



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes Public Safety Council Committee

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

5:00 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Present 5 - Brian Emison; Janice Porter; Chris Moore; LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

Absent 2 - Chris Gibson and David McClain

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[MIN-26:040](#)

Minutes for the Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

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

Aye: 4 - Janice Porter; Chris Moore; LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and David McClain

4. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES TO BE INTRODUCED

[ORD-26:017](#)

AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING ORDINANCE 24:037 WHICH ESTABLISHED AND CONSOLIDATED SPECIAL TRAFFIC PATTERNS NEAR JONESBORO PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUSES

Sponsors: Engineering

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

Aye: 4 - Janice Porter; Chris Moore; LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and David McClain

[ORD-26:019](#)

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Sponsors: Engineering

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

Aye: 4 - Janice Porter;Chris Moore;LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and David McClain

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-26:066](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, DEPARTMENT OF GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2025 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FEDERAL EMERGENCY AGENCY (FEMA)

Sponsors: Grants and Fire Department

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

Aye: 4 - Janice Porter;Chris Moore;LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and David McClain

[RES-26:067](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, DEPARTMENT OF GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY2025 FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FEDERAL EMERGENCY AGENCY (FEMA)

Sponsors: Grants and Fire Department

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

Aye: 4 - Janice Porter;Chris Moore;LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and David McClain

5. PENDING ITEMS

Councilmember Chris Moore said, did you have an item? Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I was about to say something, Mr. Moore. Councilmember Chris Moore said, go ahead. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, I was just going to say, and it's a safety issue, it's halfway Public Works, halfway Public Safety. I'll do a bad job describing it, Craig. I was using my self-driving, at Craighead Forest. I was like by the Fort Rotary, coming up the road by the bathroom, and the disc golf's kind of on your left, the ball field's ahead of you. I felt like we need a stop sign there. You kind of have to, like my Tesla didn't stop, you know, and it should've stopped, but there wasn't a stop sign, so it didn't stop. But anyway, because these guys are going straight, and you're kind of needing to make a left here, so if that's something we can take a look at, if that makes sense. Someone off camera and mic said, we'll take a look at it. Councilmember LJ Bryant said, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, is that all? Councilmember LJ Bryant said, yes, sir. Chairman Brian Emison said, Mr. Moore. Councilmember Chris Moore said, well, while we're on Craig. Hey Craig, you know, when you're headed north on Main Street... Yeah, come on to the podium. When you're headed north on Main Street and you get to Washington, and it narrows to one lane on the new traffic plan there. The right-hand lane has about four little plastic-looking things. I had a request from several people downtown to see if we could put one of the city concrete planters right there instead of those little, they're kind of unsightly. And it still allows the fire trucks and emergency vehicles to pull around, and I would highly doubt if one of those concrete planters would be an obstacle.

Engineering Director Craig Light approached the podium and said, we actually had the concrete planters there before we put the candlesticks in. Honestly, they weren't very attractive sitting there. We can definitely look at an alternate solution, but I don't think those concrete planters are what we ultimately want to use there. But we can definitely discuss a better solution that is more attractive than either one of those, hopefully. Councilmember Chris Moore said, what they seem to think, evidently, we've got some of them sitting around downtown somewhere, or we've used them, and they saw. They actually thought if we put two there, one behind the other, then on days that we were going to have Main Street closed, like we did over the weekend, we would just slide the other one over. And that would give a more aesthetic look than those little plastic cones. And I think people were running the little plastic cones over and short cutting the corner right there. Director Craig Light said, we can definitely look at it. Like I said, we had those up and getting the right angle, and we were afraid that cars were going to hit those and damage vehicles. We were kind of concerned about that. But we can definitely look at some different alternatives to what to do there. Councilmember Chris Moore said, they said at Washington and Main, and then at the next one down, I guess it would be Huntington and Main was the exact same situation. If you'll just look at that. Director Craig Light said, I will. Councilmember Chris Moore said, thank you, sir. That's all I have.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Which brings us to Director Roper. I have reached out to Director Roper a couple of weeks ago. We're coming up on the anniversary of our park ranger program, and him along with Eric have prepared a presentation for us on our park rangers and are ready to present that to us this evening. So, Director Roper, the floor is yours.

Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper said, thank you, Councilman. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the park rangers. As many of you know, the park ranger program officially began last July under the direction of Code Enforcement. The rangers report directly to Senior Assistant Eric Schmidt who has been instrumental in developing and managing the program. Before Eric presents his program, I wanted to briefly highlight that this was not a program that just simply appeared overnight. We started from the ground developing a comprehensive and well-thought-out plan that included research in similar departments, establishing procedures, creating training set standards, and developing equipment and operational needs. In defining the role the rangers would play in serving our parks and community. This process took a considerable amount of time and effort to ensure we built a program that would be professional, effective, and sustainable for years to come. Today, we are proud of the program and the progress that's been made and the positive impact that rangers are making on our park system. At this time, I'll turn it over to Eric and he will provide kind of a more detailed overview of the program and its accomplishments and our future goals. Chairman Brian Emison said, thank you Director Roper.

Code Enforcement Senior Officer Eric Schmidt said, I'm Eric Schmidt. I'm the senior

code officer with Jonesboro Code Enforcement. Like he said, the park rangers directly fall underneath me. And we're just going to give you an update on where the park ranger program has been and where it is now and where we want it to go in the future.

So obviously, we had to hire four people to fill our allotted slots, had a lot of people apply, did a lot of interviews. We ended up hiring four people. And then we had to train those four people. We did three weeks of total training, two weeks in a classroom, which included ride-alongs with animal services, Code Enforcement, JPD. We'll get into the classroom topics here in a minute. But after that two weeks, we actually had to put them in the field and show them how to do a job that nobody's actually done before. So, we all hopped in the truck together and went out in each park, tried to visit as many parks as we could each day, learned the parks, learned the programs, and then we actually had to teach them what to enforce, you know, park rules, park ordinance. We actually had to find violations so they'd know what to do when they come across it.

Some of the training topics that we covered, we spent a whole day on medical training, stop the bleeding and Narcan, first aid, CPR, AED, hypothermia, and heat exposure.

City Attorney's Office spent a whole day with the park rangers as well covering Fourth Amendment, property rights, Americans with Disabilities Act, juvenile law, affidavit process, city ordinances, and courtroom testimony. These guys are entry-level employees. We have to teach them how to do all this stuff.

Spent quite a bit of time teaching them to deal with the public and how to handle conflicts. JPD taught classes on dealing with large groups of people, de-escalation, conflict resolution, and use of force. Obviously, they're not police officers, but there is a use of force that civilians have to abide by as well.

They also spent a full day with Parks. Jim Stearns actually taught them all of these classes. He went through the history of parks, park rules, park programs. We even talked about the Master Parks Plan, talked about the trails, the campground, playground safety. Obviously, they're going to be in parks, they have to know these things.

Some miscellaneous training they went through as well. Report writing, bike training. They know how to use the e-bikes that JPD has, and they have access to those. Radio operations, self-defense, OC spray, mental health, and drugs.

The park rangers are certified crowd managers, so the Arkansas State Fire Code actually changed recently. Large outdoor events, even some indoor events, are required to have crowd managers. And their main purpose is, the police are there to address a threat. Let's say, you know, there's an event downtown, there's an active shooter, the police go towards the threat. The crowd managers get people away from the threat, whether that be an active shooter or a fire, whatever it is, that's what they're trained to do. So, any event outside with a thousand or more people has to have two crowd managers, and for every 250 people after that, they have to have an additional crowd manager. So, the park rangers are trained in this, and we also actually trained all the Code Enforcement officers in this as well, so that we can supplement them for larger events. They're mainly using this downtown, that's where most of the large crowds are, but they can also do go in the parks as well.

Some of our goals. One thing that came up over and over again when we were creating this program was this term of ambassadors. Obviously, the park rangers are

probably the most visible aspect, or at least the most visible employees within the park system. They drive a truck that's got park ranger stickers all over it. They wear a very visible uniform. We want the public to feel that they are approachable. We want people to be able to go up to them and talk to them and ask them questions and feel that they're friendly. So, we stress to the rangers that we want them to be ambassadors for the parks. They're the most visible parks representative. We want them to be approachable. We want to interact with park guests and the greater community. We don't want them to be wallflowers. We want them to talk to as many people as they possibly can. And we want them to be an encyclopedia of information on parks and park programs. Obviously, they're not the police. They're not lifeguards. They're not wallflowers. When they're at community centers working basketball games, we don't want them just sitting on the wall or in a corner. We want them walking around and talking to people.

Our motto is preserve, protect, educate. We want to preserve the parks and the resources that they provide. Obviously, we want to protect the public that are in the parks and also educate the public about parks and park programs.

Typical day for a park ranger. They're working 12:00PM to 10:00PM every day, except holidays. They're stationed at the patrol building on Washington Avenue. They have an office there. And their goal is pretty much to visit as many parks as possible and spend adequate time in each park. We don't want them just driving through the parking and then pulling off. We want them to actually get out of their vehicle and talk to people who are in the parks. We want frequent, positive interactions. As many as possible every day. They're responsible for all the city parks, Craighead Forest, all urban parks, the community centers, and sporting events within the parks, pools, and the entertainment district as well. Most of their time is spent at Craighead Forest, the community centers, Joe Mack and Southside, because that's where most of the people are. We try and prioritize where the people are going to be, because that's where they're going to be needed most. Obviously, you know, Craighead has a lot of people. Joe Mack and Southside have a lot of tournaments. That's where they spend most of their time. Obviously, they're responsible for enforcing the park rules and city ordinances on a daily basis. They assist in responding to medical calls, animal issues, minor crimes, and criminal bans. If we get a call about a person with a gun in a park, the park rangers aren't going to go to that. That's going to be JPD. If there's a fire in the park, they'll be their second responder, because JPD is going to be the first responder.

Some additional duties they have, obviously, downtown events, tournaments. We presented at the Citizens Police Academy for the first time this year. And then with the new JBR trail system going across town, we've been tasked with education and enforcement of that. Obviously, those trails go through some people's front yards. The city ordinance, you cannot park, you cannot block the trail even in your own driveway. So, we started a social media campaign and started pushing this out over social media so people know that they can't block the trails. And then we went to flyers and started passing out flyers to people who were parked on the trail. And we haven't had to do any enforcement. We haven't had to write any tickets. And that's our goal. We don't want to have to write tickets. We want compliance in another way if we can. And they're also doing a lot of school events. They've done a bunch of career fairs this year at the elementary schools. And they've also been reading to some students as well.

Earth Day this year, we decided that we wanted to give back to the community a little bit. So, we looked at a couple parks that we felt could use some TLC. And we ended up deciding on Phillip Evans Parks, which is on State Street. You can see some before pictures right here where the mulch is broke down or washed out. And then afterward, what it looks like after we got the work done, they look a lot better now. We went out there and Parks helped us as well. They dumped a mountain of mulch on

State Street. And we went through about half of that by putting in wheel barrels and manually dumping it in the park.

This is the reading event we did this year. We got a lot of feedback from the teachers afterwards and apparently the kids absolutely loved it.

Some stats. So obviously the program started in July. So, we've only got a couple months of stats from 2025. We didn't really know what stats we wanted to compile. So, in 2025 we had 74 complaints, opened 182 cases which could range from, you know, a park rule violation to a city ordinance violation to a minor criminal issue. Responded to three medical calls and we had 28 animal complaints. This year from January to May we've had 102 complaints. We've opened 246 cases for 268 violations. We've had 8 medical calls, 14 animal complaints, 51 criminal violations, 6 arrests and 15 people have been criminally banned from the parks so far.

We were also awarded with a trendsetter award at AML conference this past winter. We had an honorable mention for tourism development and creative culture for the creation of the park ranger program.

Moving forward we have three main goals. We don't have the coverage that we need with four park rangers. 12:00PM to 10:00PM. I mean that's all we can get right now. So, we need to expand that program. Our goals are to increase community engagement whether it's in the parks or in the schools. We want to keep engaging the community as much as we can. We also want to create some park ranger programs that for example could be scavenger hunts, hike with a ranger or canoe with a ranger. Those are our future goals. That's all I have. Chairman Brian Emison said, great. Thank you Mr. Schmidt.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, Chairman, maybe just two quick ones for either one of you I suppose. I know we're cutting in to council time. I know a small department, it's got to be challenging when there's turnover to train like one person, right? That's got to be challenging for any small department. So how does that work? Director Scott Roper said, we're just replacing one currently so we're actually still engaged in a training plan right now but we're planning on getting also with Animal Control because we do have some things we can train with them, with the PD's help us and, you know, first aid, that type of thing. So, we'll do some cross training with them and also with Code Enforcement as well. So, we can combine three different departments and train them at the same time with similar aspects.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said, yeah that makes sense. Last question. I know Eric mentioned they were training to ride the e-bikes. Is that happening any? Are they using the e-bikes? Director Scott Roper said, actually we have. We have found that transportation was an issue so actually last week we just installed a hitch and we're in the process of getting a bike rack so we should start seeing them much more onsite at Craighead Forest once we get our bike rack in.

Chairman Brian Emison said, Director Scott Roper said, thank you. Chairman Brian Emison said, Director Roper, Eric, thank you so much. Great presentation. Great first year. Thank you for bringing that to us tonight.

[COM-26:033](#)

VECTOR MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT FOR MAY 2026

Attachments: [Jonesboro May 2026.pdf](#)

Chairman Brian Emison said, first, I have a communication that's from Vector Mosquito Control, the report for May of 2026. I don't know if anybody else had time to

go over that, but there's some really good information in that. It seems like we've sprayed a whole lot more this year, and the mosquito counts down that we've been able to see. But feel free to email any questions or any concerns or anything else that you have regarding the Vector Mosquito Control report for May of 2026.

Filed

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: 4 - Janice Porter;Chris Moore;LJ Bryant and Kevin Miller

Absent: 2 - Chris Gibson and David McClain