



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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 BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 10 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent 2 - Bobby Long and David McClain

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-22:031](#)

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NEAIDC)
ANNUAL REPORT

Attachments: [NAIDC Report 1st QTR 2022](#)
[NAIDC Annual Report 2021](#)
[Contract City-NAIDC 2022](#)

Mark Young, President and CEO of the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, said, I appreciate the opportunity to be here today. I appreciate all that you do to support our businesses in our community. I am reminded each and every day what a great community we have and what great businesses we have here. So, thank you for all that you do to support them. It is my privilege today to be with you to supply the Northeast Arkansas Economic Development Council's report. What I would like to do is really three things. One, we will talk a little bit about economic activity. Talk about some key initiatives, some that have been existing for years, others that are new to us. And, lastly, I will give you a construction update with some drone video that hopefully will help show you sort of the scale of some of these projects and the importance of those. As always, I am going to try to keep this as brief as I can. If you have questions, I will be happy to answer them, but always know that you can always reach out and call me or send me an email and I will be happy to visit with you at any time. So, we will jump right into it.

The last three months we have continued to do relatively well. We have had seven new inquiries, seventeen for the year. That is about on par for what we typically see during this time of year. Fall is our busiest time of year. We see more activity during that time so we expect that things will continue to pick up. Business retention and expansion

continues to be extremely important. We continue to work to assist our business and industries as they consider expanding in our community. So, you will see thirteen of those projects for the year to date and seven for this last quarter. And, lastly, market research typically refers to retail projects that we are working on. So, you can identify that we have had nine for these last three months and seventeen for this year to date as well. So, activity is going well. We anticipate that will continue. Obviously, there has been some impact with inflation and other issues, supply chain issues, etc. that have impacted many, many people, but we are pleased with the numbers and hope they continue to move forward. This is a slide that will reflect the Craighead Technology Park. In yellow, you will see the rail infrastructure that exists in the park. A couple of things that I wanted to mention and thank both the City and Craig Light in particular, as we continue to look at infrastructure improvements in the park, one of the key items has been the rail storage facility. It is currently being constructed. The second phase of that is being constructed. The first phase is underway. That is part of a master plan that the city put together to make sure that rail was not a constraint for us as we move forward and continue to serve our business and industry. So, it is very important to us as we continue to look to provide support to our companies. Also, I was able to appear before you all several times over a rezoning issue. You will see in red the property that was rezoned. That is 237 acres just south of the existing Craighead Technology Park. It was originally zoned residential. We needed to rezone that to I-2. Obviously one of the things that we are currently working on that is extremely important is to continue to look at infrastructure improvements, water, waste water, electricity, and rail to serve this site and other properties south of it. So, we will keep you updated, but progress is being made. This was another step in that process and something that we really needed to get accomplished so we appreciate your support in being able to do that.

There are auto suppliers in Northeast Arkansas. You are probably familiar with many of those. We actually anticipate that there is an opportunity for additional suppliers to be in Northeast Arkansas. Many of you have kept up with the project Blue Oval which is a Ford Motor Company project in West Tennessee. Our Industrial Park is almost 100 miles from that site. So, when you think about supplier supplying that project in the future, oftentimes suppliers want to be outside of that immediate area where the initial original equipment manufacturer is, and being just outside of that for labor purposes, etc. So, we anticipate there is an opportunity for Eastern Arkansas in the near future for some additional auto suppliers. You will see in the top left corner, we are participating in a conference right now. The Center for Automotive Research is currently underway. Steven Lamm is a colleague of mine who is there and visiting with people about Jonesboro. One of the things that we did, another member of our team put together some very customized marketing material to talk with specifically about why Jonesboro and this region can support those kinds of jobs and those kinds of companies. And, we will keep you posted on the progress that is being made in relation to that, but we are looking forward to opportunities there.

Some of you may follow Jonesboro Unlimited and follow some of the marketing material that we put out. I will highlight two things that are before you. Craig Rickert does a tremendous job for us in relation to videos and other marketing material. Recently, there are two products that have been put out. One is a video blog if you will that highlighted Slade Mitchell and Slade really talked about City, Water and Light and our utility system and how that really separates our community from many others in terms of cost and quality of services. Slade did a great job. It is a short video if you get the chance to look at it, take a look at it. But, we proactively sent that video to the site location consultants and some companies that we were working with and then it lives on our website as well for others to see. Craig also highlighted the second quarter highlights recently as part of that video series. And, you will see more and more of that

activity as we continue to use technology to get our message across.

Some of you may be familiar with this and Carol is smiling because Chester Cheetah is up there and who doesn't smile at Chester Cheetah. But, one of the things that started about six to eight weeks ago, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Arkansas Business have sponsored a program called the coolest things made in Arkansas. Jonesboro was very fortunate, out of sixteen nominations, to have two products that were highlighted in that original sixteen. And, it has sort of been like a basketball competition if you will. You are paired against other products that are made in Arkansas. But, the purpose of this is really to highlight great products that are made throughout Arkansas. For us, it gave us the opportunity to highlight great products that are made in Jonesboro. On the right hand side, you will see a 16 oz. stout bottle that is produced by Arkansas Glass. We were so excited that it was part of that process and people were able to learn more about Arkansas Glass and the products that they make. Also, on the left hand side, you will see Cheetos that are made here in Jonesboro. And, again, obviously, those are two great products. We are proud to support both of those in this initiative. So, Cheetos has made it to the final eight. As we like to say, vote early and vote often. You can actually go online and vote once a day from a single address, internet address. So, we ask that you do that and consider to do that. You can see the link on our Jonesboro Unlimited Facebook page to get connected if you would like to do that. We would like to encourage all of our community to do that. Councilmember Joe Hafner stated, as someone who works for Arkansas Glass, I would like to say that we got beat by a missile. So, if you put a glass container against a missile (sic). Mr. Young said, missiles are hard to compete with. There is a jet that is in the competition. It is an interesting process. But, again, so pleased and excited because this allows us as a community to highlight and focus on great products that we make. And, there are a lot of people that don't realize the kinds of products that are made in our community. This gives us that chance to do that and we are going to continue to promote that and I would encourage you to do that as well. So, thank you and thank you Joe for that.

Also, many of you are familiar with TekStarz which is our main summer manufacturing camp for seventh and eighth graders. We held it in June, had a great response. The students learn about all kinds of different manufacturing careers that are available in our community, also technology careers that are in our community. They actually make products as part of that process. They get to work with their hands and we really tried to expose them to many different careers. Some of you are familiar with the Be Pro, Be Proud mobile unit which again talks about different kinds of careers that are available in Arkansas. It was part of that process too. But, some people will say so why is that important? Why do you do that? It is a Workforce Development initiative, right. And, one of the things that I will mention to you, this is an anecdotal story. When we were going through that rezoning process, I was at the MAPC meeting to talk about our particular project and there were two young engineers that were making a presentation just prior to our presentation and one of them looked very familiar to me, but at first I couldn't place him and they made their presentation. After we made our presentation, I looked at him and called his name. He is a young man that eight years ago participated in TekStarz. Today, he is an engineer in our community. That is why we do it, right. We want to continue to excite students about the opportunities that are here and for them to pursue their dreams and continue to be in Jonesboro and be a significant part of our business community. So, TekStarz was a great success and we are pleased with it as well.

I am going to push a button and you will see some drone video, but on your left hand side is Colson. Colson is in the process of completely moving into their new facility

which is 147,000 sq. ft. This will give you a little bit of an idea of the scale and location of the facility. They built a beautiful facility. They are very excited about it. They are probably about 80% moved in, but they will continue to move in throughout the rest of this year. They are in production which is great. Spirit Fitness is next door to them. If you have not driven out there, they are really in the final stages of construction. We are excited about that project. Obviously, you are aware that they are already in the Industrial Park and in a different location and in a very large facility and they are adding to that. And, lastly, this is Camfil. This is 250,000 sq. ft. This has already changed. This was about two weeks ago. They have actually painted. So, if you have driven by and go that doesn't look like it, they painted. And, again, we are really pleased with that construction. Nestle also continues with their project, their hundred million dollar and hundred person expansion. So, when you think about our existing industries and their continued growth here, we spend a significant amount of time working with them. It is important that we do that. And, I have said this before you before, it is great to get new companies to Jonesboro and we love that. We also love that when we see companies that have been here five-years to seventy-five years who are investing in our community, I think that is a strong message about the kind of business community that we are and excited about these companies as they continue to grow in Jonesboro.

Also, a couple of groundbreakings and a ribbon cutting, on the left, Tiger Commissary on June 22nd on West Washington had their groundbreaking. We are excited about that project. On the bottom right, is the groundbreaking for Hytrol in the E-Commerce Park. They are adding 150,000 sq. ft. warehouse space. And, we are excited that they continue to grow in our community. The Mayor and I spoke earlier today about this, the Highland Drive overpass and how important that was to the community and to the industries that are out there. Obviously, from a time standpoint, it saves a lot of time with that overpass open, but more importantly, and something that you all discussed numerous times is the safety factor. It is so much more safe and we are so excited that this is open and we are happy to help celebrate that day. It was good day in Jonesboro for sure.

One of the things that we were able to do this summer that was interesting, sort of a pilot project for us, but we hold events called Get to Know Jonesboro. Typically, those are for new employees in our community who have moved here. We were approached by a couple of companies who have had interns that were going to be in Jonesboro. These interns literally came here all the way from Alaska to Pennsylvania to Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas and everywhere in between. And, so while they are having a great work experience at many of our companies, we also wanted to demonstrate to them that Jonesboro is a great place to live so that when they finish their schooling, they might consider moving back to Jonesboro if these job opportunities might exist. So, you see before you those individuals who participated. And, a special thanks to Frito-Lay, Hytrol, and Waddell, Cole and Jones who let us borrow their interns if you will for the day, show them around the community, talk about what is special about Jonesboro. One of the things that they did as a group was actually work at the Northeast Arkansas Food Bank and we are excited for what they did there. So, part of that was giving back to the community as well. And, we think that is important and one of the things that makes Jonesboro special. We have so many people that do that. So, this was a great project, something that we are going to continue to do, but we are going to add companies to this and grow the program so that during the summers when all of our companies have internships that we are able to host this. And, again, make sure that those students see all sides of Jonesboro and the great opportunities to live and work here.

Lastly, I will mention that Jonesboro Unlimited and many of our partners in the

community are working on branding in our community. One of the things that you can do to really help us is to give us your feedback and input. So, the QR code actually works if anybody wants to take a picture of that. But, Bill Campbell has put out the link previously for the City of Jonesboro. We are going to ask him to do that again. If you have not participated yet, we would encourage everyone that is here to participate and go online and give us your thoughts and input. That will really help craft our message as we continue to move forward and collaborating on branding our community and doing a better job telling our story. So, it is very important to get your feedback. I would encourage you to do that. I am going to stop there. There are obviously lots of other things we can talk about. I will be happy to answer any questions that you have. And, again, I know your agenda is packed tonight so if you have questions later, I would be happy to answer those as well. Does anybody have any questions?

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Council, I will make comments. Mark, I appreciate this morning. Council, once every quarter JEDC meets and basically, I gave a presentation as well every quarter for the city. What we have done, the collaborative effort that we continue to work through with Jonesboro Unlimited and JEDC and the Chamber of Commerce is imperative. We are all on the right track and that is what is going to bring success. So, thanks again for your work Mark. Mr. Young said, thank you so much Mayor. Thank you councilmembers as well.

Read

[COM-22:033](#)

PRESENTATION OF FIVE-YEAR SERVICE PIN TO COUNCILMEMBER L.J. BRYANT

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, how time flies when you are having fun. It is my honor to present this to Councilmember Bryant. And, for those in the audience, this is a five year pin. This is a certification that your appreciation to not only other councilmembers, but this administration, and your community in the City of Jonesboro. We appreciate your efforts and continued efforts. Congratulations on this milestone. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, thank you Mayor. I appreciate it. Thank you.

Read

[COM-22:032](#)

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW OF THE UNITED WAY BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RACHEL GUERIN

Mayor Copenhaver stated, I have made one other request for a special presentation this evening and the reason I'm asking that is because I attended an annual meeting from the United Way. And, I am very impressed with their new Director. And, I think it is important that we, as a community, see their new Director, hear what their goals are, how they are going to achieve things moving forward. But, United Way plays a very integral part in our community and what they provide. So, Ms. Rachel Guerin, would you please come forward. I have asked her to make a presentation and she was more than willing to do so. So, I am looking forward to it. Thank you Rachel.

Ms. Rachel Guerin, Executive Director of the United Way of Northeast Arkansas, came to the podium to speak. Ms. Guerin said, thank you Mayor and Councilmembers. How is everyone this evening? Mayor Copenhaver replied, good. Ms. Guerin said, it is a pleasure to chat with you all tonight. I am Rachel Guerin. I am a lifelong citizen of Jonesboro. It is a beautiful city. I love living here. I also have the new honor of being the Executive Director of the United Way of Northeast Arkansas. We have a lot of initiatives happening. And, I just kind of want to let you know what is going on and what we are working on. At the United Way, we work to unite resources including people, funding, ideas, government leaders, and many others to drive

measurable change and impact. We have three major pillars at the United Way that our funding works to address. These include health, financial stability, and education over nine counties including Craighead. Most recently, as the Mayor said, we had the honor of granting eighteen nonprofit organizations in the area over \$300,000 in grant funding for their 2023 programs. Our volunteers and our staff work tirelessly to raise that money through our annual campaign, our events, our corporate sponsorships, and individuals donors. And, we are so proud to be able to put the funds into good use by targeting issues that are affecting our people every single day and inhibiting their ability to thrive. These programs include several that address food insecurity, crisis shelters, school supplies, literacy, afterschool programs, free tax prep, programs fighting addiction, human trafficking, Court Appointed Special Advocates for children, and access to healthcare. I could go on and on as we fund multiple organizations yearly who are doing incredible boots on the ground work every single day.

At the United Way, we view ourselves as having the ability to view problems our community faces at a 40,000 foot level. While many organizations have their very specific, very important goals in mind, our job is to bring everyone together to combat larger issues as a whole by uniting them all and avoiding duplicated, under used, or overused resources. One of these current initiatives and current goals of ours is homelessness in Jonesboro. This is a hot topic for us as I know it is for many of you here. Specifically, I am in no way an expert in homelessness, but I do have a view that many do not have and I think it is important for me to shine a light on some definitions on homelessness and what are some hard numbers on what we are facing here and what we are doing to combat that. There are several different kinds of homelessness, but I will define the three most prevalent here in Jonesboro. According to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development in the 2021 Annual Homeless Assessment to Congress, homeless describes a person who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. Chronically homeless refers to an individual with a disability who has been continuously homeless for one year or more who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years where the combined length of time homeless on those occasions is at least twelve months. Sheltered homelessness refers to people who are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens. This topic has been at the forefront of many of my conversations that I have had after taking this position in February.

I thought that putting some of those definitions to terms would be helpful for the next set of data that I share with you. Recently, the Salvation Army of Jonesboro brought in a consulting firm to do a mission planning study. The study showed that homeless trends in Arkansas overall are decreasing, meaning that so much of the work that is being done by many of you, our nonprofits statewide in partnership with city and local state government agencies is working. Between 2007 and 2020, Arkansas point-in-time data shows a decrease of 38% in homelessness statewide, including a drop in sheltered homelessness of 52% and 18% for the unsheltered homeless population. To bring this trend closer to home, according to the Arkansas Balanced State Continuum of Care, Craighead County's homeless population is also decreasing. In 2020, the county had 17 pit counted unsheltered homeless as compared to 12 individuals pit counted in 2021.

I understand that there are five to eight chronically homeless individuals in Jonesboro with most of them making a home in downtown Jonesboro. I wanted to highlight these individuals specifically because I think it is important for me as the Director of the United Way to advocate for the work that the nonprofit directors and their volunteers are putting into helping others. Several of our nonprofit directors have worked to provide resources for all of the homeless individuals including the HUB, the Salvation

Army, CRDC, Mission Outreach, Family Crisis Center. I could go on. There are so many wonderful resources. Many, many churches and other organizations are included in that as well. In fact, most of these directors knows each of these homeless individuals by name and their history. But, unfortunately, most of the homeless population you see downtown is still homeless for a reason. Most of the time they refuse the services offered. According to the Salvation Army's mission planning study, there are a few top reasons why these people do not seek shelter: mental health, social status, trauma experienced while homeless, substance addiction and fear of authority. To help these individuals, we must learn how to provide resources while encouraging them to get back on their feet. Working together as a city and many nonprofit organizations can help us do that, but we need to get a game plan together. At the United Way, we believe that every person is worthy of help. We want homelessness to be completely eradicated in Northeast Arkansas and for all people to thrive. I wanted to shed a light on some of these definitions.

Some of this information, again, this is at a lot of the forefront of my conversations. Please don't think that is all that we are doing. That is one small piece of what we are trying to address with the United Way, one of our biggest projects is uniting resources. So, many of you are familiar with many different resources and a lot of them are being duplicated or underutilized and over utilized. We want to be the leader in that conversation of streamlining all of that. We have a new 211 phone number that is going to be launched later this fall. And, it is basically going to be a number that people can call if they do find themselves in a difficult situation. But, they can call and figure out what resources best suit their needs and can go directly to receive those resources instead of being tossed around to multiple people and multiple organizations. So, as you can see, we have made some incredible progress according to the numbers that I just said. We have a long way to go. We are willing at the United Way to be part of that conversation. I really wanted to just take a moment to bring all of this information together and shed a light on it so that we can be helpful in that conversation. So, I appreciate the few moments of time. There are a thousand things that I could talk about, but I wanted to specifically address that today. Mayor Copenhaver said, well, thank you Ms. Guerin. We can see your passion and we are looking forward to much progress as we move forward together in this city. Ms. Guerin said, absolutely. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you so much for your time this evening.

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5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Bobby Long and David McClain

[MIN-22:064](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 19, 2022

Attachments: [CC Minutes 07192022](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-22:109](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ALLOCATE \$250,000.00 OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS FOR ENHANCED MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

Attachments: [Jonesboro Aerial Proposal Letter](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-110-2022

[RES-22:119](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO CONVEY A PERMANENT EASEMENT TO THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION, AN AGENCY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES

Attachments: [Job 100657 Tract 85S Compensation Estimate](#)
[100657 Tract 85S Contract to Sell](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-111-2022

[RES-22:120](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2022 BUDGET TO ADD TWO NEW PATROL OFFICER POSITIONS IN ORDER TO FILL NEW SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER POSITIONS FOR THE JONESBORO AND NETTLETON SCHOOL DISTRICTS

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-112-2022

[RES-22:121](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ALLOCATE \$500,000.00 OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING AND ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO KINDER BROTHERS EXCAVATING, INC. FOR MISCELLANEOUS DITCH MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Bid 2022-25 Ditch Maintenance Tabulation](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-113-2022

[RES-22:123](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS (OJP) AND ACCEPT THE FY21 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) LOCAL SOLICITATION

Attachments: [Copy of Copy of 2022 JAG Budget](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-114-2022

[RES-22:124](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST ARKANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NEAIDC) FOR FUNDING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Attachments: [NAIDC Report 1st QTR 2022](#)
[NAIDC Annual Report 2021](#)
[Contract City-NAIDC 2022](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-115-2022

[RES-22:125](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR A LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITY AND APPROPRIATE RESTRICTED FUNDS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Attachments: [Police Lease Contract](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-116-2022

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-22:122](#) A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO APPROVE: THE 2022-2026 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND THE 2022 ACTION PLAN THAT INCLUDES THE 2022 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROJECTS AND BUDGET.

Attachments: [FY22 CDBG Five Year Consolidated Plan and FY22 Action Plan](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Council, before we open for discussion and before I open it for discussion. I have my wife and my mother-in-law here with me this evening and she always gives me good advice. Explain to the public what this means. We, as council, have seen what CDBG funding is, but the community needs to realize there are steps in order for this to take place. So, I am taking your advice this evening dear. For those in the public that don't understand CDBG, it is an acronym for Community Development Block Grant funding. It is provided from the federal government for cities of a certain size and for its projects that improve the quality of life for people of low- to moderate-incomes to revitalize urban centers and address the needs of the low-income community. CDBG appropriated \$621,812 for the City of Jonesboro this year. The allocation process begins with the city buying an ad in the newspaper of record, The Sun, and promoting on our social media and city website. We held two public hearings in March, opened an application period, then called a meeting of the eight-member Citizen Advisory Council to decide whether each applicant qualified for funding and if so, how much money was given to them. In recent years, many various nonprofits have applied and received funding and have done some amazing things. The Hispanic Center, CASA, the West End Neighborhood Association, the HUB, and the Learning Center are just a few of the good examples. So, now, I am going to ask Grants Director Regina Burkett to answer any questions from Council and if there are any questions that need to be answered by anyone in the room. The floor is open council, any questions? I see none. Would anyone in the audience like to make a comment? Thank you Ms. Burkett, I see none.

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Bobby Long and David McClain

Enactment No: R-EN-117-2022

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-22:034](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE CHAPTER 10 ARTICLE I SECTION 10 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD SUBSECTION 13 PROVIDING FOR GUIDELINES ON THE HANDLING, DISPLAYING, OR GIVING AWAY OF ANIMALS IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-22:034 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, Larry made a presentation to the Public Safety Committee about this. Could you have him say just a few words about this ordinance because I think it is quite important? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, absolutely. Mr. Rogers would you please come forward. Animal Control Director Larry Rogers said, thank you Council. This ordinance right here is twofold. One deals with having animal entertainment open to the public. We are concerned about people not having insurance. Also, for just setting up for the rides and everything. What we are wanting is accountability on this. The second part of this is also for the giving away, selling. We experience, a lot of times, in the summertime and spring, people selling or giving away dogs or cats on the Walmart or Kroger parking lot. And, then, if they don't sell them or give them away, what happens is that Animal Control is called out the next day for the stray puppies or the stray cats. We see it just popping up everywhere. In our parks, people giving them away and the parking lots and everything and it is a safety issue also. People, what they will do is they will see the dog or the cat for free and it is an impulse thing and they get the cat or dog and then the next thing you know the next day they think about it and so it is dumped then and it becomes the responsibility of Animal Control. We just need to stop it. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you. Are there any other questions from Council? Councilmember Moore said, Larry, doesn't it also provide for accountability on people that might bring in like pony rides and other animals. Mr. Rogers said, yes, yes it does. That is where that if you do that, you are not only going to have to have your privilege license, but you are going to have to have proof of some type of liability insurance. I believe it is \$1 million. It says insurance and also the permission of the property owner of that place. So, you just can't set up and have rides or have animal shows or whatever. Councilmember Moore said, yeah. Mayor Copenhaver said, Councilmember Moore, we were also having vendors come into our community, so to speak, that had the ability in their community, but they didn't have the privilege license in our community. Councilmember Moore said, right. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Larry.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-22:030](#) AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Held at second reading

[ORD-22:032](#) AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE ABANDONMENT OF A UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED ON PART OF LOT 1 OF HB MEDICAL HOLDINGS APACHE DRIVE MINOR PLAT AS REQUESTED BY HB MEDICAL HOLDINGS, LLC

Attachments: [Petition](#)
[Plat](#)
[Resolution](#)
[Letters](#)
[city letter](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-22:033](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR ASSISTING OTHERS, INC., D/B/A THE EDGE COFFEE SHOP TO BE LOCATED AT 1900 AGGIE ROAD, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Assisting Others, Inc. DBA The Edge Coffee Shop_Redacted](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-22:031](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5459 E. NETTLETON AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY EASTON AGRICULTURAL, LLP

Attachments: [Staff Summary-C.C.](#)
[HANCOCK SURVEY 20220426](#)
[Application](#)
[Certified Mail Receipt](#)
[Charge Sheet - Paid](#)
[Hancock Survey](#)
[Publication Fee Receipt](#)

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Bobby Long and David McClain

Enactment No: O-EN-034-2022

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I have a lot of information here folks, so hang with me for a little bit.

Ronnie Sturch is our new E911 Director, I still call him new, but he is not as new as new, but I want to bring some attention to Council of the work that Ronnie has done just in the short period of time that he has been here. I received a call earlier this week from Dillon Watkins. Dillon used to be an employee of the city, but he implemented a program, a charting program for emergency dispatch calls that allows the capability of our dispatchers to notify and recognize a vehicle in close proximity to a call. The issue is that the information has to be entered into our system to be accurate and to be more timely for our community. So, in receiving this call, Mr. Watkins, and you are not aware of this, our calls have improved sevenfold over what was initiated. We are at a 95 percentile capability of affirmative recognition by your work Ronnie. It was immense. It showed from year to year on the charts and it dropped off the month after Mr. Sturch got here. He saw the importance of that which is saving time resulting in a safer community. Also, I want to point out that Mr. Watkins explained to me our calls as well and this is important for the Police Department to realize, our annual calls should have been increasing at the E911 Center in correlation with our population growth. Over the last three years, they have not done so. They have reverted back to calls in 2011-2012. So, we are not receiving the E911 calls and that is a direct reflection of the safety and the departments of this city. So, I want to say thank you Chief, Fire Department, all of our first responders with Mr. Sturch, your efforts are being seen and I appreciate them. Our community appreciates them and I want to thank you personally. Thank you. E911 Director Ronnie Sturch said, If I can say it goes back to all of our departments. They are tremendous to work with and just awesome. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you to Rusty McAllister. I don't want to leave him out as well. He does a bang up job. So, thank you so much. Mr. Sturch said, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, you bet, absolutely.

Now, as we move on, Jonesboro and Nettleton Schools have added SRO officers tonight. We voted that through. We have had meetings with our schools and are sharing updates on our camera systems and will continue to work closely with our schools. School safety is a top priority.

In the last three months, we have seen more than 30 houses brought down or condemned. Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper has brought new life to the Code staff and they have really been working hard. We also added positions in the Code Enforcement Department as well. We will continue to monitor those needs and I believe tomorrow morning on Vine Street, we have several more homes that will be demolished if anybody would like to come down. I want to acknowledge and show appreciation again to our Code Enforcement Department and their impressive work.

Many of you have noticed the availability of new, pink trash cans. They are a beautiful, popular hit and fundraiser for our Mayor's Youth Advisory Council and Sanitation

Department. They are on sale for \$150. So, please consider beautifying your neighborhood by buying one of these cans.

I am pleased to report that for the year, THUD, which is \$5 million in airport upgrades is on the appropriation budget for next year. I have my fingers crossed and we are in constant contact with Senator Boozman's office as he is leading this charge for our community and our airport. Hopefully, we will have some good news to report in the winter.

I do want to address the city's continued work on homelessness which was a topic of interest earlier tonight. As of now, we have all nine units. I will say that again. As of now, we have all nine units of our Veteran's Cottages occupied. I want to talk about the tremendous work of those who made this a success thus far. And, it has been a lot of work, I assure you. In more than one conversation with Senator Boozman, I was told by him that these type of projects fail regularly across the country. But, we have worked every day to make a better life for our homeless veterans. And, thanks to the commitment of Regina Burkett, Lynda Nash, and Ronnie Shaver as well as numerous volunteers and support from our community. This administration has been working on homelessness since day one. Grants has a staff of four and to find funding to run portions of this city is very difficult. Ronnie Shaver has a staff of five to keep 31 properties working and looking good. Lynda Nash has her own responsibilities at Arkansas State University and the Beck Center. Yet, they have all committed themselves to ensuring Jonesboro's Veteran's Cottages serve those who loved our country. And, it takes more than a municipal government to address homelessness and I met over the last week with another group that made a deep impression on me. This group is called the SURE Foundation. Through dedication and hard work, they told me that they have secured more than \$300,000 in community support. They will soon open the HOPE House, a daytime facility that compliments the nighttime services of the Salvation Army Shelter and will provide showers, health exams, and laundry resources as well as partnering with schools and other programs to serve the needy. I tip my hat to you Aisha Stafford who is in the back of the room. If you would please stand. I tip my hat to you, your board, and the community development and we all look forward to working with you together as one as we move forward in this. Thank you. Ms. Stafford said, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely.

Lastly, this is a bit untraditional, but I would like for you all to know that I got great news yesterday. I received a check for more than \$800,000 from the State of Arkansas for police officer stipends. I would like to ask our Council when they are recognized to do their reports, to walk this onto our agenda for this evening because I feel that this is important for our much deserved officers to get this support financially as soon as possible. That is the end of my report.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, it is also my privilege to see that piece of legislation gets on agenda tonight for distribution to our very worthy law enforcement officers.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Frierson, to suspend the rules and walk on RES-22:132 to tonight's agenda for the purpose of allocating this \$5,000 stipend for our eligible full-time officers. All voted aye.

[RES-22:132](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2022 BUDGET OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING AND EXPENDING THE \$5,000 STIPEND FOR ELIGIBLE FULL-TIME LAW ENFORCEMENT

OFFICERS

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Charles Frierson, to suspend the rules and walk RES-22:132 onto the agenda. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Joe Hafner; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Bobby Long and David McClain

Enactment No: R-EN-118-2022

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I would just like to thank the Street Department for patching the area on the corner of Aberdeen and Inverness Run. It has been looking bad for quite some time and they finally at least put a band-aid on it. Mayor Copenhaver said, while you are on that subject councilman, I would like here shortly we will be giving the Council a full update of the progress of our charting of the streets and sidewalk updates. Providing us the priorities and nature in which they would run and so I think you are going to be looking forward to that. Councilmember Gibson said, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked, Mr. Mayor, do you have any information on the Citizens Bank Building? I noticed that there is a big sold sign on the side of it when I came downtown. Mayor Copenhaver said, Brian, would you like to come forward and give us an update. There are some behind the scenes work that we are not involved with on it. Councilmember Moore said, that's alright. Chief Administrative Officer Brian Richardson said, yeah, it is my understanding that there is some transactions going on to maybe further consolidate that property. I think that they are looking at the adjoining lots. I don't really know. I can definitely find out what the details of that are, but, I mean, we haven't had any conversations about what the exacts of that are. Councilmember Moore said, by all means that has been a topic of discussion here for two years or more. Mr. Richardson said, yeah, but I don't know the exacts of what they are planning on doing. I do know that it sounds like they are trying to combine that more under one ownership so they can do something on that property. We view it as a step hopefully in the right direction of getting some action done on that property. So, we are certainly excited to see that. Councilmember Moore said, as soon as we have some firm information, I would expect, maybe, you all will report it at the Council. Mr. Richardson said, absolutely, I look forward to it. Councilmember Moore said, that is a huge project downtown and if there is anything that the city can do to help facilitate that transaction, I would think that we would be interested in participating. Mr. Richardson said, absolutely. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Councilman Moore. And, Brian, if you would, we have also facilitated and been very useful and we are in the beginning phases of the PACE District that you all approved, but this will uptick the conversations there. So, I know that the two-story facility just on the west side of the Citizens Bank Building and then the parking lots as well in the back, again, as Brian eluded to, they are trying to see if they can get it under one umbrella. Councilmember Moore said, well that was actually the building that had the sold sign on it today. It was the one that used to belong to the bank. Mayor Copenhaver said, that is correct, First Security. Mr. Richardson said, yeah, that was kind of the hope behind creating the PACE District. That it would provide some financing incentives that make projects

similar to that be achievable. We have had a couple of the soft inquiries about potentially doing some other projects here in town that I think could be exciting. So, as more of those come about, and of course those are public meetings, so whenever we get an official inquiry about that, we will be sure to post when that meeting is going to be. So, we can hopefully share in some good news in some future projects in Jonesboro. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you. Thank you Brian. Councilmember Moore said, that is all I had Mr. Mayor. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, yeah, I would like to thank Craig Light, Steve Tippitt, and whoever was engaged in putting us a crosswalk in front of our church. I just want to thank them because it really looks nice and I have had so many comments on how nice it looks. And, so, maybe we can do something different. Thank you though.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 10 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Joe Hafner;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Bobby Long and David McClain

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk