



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Finance & Administration Council Committee

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

4:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. Call To Order

2. Roll Call by City Clerk April Leggett

Present 6 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; LJ Bryant; Joe Hafner and Brian Emison

Absent 1 - David McClain

3. Approval of minutes

[MIN-22:092](#)

Minutes for the Finance Committee Meeting on October 11, 2022

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - David McClain

4. New Business

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-22:196](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FY22 RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM GRANT.

Sponsors: Grants

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I will say that I think this is a very important part of the Jonesboro connectivity master plan and will definitely be an attraction between here and ASU. I think it will actually help ASU quite a bit too with attracting students.

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

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - David McClain

[RES-22:197](#)

A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF POLICE PACKAGE AND FIRE PACKAGE CHEVROLET TAHOES AND POLICE UNITS EQUIPMENT

Sponsors: Finance, Police Department and Mayor's Office

Councilmember Charles Coleman said, I have one question, Chief. Are they going to be totally fitted and ready to go? Police Chief Rick Elliott said, yes sir, just like this past year. Superior is a dealer plus they also up fit them. So, when they deliver them to us, the vehicle will be ready except for the stripe package and radio. All the other equipment will be completely installed. Councilmember Coleman said, okay, that's good. Chief Elliot said, yes sir.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - David McClain

[RES-22:198](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE JONESBORO CITY COUNCIL TO WAIVE FORMAL BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS FOR PORTABLE BASEBALL MOUNDS AT JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX FOR THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Finance

Attachments: [Mound Bids](#)
[Mound Quotes](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - David McClain

[RES-22:199](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENTRY INTO AN AGREEMENT TO ISSUE BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN THE FINANCING OF INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO BE LEASED TO CAMFIL USA, INC. OR ITS AFFILIATE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY AMENDMENT 65 TO THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION AND THE MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BOND LAW.

Attachments: [Exhibit A_Camfil 2022](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - David McClain

[RES-22:200](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A TWO YEAR LEASE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE SANITATION SIDE LOAD TRUCKS

Sponsors: Sanitation and Finance

Attachments: [Arvest Proposal 2022 3 Mack Automated](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I will say, it looks like the monthly payment on two of these would be \$9,431.05 and the other one would be \$7,281.44. And, the fact that you are able to find three trucks right now is really good.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, you know the new truck, the one that picks up limbs, or I guess it's relatively new, I've been impressed seeing it in operation. You know the one I'm talking about? Chairman Hafner said, yeah, the grapple truck? Councilmember Williams said, yeah, that's it. I couldn't think of the technical term.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - David McClain

[RES-22:201](#)

A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE FOR THE TRANSIT DEPARTMENT.

Sponsors: JETS and Finance

Attachments: [Master's Pricing X2C Arkansas 10-13-2022](#)

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - David McClain

[RES-22:202](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONTRACT WITH ICE CREAM JOINT LLC FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE ATHLETIC FIELD AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation and Finance

Attachments: [ICE CREAM JOINT LLC Soccer 10 19 2022](#)

Chairman Joe Hafner said, this is for \$2,500 a year for a period of five years.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - David McClain

5. Pending Items

6. Other Business

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I have been asked to waive the rules and walk on RES-22:203 and RES-22:204.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and walk on RES-22:203 and RES-22:204. All were in favor by saying Aye.

[RES-22:203](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH ARKANSAS BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD TO PROVIDE MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CITY EMPLOYEES FOR 2023

Sponsors: Human Resources

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and walk on RES-22:203 and RES-22:204. All were in favor by saying Aye.

Chairman Joe Hafner said, I do have I guess a question for I don't know if it's for Brian or the mayor, but just for clarifications. The last sentence of section one, it says these renewal rates result in a 5% increase in monthly contributions. Is that premiums? Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, if you don't mind, Mr. Chair, let me just kind of go through it real quick. Of course, you know that there negotiations obviously when it comes to health insurance that are very pressing. We started those negotiations what three, four months ago? That rate came in at a 16.7% rate increase and stating that we had over a million dollars more paid out in claims than what our premium was. So, coming down to this point, we felt that it was important that we were able to get it down to 5%. Now, let's note that all the other ancillary products (vision, dental, all those), we got those negotiated at the same rate as they were last year. What this comes down to for the employees, per pay period, this 5% increase, on an individual, their increase per pay period is \$3.76 a pay period. For family, it would be \$8.08 per pay period. So, remember the city pays 71% of that increase and so this is the reflection to each employee what that would be. We are also looking at what alternatives such as a high deductible plan that could be done in addition, but next year it is going to be wellness. We are going to have to totally reevaluate this. The concern we have is that many insurance companies did not quote us because we are not favorable when it comes to our outlay of premiums. We have to be a healthier group and we have to be more proactive in that. So, we are going to be initially starting, in early March, to assess how we can move forward and make adjustments for the next year's plan. We are excited, honestly, to be down at a 5% increase considering we started at a 16.7% increase. Chairman Hafner said, yeah, I think that goes without saying. I know our little company, not Arkansas Glass, but the other one I'm involved in, we are looking at a 12% increase. I would have been thrilled with a 5% increase.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion

PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - David McClain

[RES-22:204](#)

A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT WITH DELTA DENTAL TO PROVIDE DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CITY EMPLOYEES FOR 2023

Sponsors: Human Resources

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and walk on RES-22:203 and RES-22:204. All were in favor by saying Aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this matter be Recommended to Council. The motion

PASSED with the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman;Ann Williams;John Street;LJ Bryant and Brian Emison

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I would like to bring up something. I have mentioned in previous Council and Committee meetings, the concern I have about pedestrians crossing at Johnson there at State Street. The distance between the Marion Berry traffic light and then the one at Patrick Street is a pretty long stretch. It seems like the logical crossing point is there at State Street by University Market. That was where a pedestrian solution was first attempted back in 2018. And, with the failure of it, which was a flashing light, there was a Garver Study released that recommended the pedestrian hybrid beacon called the HAWK, which I thought would probably be a good idea for us to pursue having witnessed firsthand the difficulty people have crossing there and it's really pretty bad. The first step toward the solution as far as safety there was lowering the speed limit, which we are glad the highway ARDOT agreed to do, but I felt like we needed to go ahead as quickly as possible and pursue getting this pedestrian crossing solution. They have five of these in Fayetteville currently, including one at State Highway 49B, which is a five lane highway with a 35 mph speed limit, which is very similar to Johnson, and that's where their nature trail crosses there. And I think Rogers now has one. So, I thought it would be good to contact Alec Farmer, our Highway Commissioner and talk to him about it, to see if he could help us, and he has. He has had Brad Smithee call, contact the Mayor's Office. Brad called me and said he was sending the email, which I've got a copy of that explains what is needed to apply for this particular pedestrian solution. And, it will involve a letter from the Mayor being sent to ARDOT with the requisite drawings and plans. And, they indicated they would try to move this along as quickly as they can, once we do our part. But in the discussion with Brad, he indicated to me that a crucial component is to have consistent compliance with the 35 mph speed limit. Starting with the advent, with the plans to install this, we need to have pretty consistent compliance with it, and therefore consistent enforcement. And, I know I had concerns about the fact that when the speed limit signs were first installed, there was an immediate effect on drivers, but I think, over time, they become lax and are ramping back up their speeds. So, I think that it would really be good to concentrate on, because also, being very close to that location myself, at half a block away, I go up and down that corridor

quite a bit. I'm concerned that drivers are not complying with the speed limit. They may be complying at times with the previous speed limit of 45, but I am passed quite often by people going pretty fast. I think Dr. Coleman has indicated this too, I mean you have had from your personal observation. Councilmember Charles Coleman said, yeah. Councilmember Williams said, Brad Smithee indicated to me, since he travels that corridor a lot between here and Paragould, he said that he is pretty certain that he has been passed by people going 50+ on that stretch. So, he really emphasized that we need to enforce in preparation of the plans to install this because keeping the speed limit as close to 35 mph as possible is really crucial to the success of this.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Mr. Chair, if I can make a few comments, and I want to confirm exactly what Councilmember Williams just mentioned. We have received that request from Brad Smithee, and we are creating that request to ARDOT. We received that this afternoon and Engineering Director Craig Light and I visited about that. Also, we do have the capability and have shown Council, I believe, we can actually show in detail the number of vehicles and speeds those vehicles are traveling. So, we can get a synopsis of the actual speed of what's going on in that area. I just wanted to confirm what Councilmember Williams has just said, and we'll move forward with her request. Councilmember Williams said, well, I'm real excited about it. I think this will be a good thing. It has been Fayetteville's experience once, and they've put out a lot of information, and Rogers, I saw on their Facebook page, were giving a lot of instructions, making people aware of how this works. Apparently, when the pedestrian activates it, first, there is a yellow light and then a few seconds later a red light. So, they're getting people educated in regards to the anticipation of this, but I think it will be a very good thing. I think it will be good for the university as well. Chairman Hafner said, thank you.

7. Public Comments

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilperson Brian Emission, seconded by Councilperson John Street, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 5 - Charles Coleman; Ann Williams; John Street; LJ Bryant and Brian Emission

Absent: 1 - David McClain