



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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

Councilmember David McClain left the City Council meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Present 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent 1 - Joe Hafner

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember LJ Bryant asked that RES-21:165 be removed from the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to adopt the Consent Agenda less RES-21:165. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; David McClain; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Joe Hafner

[MIN-21:067](#)

Minutes for the City Council meeting on August 3, 2021.

Attachments: [MINUTES](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-21:159](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION, AN AGENCY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, TO SELL PROPERTY

LOCATED IN THE CITY LIMITS OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [100657 Tract 85 Appraisal](#)
 [Contract to Sell - Tract 85](#)
 [RES-21-159 Contract Signed](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-154-2021

[RES-21:160](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION, AN AGENCY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, TO SELL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY LIMITS OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [100657 Tract 15 Appraisal](#)
 [Contract to Sell - Tract 15](#)
 [RES-21-160 Contract Signed](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-155-2021

[RES-21:161](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-156-2021

[RES-21:162](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER

Attachments: [Emails regarding Library Board Received by City Clerk's Office](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-157-2021

[RES-21:163](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE 2021 KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL CIGARETTE LITTER PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT FROM THE KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL FOUNDATION

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-158-2021

[RES-21:164](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO APPLY FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOR 2021 OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP (ORLP)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-159-2021

[RES-21:166](#) RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT WITH GETBACK INC.. FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY VAN WRAP

Attachments: [Van Sponsorship 2021](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-160-2021

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-21:165](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO SUBMIT THE 2022 OUTDOOR RECREATION MATCHING GRANT APPLICATION FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Attachments: [Information on Scope of Project Change for the Arkansas Outdoor Recreation](#)

Councilmember LJ Bryant motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to remove RES-21:165 from the Consent Agenda. All voted aye.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Councilmember LJ Bryant, I appreciate you amending or asking for an amendment on this. I would like for Regina Burkett to come forward. As we move forward with this request, the time manner was just not lengthy enough for us to get a complete project on the original request. I have called City Attorney Carol Duncan and she is out of town in Washington, DC at this point, but she said it was completely relevant that we could approach City Council to amend this to a lesser project and amount and dollar value. Grants and Community Development Director Regina Burkett said, yes, we have a little bit of an issue requiring the information that we needed for the initial grant that we had applied for a park in southwest Jonesboro. Since then, we have realized that we needed more funding to continue with Union Park, the downtown Union Street Park. So, we are asking for you all to amend this resolution for the park in southwest Jonesboro to the Union Street Park in downtown Jonesboro. We are asking for \$100,000 for this grant. We would have a match of \$100,000 because it is a 50/50 grant. And, the \$100,000 that the city would have to match would come from our FY2022 Community Development Block Grant funds so that way the city has no cost for us to continue. The reason we are having to continue with Union Park is due to rising costs of materials with what we are trying to do from our budget everything has kind of doubled. So, we would like to get that one finished if at all possible. And, I have to bring this tonight because I have to have a resolution with the grant and it has to be in by August 27, 2021.

Councilmember LJ Bryant motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to amend RES-21:165 from a park in southwest Jonesboro to a park in downtown on Union and Monroe with the matching grant amount being lowered from \$250,000 to \$100,000 using FY2022 Community Development Block Grant funds. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Joe Hafner

Enactment No: R-EN-161-2021

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-21:033](#) AN ORDINANCE TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:033 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-21:036](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 112-128 DESIGN CRITERIA OF THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:036 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-21:037](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 112-129 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS OF THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:037 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-21:038](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2407 WEST MATTHEWS

- Attachments:** [Staff Summary \(City Council\) - 2407 W Matthews](#)
[21108138TURNER REZONING PLAT recover Model \(1\)](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Application](#)
[Info](#)
[USPS Receipts](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Mitch Johnson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-21:038 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-21:030](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO

I-2 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6609 C.W. POST ROAD, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY JOHN STUCKEY.

Attachments: [Staff Summary - City Council](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Application](#)
[Nettleton School District Email](#)
[Notification Signed](#)
[Pictures of Rezoning Signs](#)
[USPS Receipts](#)

Jim Gramling, Gramling Law Firm and counsel for the proponent, said I apologize for not being able to be here for the first two readings. I was ill and then I was out of town for the second one. You have already made a motion so I will be brief. The purpose of this is to use some dirt. Mr. Stuckey has had some previous rezonings around the area. They will use some of this dirt for leveling out on some other projects. If you approve this, of course, he has to go through the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to get a permit. So, if you approve this tonight, you are not approving mining operation. There was some discussion at the first meeting. I think that has been cleared up now. Mining is permitted in I-2 which is why we requested I-2. But, if you approve that, you are not approving the mining operation, any mining operation because that would still have to be approved by ADEQ. And, of course, which I think has also been put on the record, the city has done the same thing out on Barnhill Road for Nestle. They used some dirt out there for that purpose. And, in addition, I might add that my client would be willing at some point to talk to the city about maybe using this as a detention pond to help with some of the drainage assuming that he could get the proper permits and permissions from the city. So, if anyone has any questions, I will be happy to address them. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you for your input. I appreciate that.

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 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Joe Hafner

Enactment No: O-EN-033-2021

[ORD-21:032](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX 7 OF THE STORMWATER DRAINAGE DESIGN MANUAL

Attachments: [07.06.2021 ARR 15000 Permit Nov 2021](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;David McClain;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - Joe Hafner

Enactment No: O-EN-034-2021

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

The last two weeks have been very advantageous. We are putting a lot of things together. I am really pleased and looking forward to our next meeting which will be the first week in September as we will be coming forward with some new plans and I will talk about that here in a few minutes.

Most of you have seen that the 2020 Census is out. We have announced our new population at 78,576. These are not yet final numbers, but the Municipal League attorney's are working as we speak to make sure that the census is complete because we want to make sure that we are getting all of the state turnback funds that are allowed by the state for our city. This will be determined by the State Treasurer. So, we await more information on that to get that finally in stone.

School is back in session. I think that we are all aware of that. That is a good thing, but our Covid numbers are not. I know that it has created some anxiety in our community, but nothing is more important than the safety of our children, our educators, and, indeed, our medical community. I want to extend a special word of appreciation to all of these people. They work together to make Jonesboro a safer place. And, we need to have that to make Jonesboro successful during this difficult time. I trust and pray that we extend kindness and empathy to others in a world that is under a lot of stress right now. When times are hard, we have to pull on the rope together. I believe in Jonesboro and I believe we can do that. Vaccination is our best defense. But, if for any reason you cannot do that, please wear a mask in public and stay socially distanced for yourself and the care of our neighbors. Your effort will determine how we come through this together.

We will be rolling out a safety plan initiative, as I mentioned earlier, in the next month. This will encompass additional security for our residents as well as our first responders. The first rollout will include new technology updates that will be available with the use of the Rescue Act Funding. It involves surveillance cameras, a few new positions, and I think it will make Jonesboro one of the safest communities in the state of Arkansas. We are preparing updates for our 911 Dispatch as well and we will be visiting with you about that as soon as we are ready to unveil it.

Last week, we had a wonderful conversation with the First Lady of the State of Arkansas, Susan Hutchinson, when she was in town. She was here to advocate for her compassion and passion for the Children's Advocacy Center. She is a strong leader in this area, statewide. She has done many wonderful things for the children that are less fortunate than others. I encourage anyone who has money and/or time to volunteer to reach out to the Children's Advocacy Center here in Jonesboro because you can make a difference in this community and in children's lives. But, throughout that conversation, she continued to talk about how wonderful Jonesboro was and the improvements that she continues to see in updates with our community. She is excited as we unveiled many ideas of our vision moving forward and she was very much in adherence to that. So, we were glad that she provided us several hours of her time for that visit.

The Jonesboro Advertising & Promotions (A&P) Commission recently hired a full-time director. Her name is Renee Golas and she is incredibly experienced in marketing. I don't know if many of you have met her, but I would think that City Council, it would do

due diligence to meet her and make an invitation. She is an exciting young lady. She is also moving back from Indiana and Chicago to come back here to her roots in the community because she knows what Jonesboro is about to do and Northeast Arkansas together. I commend the A&P Commission for the selection and I know Ms. Golas will play a key role in the creation of great opportunities and new events. Also, A&P met this morning. They had about a 1 ½ hour meeting, a very positive meeting. Several councilmembers were at that meeting. I know that they can express, as well, the excitement that was expressed there in good conversation that was had by all in how we can move this community forward. So, I am looking forward to what the A&P Commission comes forward with.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I just want to echo the Mayor's comments regarding the A&P Commission meeting today. I felt that it was very positive. As Chair of Public Services, I would like to put myself out there for anything that I can do to help with that project and move it along. Mayor Copenhaver said, so noted and thank you for your comments.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, at the last meeting, I expressed concern about the city securing the sidewalk down at the Citizen's Bank Building instead of the building owner. Have we made any progress on that because it doesn't seem to be secure? The barricades have blown over and I am worried about our liability on that front. Communications Director Bill Campbell said, and, well, Mayor, I haven't even had a chance to speak with you yet, but I did speak with Dennis Zolper just a few minutes ago and they are planning to bring in, they have got a company and they are planning to bring in some covered walkways that you see on construction agencies right there and we are going to try to work with them to get that worked out, but I have to talk to Mike and I have got to talk to the Mayor and Tony and Brian. But, this is happening in real time so we haven't had a chance to do that yet. Councilmember Moore said, well, that is good news and I assume that it is at the expense of the building owner and not the city. Mr. Campbell said, yes, they are doing this themselves. Councilmember Moore said, good deal. Mr. Campbell said, they have a contractor and they are getting some other stuff done out of there. In fact, I expect to hear something from them tomorrow and we will probably, the Mayor will probably want to share that with you. Councilmember Moore said, okay, when you know something definitive, just kind of pass it on because I get several people that ask me about it on the barricades and tape and stuff. Mr. Campbell said, absolutely, sure. Mayor Copenhaver said, we are concerned about it, but I will say that the owner has been very positive in comments back and forth with us. Mike, would you like to comment? Code Enforcement Director Mike Tyner said, I was outside, what was the question? Councilmember Moore said, I think Bill summed it up. My concern was over the city trying to secure the sidewalk as opposed to the building owner, but it seems that we are making progress. Mr. Tyner said, okay, right. We have all been working in concert together to find not only a viable, but also a responsible solution to the problem. Councilmember Moore said, I just don't want to see someone walk down the sidewalk and pieces of the building fall off on them. Mr. Tyner said, right. Councilmember Moore said, thank you Mr. Mayor and thank you Mike.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, this is kind of early, but National Night Out is going to be coming up pretty soon and Fisher Street Community in Action will be hosting a National Night Out at the Lion's Park behind Success School. We will have also free fish dinners and hot dogs. We are asking people that have businesses to bring tables out and try to help the community understand some of these places that

they need to go to get help and that type of thing. We have asked several merchants to come out and distribute their words on what they can do like Crowley's Ridge Development Council (CRDC) and other different places. I will probably be announcing this again.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I know we have a lot of individuals in the room that would like to speak and again, I want to applaud City Council for approving individuals on appointees and reappointments to the Boards and Commissions. Thank you very much for your support and their support. I am very pleased that this community, that they step up to the plate, and these are individuals that volunteer, many of which are overqualified for the positions that they volunteer for, but it is their love and commitment for this community. And, again, anybody can do that. And, so, I adhere to anybody that would like to step up and apply and put their name on the forefront to serve this community in a compassionate way and those individuals are doing so. Thank you. We have reached public comments. We normally limit that to three individuals speaking for five minutes each for a total of fifteen minutes, but, if there are people that would like to extend that, I am sure that we could do so.

Robin Martin, 5005 Lamb Lane, said, I am here to speak about the appointment to the Library Board. I had submitted an email yesterday, but in the 25 pages of emails that are attached to the resolution for her nomination, I didn't see my email. (NOTE: Email was not sent to the City Clerk's office until Wednesday, August 18, 2021 and now, is so attached to RES-21:162.) Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mr. Mayor, let me make sure and state the rules for the Council. You are not allowed to speak on anything that was on the agenda tonight. Ms. Martin said, this is about the Board in general, not necessarily the appointee. Councilmember Moore said, okay, that will be fine. Ms. Martin said, okay. The Library Board does not currently have anybody with a finance background and now we have put another person on there with an education background. If you will look at the last three years audit reports, you will notice a qualified opinion which is not the best answer in they are missing the required GAAP and GASB reports. Also, there has been noted, the last three years, a lack of segregation of duties which is the same problem that our County Clerk's Office has had recently and we came up with about \$1.6 million missing there. Audits are not like the driving test at the DMV where every test has 25 different questions each time you go in. Okay. An audit has the same questions every year unless the accounting standards have changed, which they don't very often. In my opinion and probably the opinion of most other accountants here in town, it is unacceptable to have the same exceptions year after year. Not correcting the exceptions is either lack of understanding or lack of effort, both of which are unacceptable. Also, the bylaws for our library specifies that we are supposed to have a Finance Committee. We are supposed to have a Treasurer, which we don't have and haven't had since 2012. We are supposed to have a Finance Committee which they have kind of dummied down to a sub-budget committee, budget sub-committee. A Finance Committee would go through a lot more details related to the operations of the library. We have got about \$5 million in revenues going through there this year. I think we need a Finance Committee. They need a finance person on that board so they can provide the oversight and guidance that they need at our library. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Ms. Martin for your comments and I will pass that along, your concerns to the board.

Kimberly Chase, 204 E. Nettleton, said, I am the Director of the HUB Homeless Resource Shelter and I am just here to announce tonight that we will be having our

third Covid vaccination clinic at the HUB. We had one in April, one in August, and this one will be on September 14, 2021. The second time we had it, we increased the number that we vaccinated from the first time so I am very hopeful that we will do even more. My plan is to have our vaccination clinics as often as necessary until we vaccinate all of our Jonesboro homeless. I do have some flyers if anyone would like to post them in their office. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you. Thank you for coming forward and making the community aware of that.

Dean McDonald, 5555 Macedonia Road, said, I need to ask because I don't want to break any rules. You don't talk about things that were on the agenda beforehand today if it was already passed? Councilmember Chris Moore asked, would you like for me to explain the rule? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, that is fine. Councilmember Moore said, items that were on the agenda have already been discussed so we are at the point to where you can discuss anything that you would like to discuss except those items. Mr. McDonald said, okay. Councilmember Moore said, in case of the Library Board, you can discuss the Library Board or the finances or whatever you would like. You can't discuss any particular appointment because we are past that. Mr. McDonald said, sure, okay. Thank you. I just didn't want to be redundant so I appreciate that. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you. Mr. McDonald said, so, I don't have too much to say. I just wanted to say that, you know, I have a note or two here. So, pardon me please. But, I was very excited to hear about the nominees that we had today and I thank you all for those nominees. I think that one thing that I am passionate about is diversity. So, in the spirit of the County Board, I think I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the significance to have a black woman on the County Library Board. Representation matters. It is significant. I think it is a very good thing all of the way around. And, so, really, that is all I have to say in that spirit. In future appointments, because the one thing that I like about tonight is that an educator is on the Library Board and I think that is really important. In future nominations, whether it is for the library or anything of that matter, that we appoint overly qualified people to those positions and I think you all did that tonight. So, I just wanted to say thank you. I apologize for kind of having to change my thing up a little bit, but thank you for your patience. And, that is really all I have to say. Thank you and have a good day. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Mr. McDonald.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, 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;Bobby Long;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 2 - Joe Hafner and David McClain

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk