



# City of Jonesboro

## Meeting Minutes

### Public Works Council Committee

900 West Monroe  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

---

Thursday, February 14, 2008

2:30 PM

Huntington Building

---

#### 1. Call To Order

*Mayor Formon was also in attendance.*

**Present** 4 - John Street; Cecil Province; Chris Moore and Mitch Johnson

**Absent** 1 - Darrel Dover

#### 2. New Business

##### **Interviews with companies concerning Master Street Plan**

##### Wilbur Smith Associates

*Mr. Bob Hamm from Wilbur Smith Associates discussed their proposal for the master street plan. He noted they would meet with developers and engineers, as well as hold public meetings and comprehensive meetings to obtain input from the community. He added the meetings can be negotiated in case the City wants fewer or more meetings. Mr. Hamm then discussed the website that would be made that will have meeting minutes as well as updates for the project. He noted the website can be updated daily to help answer questions from the public. He stated they will work with Hayward, Kenward and Bare on the project. He explained they will make recommendations on short and long-term improvements, noting that public input and environmental conditions will also be considered with their recommendations. Mr. Hamm stated their proposal would be for five months and they combined meetings and trips to help minimize the cost of the project to the City. He summarized they have extensive experience with master street plans and thoroughfare plans in the country, an experienced and available staff, local support from Hayward, Kenward and Bare, as well as their local knowledge from previous studies. He further explained their master street plan will be a product of the community and easily understood so it will be a valuable tool for local staff to use. City Planner Otis Spriggs stated that although it's a City project they will still have the outlying communities in mind and would like data that would be helpful to the study to be considered by the company. Councilman Province expressed concern over the depth the firm will go in getting total input from the community. He noted if they just get input from businesses and professionals, then they will leave out the majority of the community. Mr. Robert Hendrix explained they will have a very robust public involvement process. He stated all the layers will have to be involved. Councilman Province explained they sometimes have a hard time getting the community involved in the meetings. Mr. Hendrix stated one of the first steps is advertising to the community through the website, as well as something going around to the civic groups in the City and surrounding areas. Mr. Hamm discussed their project with the City of San Marcos. He explained one of the problems they've encountered in Jonesboro is being able to develop a good traffic plan and work with the neighborhoods without being seen as intrusive. He stated everyone wants their neighborhood to stay the same. Discussion was then held regarding current traffic problems. Councilman Province stated the plan should include the surrounding communities such as Bono and Brookland, but Jonesboro needs to be the primary concern. Councilman Moore noted*

*Jonesboro is fortunate that there aren't any communities that are directly adjacent to Jonesboro's city limits. Councilman Province added that in ten years there may be communities that are right next to the city limits. Mr. Hamm agreed, stating Jonesboro should be the primary concern. Councilman Moore questioned whether the plan and supporting documentation would be able to be placed on the City's website. Mr. Hendrix answered yes, typically the plan, as well as supporting documentation, are put into PDF format and made accessible to the public.*

Associated Engineering & Testing, LLC

*Mr. Mike Cameron from Associated Engineering discussed the team of people that would help with the master street plan project. He noted Associated Engineering put together a team of people to work on the Southwest Jonesboro Traffic Plan. He explained the City already has existing data and needs to bring all the data together to make the master street plan. He further explained the most important thing at this time is to include the land use plan and to use the resources of the traffic plan and put them into a transportation plan. He also noted greenways and bike ways are integral parts of land use and transportation. Councilman Moore questioned how much of the overall money spent will stay in Jonesboro as opposed to being outsourced to other engineers. Mr. Cameron answered his plans 100% of the money will be spent in his firm, but he couldn't guarantee they wouldn't have to bring someone in if needed. Councilman Moore stated it's an important factor to use local people to make the decisions for the master street plan. Mr. Cameron explained there will be no one working for them making those types of decisions that do not live in town. He further explained he will be project manager. Councilman Province stated he likes the idea of using a local company but does not want the previous studies to be used as fact. Discussion was held concerning what would be wanted out of the master street plan. MPO Director Amin Ulkarim discussed the master street plan. Mr. Cameron stated he did not disagree with Mr. Ulkarim, but he noted that Mr. Ulkarim is the first planner over the years that has defined the process differently than the way he described. Mayor Formon questioned how the persons in Mr. Cameron's team that are also on the Land Use Committee would help bring information back to Mr. Cameron's team to help. Mr. Cameron explained they will have a broader feel of future land use to apply to a transportation plan. Chairman Street discussed wanting to preserve right of ways for future use. Councilman Moore clarified Mr. Cameron is offering a local work group with local accountability. Mr. Cameron answered that is correct. Ms. Betty Shaw added they also will not re-invent the wheel. Chairman Street questioned what the timeline for the project is. Mr. Cameron stated it will go right along with the land use plan, but he does not want it to go longer than three or four months, at the most six. He stated his plan is by the time the City gets together to prepare the 2009 budget then the plan will be available for them. Ms. Shaw discussed her role on the team and how the Land Use Committee can help with the master street plan. She noted both the master street plan and the land use plan will require public meetings and they will work well together. Chairman Street announced a meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2008, at 4:45 p.m. to hear the presentation from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.*

**3. Adjournment**