk about the One Jonesboro Plan because that is kind of like the skeleton of the entire process and it will build us as we go down.

Next is the Culberhouse shared use path. This is to go from the five points, that funky intersection. We feel like this is the spine of the West End. It is the best way we can touch a lot of houses. We can touch the library. We can touch schools. There are lots of different public, local facilities that happen in this region to try to get people over to within probably ¼ of a mile, we can get the library, several schools, the dog park is actually about to be right in there too, so lots of different city infrastructure. The next one downtown to Joe Mack Campbell Park, this is like the western spoke on the One Jonesboro Plan. We don't really have anything that gets us west for pedestrians. There are lots of options once we get to this point. You know, we had originally talked about taking something from downtown all the way to Joe Mack Campbell Park, but there are a couple of hurdles there. There is getting over the overpass. There is getting over a couple of ditches, that Christian Creek I think is over there. So, there are a couple of hurdles, but also a part of this was a timeframe. So, we think we can get this far in a few years, like two or three years, as opposed to if we said okay downtown all the way to Joe Mack Campbell, that could take us a while. So, that's the next segment would be the next list. So, we need to get west because we have nothing west for pedestrians. So, that is what that segment stands for.

This next section is the Johnson shared used path, Caraway to the Newman Center. This is the one I kind of kid urban tacticalism. This is where you just go out and look and see to where the grass is just beaten down. Why don't you put a side path there because that is where everybody is walking. This is specifically one of those that is pretty obvious when you go out there and see that from like the Subway right there and all the way down to like the Newman Center. The thought is to try to get that Caraway Road connected all the way down to Greensborough Village and through Greensborough Village and you will see this little section of Hwy. 351 coming up here in a second too. Next, is the Marion Berry Overpass adaptation. This finishes off the connection in between ASU's campus and then what we have existing going on that you see that is under construction. We feel like this is the last leg. There is a couple of different funding conversations that have happened. It's like two or three different funding conversations that are kind of up in the air right now. So, one thing that I was asked was like, okay, what is the cost of all of this? Well, there are a lot of moving parts. If we get a RAISE grant, it totally changes. If we get one of the TAP grants, this totally changes. If we get some state ARPA money or whatever, it totally changes. So, these are just listed individually. It all depends on how things play out for funding.

This next section is that short section that goes east and west in front of the new dog park or whatever behind JHS. This is, I think, almost done. I just road my bike on it the other day. The next section is Craighead Forest Connection along South Culberhouse. The thought here is leaving the west entrance to Craighead Forest Park and trying to get north. There are lots of neighborhoods on your east part there that we could tie into Craighead Forest Park there. Anytime there is an opportunity to improve drainage and improve the road at the same time, I think that this is what this is going to look like. And, bringing that all the way up to that new, I don't know the name of it, but coming out of the back of the Southern Hills development, there is like a new road that you all talked about. I think that it is at least going to come up to that point because that intersection right there on Culberhouse and whatever that new road is supposed to be is going to have pedestrian infrastructure. So, we are trying to at least

get to that point because the Southern Hills area has bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure already built in. So, we are immediately tied into that and all of that and all of those neighborhoods east of Culberhouse now get fed into the park.

The next section is, part of our committee too was not just connectivity from neighborhood to neighborhood, but to also some soft trails. And, there are a couple of different soft trails that its going to connect, but there is one that are more rec, tap and we just got the one for, I don't even mention that one, but beside Joe Mack Campbell that we got last year or the last cycle that is going to be soft trails. This next one made the list to be the next phase. On the map, it shows the whole park, but there is a lot of that that has already been done. By the way, if you ride bikes or walk, it is beautiful, if you go out there. But, the southwest portion hasn't been done yet. The southwest segment has not been done yet. And, this represents that section of soft trails for the next phase of that. The next section is a very small section at the top. This is kind of hard to explain. I kind of lean on Craig Light for this one. Because the tune has changed at ARDOT on whether or not they are going to consider active transportation which praise the lord they did because I think it is great that we actually take into consideration the pedestrian moving forward, but it even the Highway Department is great, but this was phased out and developed in different time and they changed their tune as that has been phased out. There is a short section that does not have funded infrastructure, active transportation infrastructure. So, we would have to get that small section. Did I say that right? Good, there you go. What the thought process is and I talked to Derrell about this in our last meeting. We talked about the segment that goes above Johnson Avenue to go all the way out to Greensborough Village. We don't really think that going all the way out to Highway 351 is a safe idea for pedestrians. What I would love to see us is get to the Greensborough Village Development and somehow just go right through the Greensborough Development to get to the backside of Greensboro Road and then get into the Highway 351. And, now we can bypass the intersection which can kind of be busy, especially as they widen it and develop it. So, we would love to just bypass that whole intersection and tie into Greensborough Village. And, now, you are Greensborough Village all the way to downtown and then we are getting all the way almost to Sage Meadows as far as on that Highway 351. So, that is why you are only seeing a small portion of that. Because the rest of it is built into ARDOT design.

Next is the south Caraway Road dedicated bike path. That is set to be redeveloped and when that happens, it is in the development of having a dedicated bike path on the side there. That is another example of urban tacticalism. All you have got to do is look at the east side of that road and there is literally just a beaten path where people walk up and down there. So, it behooves all of us to give them a safe place to either roll or walk or what have you. So, I think that there's a couple of these that are no brainers. The next section is Johnson to Parker Park side path Main Street. I believe this is, is this part of the SAFER Streets that we just received around \$5 million or so? Mayor Copenhaver said, correct. Mr. Shatley went on to say, so there is going to be really two paths to get people from downtown to the Northside Park. I don't know if that is going to have a new name or whatever. Does anybody know what I'm talking about? The Northside Park. So, now, you will be able to go up Main Street and also the RAISE grant kind of jogs over and both of those feed into that north park. So, that is the north spoke of the One Jonesboro Plan.

Lastly, on the list is the soft trail. This path is on the One Jonesboro Plan also that comes out of the backside of Home Depot and that is Higginbottom Creek. That is being eyeballed because there is really no obstructions to put in a soft trail there. Our committee leans towards soft trails to start with. If we have an opportunity because

they are cheaper to do and then we can look at the usage of them when as if they need to be upgraded into an asphalt or a concrete, at least we can see the usage, to see whether people are using them or not before we invest millions of dollars on hard surfaces. So, there is an opportunity to take people from Home Depot all the way back to, I think it's Crestfield, in the back of that neighborhood back there. I can't remember the name of the neighborhood. It's not Kensington. It is somewhere in the back of the neighborhood back there. It is Crestfield and tie it into that neighborhood into a bridge. And, so now, that's about to be, you're getting closer from the bypass to Craighead Forest Park. And, the thought process is we have got a couple of hurdles that we have to figure out. We have got to get across the bypass. We either have to go under it, over it, or readapt a couple of overpasses, either at Harrisburg Road or Southwest Drive. So, that is going to be a pressing issue to figure out how we get pedestrians across the bypass. So, that is one thing that we are looking at. You know, there are a couple of hurdles. There is Johnson Avenue, how do you get across that? Do you interact with traffic? Do you go under? Do you go over? So, there is about three or four big hurdle, river type things that we have identified that are really not part of this, but we are just trying to feed and get options to funnel people to those areas and then we will solve those when we get to them. So, that is kind of the list. I tried to blast through this. These are what we ranked top and they got put into a formula that ranked them like I said. These is going to be our presentation to the Mayor's Office and to you to say this is what we found. This is committee members going out in your own community trying to figure out what is the best way. We are working with Engineering to say what is the cheapest way? Is there anything in the way when we go through there? Do we need to move a street over? So, there is a lot of thought processes put into this in my opinion. We have got a lot of work to do to protect pedestrians and bicyclists and people who roll and walk. This is a great first step. And, as you can see on the last slide, this is what we have now, if we can make this happen, this is what our city looks like now. So, this is what I would prefer our town look like. This is starting to build out a lot of the spokes and a lot of the infrastructure of the One Jonesboro Plan. And, now, do we look at this and say okay we are going to hand this to you all and then we are going to start working on the next connections and just stay ahead because we are so far behind. We really are and it is no fault to the administration here. We all know that 20, 30, or 40 years have gone by and very little has been done for active infrastructure. So, that is why we are here. This is our passion. We are presenting this. Kudos to our committee and I thank them for their work and you all should thank them for their work. But, that concludes my presentation. If you have questions, I will attempt to answer them.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I have a question. I might have missed it, but behind Northside Park, going to Highway 141, was that part of this presentation or did you talk about that any? I heard you talk about Northside Park, but behind Northside Park, going to Highway 141? Mr. Shatley asked, going west?

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, going west. Mr. Shatley said, there is a street right there that will go back to Highway 141. You will have to go south just a little bit from Northside Park. That very tip right there is right at the parking lot of Northside Park. So, it does make it over to Highway 141. Mayor Copenhaver said, the accessibility will be from the south side and the west side Dr. Coleman. Mr. Shatley said, that is correct. Mayor Copenhaver said, Mr. Shatley, I appreciate your presentation and your time this evening and I am looking forward to continuing working with you and your committee and I know the Council appreciates this. This gives the city a vision and I will say I want the Council to be aware that as Mr. Shatley mentioned, I made several notes, that we have been allocating in every opportunity for additional federal funding, additional state funding, where appropriate and then also grants. So, every opportunity, sometimes multiple asks are being made for several

different areas and aspects of this plan in order to get funding so we can utilize those resources. So, again, thank you and this prioritizes things and I appreciate the committee members being present this evening. Thank you for your time.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, thanks Andy. I would also ask that we kind of just keep the momentum going on this rather than pushing pause. I mean there is some low hanging fruit here that I think we can take care of pretty immediately. Mayor Copenhagen said, as a matter of fact, on the Marion Berry Overpass, we are working with Arkansas State University at this present time to present a grant application that will be submitted here. I don't think Jeremy is here this evening. But, by the end of April that we would know within 30 days. So, that would give us financial direction after those 30 days to where we need to go on the Marion Berry Overpass. So, again, thank you very much.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I think the other thing this does is I know the spending plan that you are working on redoing where before you just had a bucket of money in there, this actually gives us a plan that we are not going to be where are we going to put it. We know where we want to put it. And, I agree with Chris. This is some low hanging fruit that could make a tremendous difference in our pedestrian safety in Jonesboro. Mayor Copenhagen said, tentatively. Thank you councilman.

Councilmember David McClain said, I just want to ask one question to you. I don't know if Andy wants to answer, but I am trying to understand. So, we took, maybe go back to Lowes and Associates plan, One Jonesboro Plan, and we are combining it. We went through that and found the top. We prioritized what was important versus maybe something that is a little further out and not as connected or not as close to homes, points of interest, etc. Is that what I am understanding? Mayor Copenhagen said, that is correct.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

Absent: 1 - Mitch Johnson

[MIN-24:025](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 19, 2024

Attachments: [CC Minutes 03192024](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-24:018](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA),

FY 2023 49 U.S.C SECTION 5307 FORMULA GRANT FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION (JET)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-021-2024

[RES-24:019](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH THE GEARHEAD OUTFITTERS TO PROVIDE A MIRACLE LEAGUE TEAM WITH SPONSORSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000 FOR THE 2024 MIRACLE LEAGUE SPRING SEASON

Attachments: [Miracle League Sponsorship- Signed](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-022-2024

[RES-24:021](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ATTORNEY TO CERTIFY FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO FOR THE 2024 ANNUAL FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (JET)

Attachments: [FY24-certifications](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-023-2024

[RES-24:022](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH FIRST HORIZON BANK FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ARTIFICIAL TURF SOCCER/FOOTBALL FIELD AT JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Attachments: [Joe Mack Soccer Field Sponsorship \(First Horizon\)](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-024-2024

[RES-24:023](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH THE HARMONY HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF SPONSORING A MIRACLE LEAGUE TEAM FOR THE 2024 SPRING SEASON TEAM WITH SPONSORSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000

Attachments: [MiracleLeague Harmony Hearing](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-025-2024

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-24:006](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 6-30 CLARIFYING REQUIREMENTS TO GET A NEW OR CHANGING ALCOHOL PERMIT ON THE COUNCIL AGENDA

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to

suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:006 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-24:010](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF JONESBORO AND CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTINUING THE SHARED EXPENSES OF CRAIGHEAD COUNTY JONESBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY OF ARKANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [County Interlocal Library 2024](#)
 [Craighead Cty Judge 20240401 151423](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:010 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, I had a question about it and my information came from the Jonesboro Sun and a conversation with one of the Quorum Court members. Was it correct that we provide more money than the Quorum Court to the library and have fewer appointments to the board? Was that the situation? Mayor Copenhagen asked, Tony, do you have a response to that? Did you hear the question? Chief Operations Officer Tony Thomas said, no I don't. I took note of that, but I don't have a direct response in that regard as to what that balance is. Just from my time at Craighead County as well as time here at Jonesboro, I just don't know that number right off of the top of my head. Councilmember Moore said, and I didn't know either. And, I don't have to know tonight. We will read it obviously two more occasions, but I am just curious if we are putting the majority of the money into a project, but we have the fewest number of votes if that is the case. City Attorney Carol Duncan noted, and I will say this is something and I think I was mentioned in the Jonesboro Sun as well, but when approached by Judge Day and counsel for the county, what they had expressed is that the state law changed and required that you were to renew interlocal agreements every five years. And, when they were looking through all of the interlocal agreements at the county, they discovered this one had not been renewed since the '40's or '50's, somewhere in there. And, so, it then made it to the top of their radar because obviously tax money is affiliated, well, you know, we levy that money every year and so the collector wanted us to get something on the books. So, we will readdress this every five years. This was just a way to clarify an error that had not been addressed. It had been 40 or 50 years since we had an interlocal agreement. Councilmember Moore said, I knew it had been a long time. I knew since I'd been on the Council, we'd never discussed the positions on the Library Board or who appoints them or how they are appointed. Ms. Duncan said, right. And, I had asked some of those questions and I think they are open to discussions about that. There is nothing that says we have to wait five years to keep going, but they just wanted to get something on the books because tax money is being levied. Councilmember Moore said, I think it would be a pretty simple operation of just tying the amount of contribution to the number of seats. But, then again, nothing is simple. That was the only question I had Mr. Mayor. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your question. Councilmember David McClain said, I don't have a question, it is more of a comment. I know this is something that we do or something that we should have done a long time ago, but maybe looking at what other agreements. We just talked about trail stuff, so maybe there are some other agreements that we need to start to work towards in terms of that. Whether it be trails, mosquitos, or whatever the case may be, to work with the county. I know Garrett is here from the Quorum Court, but maybe we need to sit down and have some conversations about how we can work together to fund things so we are not the only ones trying to fund them for Craighead County. Mayor Copenhagen said, noted.

Garrett Barnes, 518 W. Jefferson, said, so to answer your question Councilman Moore, but before doing so, I want to say good evening to the Council and city employees that are here and guests and media as well. Councilman Moore definitely has the coolest name plate of the Council over here with best dad ever. So, I want to throw that out there. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I would disagree with it. Mr. Barnes said, so, you know, to answer your question, it is roughly \$1.8 million that the City of Jonesboro solely within its geospatial boundaries contributes to the 1 mill that is collected. Most recently, the 2023 tax receipts which are available through the county and its respective office whether you go through Collector Edington or you go through Treasurer McNatt. The easiest source that I have found to get that was through the Library itself because they receive that in funding and revenues so they have the receipts for that to match it. And, Craighead County, which is encompassing all incorporated areas that aren't the City of Jonesboro as well as all areas that are all unincorporated, which that equals about \$750,000 roughly. I would have to go back and look at the exact receipts to know that. And, fortunately, tonight, I kind of have the receipts on that topic and I think that it is a very important topic to discuss further and it is a very good snapshot of how critical and vital the City of Jonesboro, its citizens, its taxpayers, and its residents are to the operations of Craighead County. So, I don't speak on behalf of the Quorum Court or any other officials of the county or employees. But, I want to say thank you as a Quorum Court member for District 2 here in Craighead County and as a citizen with you in that collection and generation of revenue. And, Jonesboro is crucial to the operations of Craighead County, not just in the library, but on other topics as well too. Most notably the jail, most notably mosquito services that take place around this area. Jonesboro is not crossing over into Craighead County or other incorporated areas with that, but we stand to benefit in the county by what you invest into mosquito services in which there is not currently a single budget item for that with Craighead County. And, I want you to know that I am aware of that and I am certainly very appreciative of that into the budget you passed as a council. So, I ultimately voted yes for this when it came through the Quorum Court and that is because the sections in it aside from not having a nominations section looked pretty good to me. It would be nice to have an appraisal of the library since the county owns it and the county references it in its agreement. As a public and governmental building, it doesn't have to pay property taxes which you know. But, it can still be appraised internally. So, that would be nice to have, but that is not something that is a hill to die on for me. And, there is really no hill to die on per say, but I am open for sure with looking at how we can amend this to reflect if it be the will of the council and it be the will of the people that we serve to have a nomination section. And, currently, with that revenue breakdown like it is with the current composition of seven board members, that would look like five for the city which would be appointed through the Mayor as Chief Executive Officer and two would be through the position of County Judge. It is really important to note and I'll conclude with this for now on this at the first reading that the area that the position of County Judge is getting to nominate on behalf includes areas that are not within their enumerated authority as County Judge which would be incorporated areas that aren't the City of Jonesboro. They have a Council-Mayor structure just like the City of Jonesboro. So, the nominations as it currently stands in my humble opinion, is inflated in that regard for the position of County Judge, not just to mention the revenue aspect of it as well. So, I am very open to at a future time maybe amending this with you. I would love to work with you on it. And, I appreciate your time tonight and hope you have a great evening. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you J.P. Barnes. I appreciate you being here this evening. You got your answer Chris. Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mayor, I didn't hear Mr. Barnes say what the current breakdown was. What is the current breakdown of the positions on the Library Board? Mr. Barnes said, so, currently, the

Mayor of Jonesboro has three nominations and the County Judge has four. And, like Attorney Duncan mentioned, this precedes current administrations. This is not about any particular individual. This is not even political at all. This is simply about property taxes and representation on the board for the taxation that is collected.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-24:008](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3, LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1323 STRAWFLOOR DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY HORIZON LAND SURVEYING ON BEHALF OF TILLER LAND DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Attachments: [Staff Summary - CC](#)
[Signed Rezoning Application](#)
[COJ Rezoning - Adjoining Property Owner Notification](#)
[H22-173 Phipps-Strawfloor-Rezoning Plat](#)
[Certified Mail Receipt](#)
[Zoning Signs](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-24:009](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR QVW Holdings, Inc., d/b/a BRASAS MEXICAN GRILL OF JONESBORO.

Attachments: [Brasas Private Club Permit_Redacted](#)
[Brasas Menu](#)
[brasas receipt](#)

James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, I have had people stopping me as I am walking down the sidewalk over the last two weeks. I have had phone calls. People are, and I hope you all are too, because it is bad if people are calling me and not their city council. But, there are a lot of people who are very much opposed to putting one of these clubs in right across the street from Jonesboro High School. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you for your comments.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, I was here two weeks ago. I know, Carol, I asked you a couple of questions about the distance and stuff like that. So, I called up the ABC Board the following day and I asked you guys whether or not we had to specify or you guys had to specify or the company had to specify individual 501(c)3 company or organization and from what they said, was is that it is all up to you guys. It is up to the city, in particular if they want to make you guys say that this club here is going to have this organization as their 501(c)3 organization. So, that is what they told me on that one right there. So, that clarified that question right there. The other one, question I asked about how many feet and on there, it was how many feet must a licensed premise must be from a school, church, or residence and it is 1,000 feet from border to border that you have. But, on there, the following comment, it said that the law states that the ABC may deny any retail license located within that immediate vicinity. So, this is talking about the ABC Board denying it. But, when I read that is

that when is says any retail license, well, if you look up the definition of retail, it is a sale of goods to the public in a small quantity for use or consumption. So, I guess it is the way you guys are all going to interpret that on that. Whether, you know, the retail because they are buying the alcohol wholesale and they are selling it for retail on that. So, is it a retail business? But, that was for the ABC. That is just something for you guys to ponder over because I know it's been questioned being so close to the high school. The other one that they said is that a business must be running for one year underneath that name to apply for an alcohol license. So, I guess, in this case, is that you guys give the authorization for a permit and then they go down to the ABC Board. But, they have to be in business for one year. And, I guess the question to, well, that's what they had told me. Carol, I know you are shaking your head. That's what they had told me. I'm just saying is that I know that the other couple of weeks ago there was a brewery that we approved for a liquor license out at Southern Hills, but the building is not built yet. But, you guys gave the authorization, but they have to be in business for a year to serve alcohol. So, can you clarify? City Attorney Carol Duncan said, I can clarify. The nonprofit has to have existed for a year. So, the nonprofit may have been in existence, not the establishment that is selling the alcohol. The nonprofit that it is operating under has to have been in existence for a year. Ms. Lack said, okay, well that makes a difference then. Alright. Okay. And, then the other last one is that who in this city and Carol you can answer this one, who in this city has a list of all of the companies that have or businesses that have alcohol permits and how do we verify that they are giving the donations to these organizations. Who is that person? Ms. Duncan said, the city has a list of all alcohol establishments because they pay us taxes. Ms. Lack said, okay. Ms. Duncan said, so, the Collector's Office would have a list of all of the alcoholic licenses in the city that pay us taxes. The city is not in charge of enforcing whether they give money to their nonprofits or not. That would be the ABC. Ms. Lack said, okay. So, it would be the ABC? The ABC controls everybody in the State of Arkansas then? Ms. Duncan said, yes. Ms. Lack said, okay. Ms. Duncan said, as for the 1,000 feet, that is talking about a liquor store, a retail liquor establishment is a liquor store. So, when I clarified with the ABC after your question last week, they said there are no restrictions on churches or schools in a dry county. It is only liquor stores which we don't have here. So, that why it is not in the section. If you read the ABC regulations and you look at dry counties, then there is nothing in there about restrictions on distance from schools or churches. That is not to say that council can't make a decision. I'm just saying that it is not an automatic restriction about it because it is only applied to liquor stores which aren't allowed in dry counties anyway. Ms. Lack said, well, I guess, once again is that a lot of the rules and regulations sometimes are kind of shady on that. So, you are saying that the Collector is the one that collects all the money and to find out. Ms. Duncan said, the Collector collects the alcohol taxes and would know we have. Ms. Lack asked, and then to find out who the businesses give to the 501(c)3 companies, that is through the ABC Board? Ms. Duncan said, as far as I know. If anybody regulates, I know the City of Jonesboro does not regulate that. Ms. Lack said, okay. Ms. Duncan said, I assume they do, but the city does not. Ms. Lack said, okay, I will find out. All right, thanks.

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-24:007](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson

Chris Moore, that this matter be Passed. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

Absent: 1 - Mitch Johnson

Enactment No: O-EN-011-2024

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

Councilmember Williams I know you will be pleased with me starting out, I hope you have seen the HAWK light installation has begun. Councilmember Ann Williams said, I took a picture and sent it to Keith Inman. He wasn't real impressed with my photography. But, I immediately, I was walking my dog and I saw it happening and it was so exciting to see that happening, actually happening. Mayor Copenhaver said, it is good. It is disheartening that it takes such a long process to get us there. And, so obviously, we are preparing for the second HAWK light, a request, by Parker Park. And, so, hopefully, we are ahead of that as we continue to move forward with that project.

I would like to say in the Mayor's Reports, we had a grant announcement of \$1 million federal appropriation for jobs and safety infrastructure announced at the last City Council meeting. The \$1 million allotment is from the 2024 Transportation HUD appropriations bill which was championed by U.S. Congressman Rick Crawford. \$500,000 will go toward utility routing for recently purchased addition to Craighead Technology Park and the other \$500,000 towards improvements to the Jonesboro Real Time Crime Center. This is a win for both residents and the Technology Industrial Park in Jonesboro. As improving our city includes infrastructure for new jobs as well as investing in Public Safety that are a high priority. We are grateful for those to have represent Jonesboro on our behalf as well for all for who have worked together continue to keep Jonesboro moving.

Our Jonesboro Fire Department who is always moving celebrated its 125th anniversary on March 27, 2024 in a meaningful recognition of the first ever Fire Chief L.D. Hickey. They placed a wreath and a cigar on his tombstone. They have also celebrated many of our hometown heroes with their Fire Department awards this past Friday.

The Miracle League Park celebrated its opening day this past Saturday morning for its spring season. It was the largest group to date. We had over 100 participants in attendance Saturday before Easter. So, it is great to see so many out in the community. And, if you have not gone out to the Miracle League Park to participate, it is a very meaningful experience and I wish you would do so.

Within the community this week, I also attended Taiwanese Economic Dinner at Arkansas State Chancellor's Dining Room in the Reng Center. We visited with Taiwanese representatives who traveled in and from Houston, Texas. We discussed economic growth and the importance and of course, obviously, those that are participating with Arkansas State University from the Taiwanese families abroad and how we can engage them more importantly in the educational and economic tools and partnership with the Taiwanese community abroad.

We also have a brand new news source in town, JonesboroRightNow by the Jonesboro Radio Group. Their new website was launched today so check it out.

Don't forget that the April neighborhood cleanup is this Saturday, April 6th from 8:00 a.m. until noon at 901 W. Huntington Avenue. So, bring your trash and pick up your lawn bags. We are actually going around the neighborhoods as well to pick up trash for those who are not able to bring it. We expect a big turnout this weekend for that and I appreciate your team for facilitating that along with Sanitation as well.

I don't know if you've heard, but this weekend will be busy. We have many visitors coming into town obviously for the total eclipse. Expect a lot of extra people in town. You may want to run your errands over the next couple of days to avoid traffic.

So, on Sunday, the OASIS Arts & Eats Festival will take place from noon until 4:00 p.m. in downtown Jonesboro. But, we do anticipate that it lasting longer than just a four hour period. This will have arts, crafts, food, live entertainment, and family fun activities. So, we are sure that there will be a great time for visitors and residents alike.

We want to be prepared for a safe and fun eclipse experience. Pick up your own free eclipse viewing glasses here at City Hall, the Chamber of Commerce, and Craighead County Public Library. And, make plans for viewing the eclipse safely and please welcome the influx of visitors with our Jonesboro hospitality. I will say many have been involved in this process and Council, many of your Directors have coordinated these efforts. We do not have any of our 911 or first responders, they are all on work that day. Nobody is taking any leave. So, we will be priority areas in the community. Hopefully, this will go smoothly and safely and we can all enjoy that day. A lot of schools, obviously, are going to be out as well. So, we are going to be adjusting accordingly. Hopefully, we have prepared well. We have been doing so for over the last nine months. So, I appreciate the collaborative effort of many of the organizations and our departments and the employees.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I have two items. May 18th, our annual fish plate will be given away, so we will be doing that again over on Fisher Street. June 1st we will also have a cleanup, a community cleanup. We will be at the Fisher Street United Methodist Church parking lot. I have already talked to Scott about that and set that up so June 1st, we will have a cleanup in that area. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Councilman.

Councilmember David McClain said, the only thing I have, we will have a car seat safety check at my office on the 15th. If anyone has a car seat that they would like for JPD to check, come by my office. You can, or if you know somebody, or if you need one even, but it is going to be Monday, April 15th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. It is also tax day. If you need us to check, please feel free to come by. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I have two things today. I know on and I see Danny here, he missed the last committee meeting so, but I did ask this and I want to make sure that it is on tonight's meeting that where are we on the Master Parks Plan? I know that we said that we extended it from November and said that it would possibly be in January and so now it is April and I haven't seen that. We have got a lot of plans even mentioning the connectivity, the one that Shatley presented.

Great information, but I just want to see how all of this is working together and make sure we have that completed. And, in that Parks Plan, I know that the east area, my ward, are plans for that park over there or some park which is great. I was having without giving too much information, I had a small procedure at NEA and there were countless health professionals that asked about a park over there as well as making certain that it does have some trails and so on and so forth. So, I didn't know if that was in the works, didn't know if it was discussed which I think it is why it is a good idea if we can get this Master Parks Plan out. I don't know when it is being presented. But, the other part, the other thing that leads to my question on the ARPA funds. I know they need to be appropriated in the next few months. And, so, I just kind of wanted to see where we are on that in the very near future. Thank you. That is all I have. Mayor Copenhaver said, councilman, what we will do is follow up with that. We do have plans in place for full presentation to the council and we do have several committee meetings left on that, but it is coming to fruition very quickly. And, then on the east side park, obviously, you know we have been working on that and we are having final conversations with several entities at this point and it should be hopefully we will have more of a direction with that in the next week or so. So, I will follow up with some emails to council. Thank you.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, just a quick statement. It was mentioned earlier tonight in the Public Works Council Committee meeting about ordinances not being followed from time to time and things like that. If that is happening, I don't think any of us sat up here and passed ordinances that we think are not going to improve Jonesboro just to say we had those ordinances in place. So, if those situations are happening, then I hope steps are happening to get them corrected as soon as possible. Thank you.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I had more kind of a question for Councilmember McClain, what about Nominating & Rules? Are we saving what we did? Councilmember David McClain said, yes, we couldn't walk it on tonight because we didn't motion to walk it on. Councilmember Bryant said, okay.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Elywin Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, before the City of Jonesboro got involved in this thing, I took this map into the City Clerk's Office and talked about an event that was going to be happening in April of 2024 that we needed to start being prepared for. That event as you know, is upon us this weekend. I want to thank the people who have been doing the preparations, for the job they have done. I want to thank them in advance. I definitely want to thank in advance those that will be working because of all of the extra work this is going to bring and hopefully it is going to be a very good thing for Jonesboro. If you all know how good it turned out and how well they did, ask me Tuesday. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. Hinds.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Joe Hafner, seconded by Councilperson Chris Moore, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

Absent: 1 - Mitch Johnson

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk