



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Works Council Committee

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

5:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 7 - John Street;Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant;Ann Williams;Anthony Coleman and Kevin Miller

Absent 1 - Janice Porter

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-25:020](#)

Minutes for the Public Works Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 04, 2025

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Chris Moore, seconded by Ann Williams, that this matter be Passed . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant;Ann Williams;Anthony Coleman and Kevin Miller

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

4. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

[ORD-25:016](#)

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING A DOWNTOWN JONESBORO ALTERNATIVE TRUCK ROUTE

Sponsors: Engineering, Streets and Mayor's Office

Chairman John Street said, the mayor would like to make a comment on this. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, thank you councilman. Before we begin on the conversation, basically the reason for this, obviously, is the situation that we've been in the last several months with downtown Jonesboro and seeing what we can do during this time, I think. We listened to the community, and I think this is a golden opportunity for us to make some adjustments. And with that, one of the key elements has been our rerouting of our large commercial trucks. And growing up here you know that we still need delivery trucks downtown, but with that, if you have delivery trucks and large commercial trucks on a narrow road, such as Main Street, at the same time, it can cause situations when they turn and etc. So, with that Craig has rerouted the commercial trucks during this period of time with the assistance of other

entities, ArDOT and other entities. And we've seen that it is a viable option to do so for downtown Jonesboro. So, I just wanted to say thank you to those that are in attendance this evening, your input is going to be very critical on how this is delegated and how it moves forward to full City Council. Hopefully after communication has been given. So, thank you councilman.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, mayor, do we need to walk this on tonight? Chairman John Street said, he just made a motion for the... Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I knew the motion was to do next regular meeting. So, is that ok? Councilmember Chris Moore said, it will appear on the next regular meeting. I mean there's no emergency clause in this. There's no emergency. Two weeks isn't going to... Councilmember LJ Bryant said, then mayor, we'll still be ok for the timing perspective of everything? Okay. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, yes. And then two I think there's going to be plenty of discussion. So, I really think it's important that we all from downtown entities and everybody. We really need to think this through, and three readings will give us that. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, okay. Thanks mayor.

Andy Shatley, 2521 Rosewood Circle, approached the podium and said, chairman, of our, about to be codified Connectivity Committee. As we all know, shutting down Main Street from the construction and the demolition has caused some heartache for downtown businesses. However, I've heard from several people downtown and one of the silver linings from this storm really is how peaceful it has been. There's been feedback to our committee to say, you know what actually as pedestrians, we feel really safe. Although it has been deleterious to the business, but the pedestrians have felt very safe and it's created a different environment and feel. And a lot of businesses have come to us, our committee, to say can you look at how we can preserve some of the positives that's happened after this situation. And this rerouting of large trucks that are barreling down through what we're trying to make as an entertainment area for pedestrians' safety, certainly seems like low hanging fruit to change the environment of downtown. There's lots of other conversations that have come to our committee. We talked about this, and we're planning on studying what we can do to support the environment for downtown businesses. But this seems to be the most obvious one right away, so we appreciate you. You have any questions for me, but yeah, that's my two cents.

Denise Gotcher, 308 Main Street, approached the podium and said, I was wondering if we could walk this over tonight, as we're all worried that it will not happen quick enough before Main opens again. So, we're really trying to get it expedited, because the trucking has been rerouted already. So, we're hoping that those routes would remain as soon as Main Street opened again. And we're thinking next week possibly. Councilmember Chris Moore said, from a procedural standpoint, it's going to take six weeks from the time it goes to the council. So, it's not going to happen tonight either way. Denise Gotcher said, no, no, no. I was just hoping to rush it through as far as time goes. Councilmember Chris Moore said, so it contains no emergency clause and there's no emergency that really exists that would warrant suspending the rules and placing it on the next... Denise Gotcher said, well I have to say as a building owner on Main this is a very, very good ordinance. We purchased the building in 2020. My husband has had two semi-trucks rip off his mirror, off his truck, twice. A City Water and Light truck side swiped his truck. Now that we have the balcony, we oversee the walkways and the big trucks, they don't stop for pedestrians at all. And yes, it has been very quiet. It has been very wonderful. Our buildings are not bouncing around anymore from the big trucks coming through. Which everyone knows they're so old and even just the vibrations themselves can do damage. But thank you very much.

Tracy Burgess, 671 Elm Street, approached the podium and said, what constitutes

an emergency? Councilmember Chris Moore said, normally an imminent life or danger to property or a person. Tracy Burgess said, so rattling buildings isn't an emergency? Councilmember Chris Moore said, I mean it would be pretty hard to argue that when it's been like that for the last, however many years. You're only saying two weeks. The big thing is it gives the public time. After tonight's meeting it'll be on every media, every tv station in our area. It'll get quite a bit of publicity. But you know, to suspend the rules, I mean, it appeared here on our agenda pretty short anyway and then to suspend the rules and declare emergency and walk it on tonight would be... Tracy Burgess said, I know this is the second meeting about this that I've attended so I was just wondering. Councilmember Chris Moore said, it's not my second reading. It's my first time I've heard it or saw it. Tracy Burgess said, well it was when we put the speed bumps in. I think there was a meeting about that. Chairman John Street said, this won't even have a first reading until we have another council meeting in two weeks. That'll be the first reading. Tracy Burgess said, which is when? Chairman John Street said, May 20th. First official reading and as Chris said it will be read three times. It's been like that for a long time and trust me it's a good idea. I don't think anybody's fighting it or opposing it. It's just a procedural... Councilmember Chris Moore said, even if we were to walk it on tonight it wouldn't pass tonight. It has to be read over a six-week period. Tracy Burgess said, so it is going to be the at least six week period? Councilmember Chris Moore said, three meetings, two weeks apart. Tracy Burgess said, and will the traffic flow stay the way it is before the reading or when this opens are we going to go back to? Councilmember Chris Moore said, I don't know what the schedule is to open the street, but I would assume it would probably open back on Main Street within six weeks. Tracy Burgess said, within six weeks? Councilmember Chris Moore said, I would think so, yes ma'am. Tracy Burgess said, ok. Thank you.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I would like to mention something or bring up. And John, you remember this. Several years ago, an idea was floated to make Main Street two-way, go back to it being two way, and traffic going north be one way on Church Street. Do you recall that? Chairman John Street said, yeah that's been discussed several times, but it never did take good enough traction. But I don't know, I mean it's something I guess... Councilmember Ann Williams said, when you think about it you have to... it's kind of hard to think of, you know imagine it or visualize it, but there are certain pluses to doing that. Like on Main Street, slowing traffic down, people on both sides, going both ways, you can observe what's there and it's good for businesses that way I think. Because if you're going north on Main Street it's really hard to see what's on the other side of the street as well, and you can observe more as far as the businesses are there. And then you have the northern corridor of Church Street. Then can go over the bridge. Councilmember Chris Moore said, there was actually a plan to go back to three lanes from Nettleton headed north also. Two lanes and turn lane instead of four lanes there. Councilmember Ann Williams said, I don't mean to complicate things by throwing this in the mix, but I think this is a good time to kind of be thinking of alternatives, because those that haven't lived here for a long time may not recall how it was before and then some of the changes that have occurred. So, I think it's good to kind of understand that there are alternatives to the way the traffic pattern is downtown right now.

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, I think too, Craig are you in the room I can't see. I don't see, unless Craig tells me otherwise, why we couldn't keep up temporary alternate routes during that period of time, to continue the detour through that process until it is finally confirmed by Council. Can we do that? Engineering Department Director Craig Light approached the podium and said, the only issue that comes to mind is that when you take Main Street back to two lanes, south of Washington the tractor trailers will have a hard time taking a right turn there without taking up both lanes of traffic. So, we may have to narrow Main Street down to one

lane northbound to give tractor trailers enough room to make a right turn during that six-week period. But it could be possible. We can look at what the geometry would be, but that's the only concern. We're looking at the ultimate truck route being Highland Drive. Basically, diverting tractor trailers down Highland to Red Wolf to Johnson and just missing the whole residential and downtown corridors. Councilmember Chris Moore said, so will the traffic on Southwest Drive, will it go east on Highland and hit Red Wolf and then go around? Director Craig Light said, yeah that would be the ultimate truck route. But we can look at some short-term... like I say, it may take some lane narrowing down to one lane, but if we're only talking six weeks then it might be something that's doable. We can look into it.

A motion was made by Chris Moore, seconded by Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant;Ann Williams;Anthony Coleman and Kevin Miller

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-25:039](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AT 1507 WOOD STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Permanent Construction Easement 1507 Wood Street.pdf](#)

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, approached the podium and said, I was just wondering. There's four resolutions to put sidewalks. On this first resolution there was no price on the easement and the offer. And then the other three is that it ranges. They're all on the same side of the street. It's 1503, 1505, 1507, 1511, so they're all on the same side of the street, and I don't understand why one, the offer was \$875, and the other one was \$3,183. Chairman John Street said, it's probably the difference in the value of the property that it was concerned. Square footage of it is one thing. It's a certain amount of price per square foot, and various sizes amount of different properties. I mean, 100 square feet is going to be less than 400 square feet. Patti Lack said, so one must be a lot bigger than the other one? Chairman John Street said, yes. Patti Lack said, ok thank you.

A motion was made by Chris Moore, seconded by Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant;Janice Porter;Anthony Coleman and Kevin Miller

Absent: 1 - Ann Williams

[RES-25:040](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE FOR A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AT 1503 WOOD STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 1503 Wood Street.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Chris Moore, seconded by Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant;Ann Williams;Anthony Coleman and Kevin Miller

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

[RES-25:042](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE FOR A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AT 1511 WOOD STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering and Finance

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 1511 Wood Street.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Chris Moore, seconded by Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant;Ann Williams;Anthony Coleman and Kevin Miller

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

[RES-25:043](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE FOR A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AT 1505 WOOD STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Sponsors: Engineering and Finance

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 1505 Wood Street.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Chris Moore, seconded by Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant;Ann Williams;Anthony Coleman and Kevin Miller

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

[RES-25:045](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

Sponsors: Engineering

A motion was made by Chris Moore, seconded by Ann Williams, that this matter be Recommended to Council . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 6 - Chris Moore;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant;Ann Williams;Anthony Coleman and Kevin Miller

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter

5. PENDING ITEMS

6. OTHER BUSINESS

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 6 - Chris Moore; Charles Coleman; LJ Bryant; Ann Williams; Anthony Coleman and Kevin Miller

Absent: 1 - Janice Porter