



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Thursday, December 5, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

NOTICE: MOVED TO THURSDAY DUE TO RUN-OFF ELECTION

PUBLIC WORKS COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER AT 5:30 P.M.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams
Absent 1 - David McClain

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember John Street asked that RES-24:159 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - David McClain

[MIN-24:105](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Attachments: [CC Minutes 11192024.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-24:160](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 735 WEST OAK, PARCEL 01-143241-07800, OWNED BY MICHELLE ELLINGTON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Attachments: 1. [735 W Oak Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
 2. [735 W Oak Billing Request.pdf](#)
 3. [735 W Oak Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
 4. [735 W Oak Council Notice.pdf](#)
 4.1 [735 W Oak New Council Date Notice .pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-150-2024

[RES-24:161](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 900 HOOVER, PARCEL 01-144181-15700, OWNED BY CLEOPHUS BRYANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Attachments: 1. [900 Hoover Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
 2. [900 A Hoover Billing Request.pdf](#)
 3. [900 Hoover Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
 4. [900 Hoover Council Notice.pdf](#)
 4.1. [900 Hoover New Council Date Notice.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-151-2024

[RES-24:162](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3500 FAIRVIEW, PARCEL 01-144281-43900, OWNED BY BRAYDEN L & BEHTANY PAIGE MOHLKE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$515

Attachments: 1. [3500 Fairview Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
 2. [3500 Fairview Billing Request Clean Up & Haul Off.pdf](#)
 3. [3500 Fairview Invoice Clean Up & Hauling Off.pdf](#)
 4. [3500 Fairview Council Notice.pdf](#)
 4.1. [3500 Fairview New Council Date Notice.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-152-2024

[RES-24:163](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT HOOVER 01-144181-16100, PARCEL 01-144181-16100, OWNED BY CLEOPHUS BRYANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60

Attachments: [1. Parcel # 01-144181-161 on Hoover Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
[2. Parcel # 01-144181-16100 on Hoover Billing Request.pdf](#)
[3. Parcel # 01-144181-16100 on Hoover Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
[4. Parcel # 01-144181-16100 on Hoover Council Notice.pdf](#)
[4.1. Parcel # 01-144181-161100 New Council Date Notice.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-153-2024

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-24:159](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO PLACE A MUNICIPAL LIEN ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 639 WEST OAK, PARCEL 01-144192-20800, OWNED BY BECKY WIMPY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275

Attachments: [1. 639 W Oak Notice of Violation.pdf](#)
[2. 639 W Oak Billing Request.pdf](#)
[3. 639 W Oak Mowing Invoice.pdf](#)
[4. 639 W Oak Council Notice.pdf](#)
[4.1. 639 W Oak New Council Notice Date.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street asked that RES-24:159 be postponed indefinitely. Code Enforcement Director Scott Roper had let him know that this had been paid.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Joe Hafner, that this matter be Postponed Indefinitely. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - David McClain

RESOLUTIONS NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-24:164](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE JONESBORO CITY COUNCIL TO PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1100 SOUTH CULBERHOUSE STREET FROM JOHN C. DEACON JR. AND AMEND THE FY2024 BUDGET

Attachments: [1100 S. Culberhouse St - Appraisal.pdf](#)
[Letter of Intent Signed.pdf](#)
[Purchase Contract - 1100 S. Culberhouse.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Enactment No: R-EN-154-2024

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-24:031](#)

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 Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:031 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-24:033](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5715 AND 5719 EAST JOHNSON AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY SCOTT BRIDGER

- Attachments:**
- [Application](#)
 - [Certified Mail Receipts](#)
 - [Deeds](#)
 - [Plat 5715](#)
 - [Plat 5719](#)
 - [Rezoning Signs Posted](#)
 - [Staff Summary](#)
 - [Surveys](#)
 - [MAPC Minutes](#)
 - [Publication Receipt](#)

Held at second reading

[ORD-24:034](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO I-1 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3732 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY HOYT+BERENYI, LLC ON BEHALF OF SHIRLEY BARNETT

Attachments: [Application](#)
[Certified Mail](#)
[Deed](#)
[Letter to Neighbors](#)
[Property Owner Notification](#)
[Rezoning Information](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[Signs posted on site](#)
[Staff Summary](#)
[MAPC Minutes](#)
[Proof of Pub](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-24:032](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM RS-1 AND I-1 TO RS-8 AND C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6106 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY BLAZER LAND HOLDING, LLC

Attachments: [Application](#)
[Certified Mail Receipts](#)
[Existing Zoning Map](#)
[Proposed Zoning Map](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)
[REZONING Plat](#)
[Staff Summary - CC](#)

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: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - David McClain

Enactment No: O-EN-034-2024

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

Today, we received notification or verification that Jonesboro received a TAP grant for the Transportation Alternative Program of \$500,000 from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT). The City of Jonesboro, the City Council voted in May to authorize the city's Grants and Community Development Department to apply for funding to improve pedestrian safety for funding to improve pedestrian safety for cyclists in the heart of Jonesboro. The funds will be used to retrofit the Marion Berry Overpass to enhance cyclists and pedestrian accommodations. A new protected

ten-foot multi-use path will be constructed and will be safely separated from traffic by a protective partition. The final designs and specifics for the project are being finalized. When complete, pedestrians will have access to a protected well-lit pathway between the campus of Arkansas State University and Downtown Jonesboro. City and University officials are hopeful that the project will serve as an artery to the future improvements in the area between campus and downtown. This investment is vital to our local economic and cultural hub of Jonesboro. We are excited that the partners of ARDOT and Arkansas State University as we benefit our community and improve it together. Traditionally, the TAP funds are 80% federal allocation that requires a 20% local match with a maximum award of \$500,000. The estimated \$1.5 million project is in the planning and design phase and local officials anticipate construction to begin in 2025. That's good news and pretty quick.

The day after our last city council meeting some of us had the pleasure of having lunch with the people who received the "Thanks for Giving" awards to further honor them for giving back to the community in meaningful ways. I do appreciate them. We have very talented citizens in our community. I am really pleased to be able to just give a few awards out. Hopefully, next year we are going to be seeing many other people who receive as well.

November 20, 2024 was proclaimed Elite Hospice Day honoring the National Care of Home Service that we have in our community. I appreciate all of the professionals that came up because they are vital contributors within our community to our senior care.

On November 21, 2024, Golden Rule Lodge #114 affiliated with Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arkansas fed the city hall employees with an amazing Ron's Catfish meal. We were all very thankful for the expression of the appreciation for city employees through a delicious meal in the Thanksgiving season.

On November 21, 2024, twenty-five people graduated from the Citizen's Police Academy completing the 13 week program from the Jonesboro Police Department. This is a vital engagement piece in educating our residents on the ins and outs of JPD. The graduating number class is 18. So, if any of you in the room would like to participate, I would highly recommend that.

We also proudly contributed \$5,000 to the Disabled American Veterans group last month which helped in providing transportation for veterans services in Little Rock, Memphis, and Popular Bluff.

Our Sanitation Department continues to work hard to get our trash pickup back on track after city offices and services were closed during the Thanksgiving holiday. They will continue the adjusted sanitation schedule and work on Saturday this week to be caught up by the end of the week. Recycling is already back on schedule and regular pickup will be back to normal at the beginning part of next week.

In this season of eating and the last day of November, the Downtown Alliance held its Culinary Crawl featuring taste of food from downtown businesses. It is a great new addition to downtown events. And, I might remind the residents as well...of course, we have many restaurants and many individual community members own restaurants in our community, but let's really keep in mind those during the downtown, the holiday season, especially since the road closure as a continuation of downtown Jonesboro. Let's support our downtown businesses.

On November 27, 2024, Christmas at the Park opened. The hours are from 5:30-8:30

during the week and Friday and Saturday 5:30-9:30. There is an event called "Pay what you can" the last night on Monday December 23. So, please come by and see that.

In the meantime, holiday patrols continue throughout the busy holiday season. Our goal is to reach 1,000 hours of additional police presence. The program has had great feedback from previous years and as we have seen the more police visibility deters crime in parking lots and stores. This year we will have officers in vehicles, on foot, and visible within the stores. It's important that residents and visitors alike feel safe here. You may have heard Chief Elliott's public service announcement on the radio talking about the patrols and some tips for shoppers to stay safe and making special mention of visitors that we have from outside of Jonesboro who shop here during the holidays.

The Jonesboro Firefighter's Association's Christmas party was held on December 2, 2024 at St. Bernard's Auditorium. A good time celebrating together, playing games, eating, visiting, and Santa even dropped in for the visit with the children, but there was also the Grinch too. The Grinch was present as well.

The JET trolley tours event has provided some amazing opportunities to share the trolley experience within the community. One unique opportunity was when Santa himself traded his sleigh for a JET trolley delivering books to areawide students at local schools and organizations. On Monday of this week, JET visited three entities delivering approximately 400 books in just a day. Now, we have also gotten the new red trolley. It just arrived last night. That will be in the Christmas parade, both the blue and the red trolleys. So, that will be a big introduction to them for the community to see.

Tomorrow night is the Jonesboro Christmas Parade. Movies on Union is the theme. We already have over 100 participants. That's pretty amazing.

Jonesboro Parks & Recreation Winter Wonderland opens tomorrow night as well. So, get ready for the magical season filled with skating, train rides, teacups, carousels, and a ferris wheel and more. Don't miss the special events like the parade on December 6, 2024 and JoyFest on December 7, 2024.

Saturday is the Downtown Jonesboro Alliance JoyFest in Union Park. It begins at 4:00 p.m. and you can experience the lighting of the RightFiber Christmas tree, live music, kids zones, local vendors and its free event for the public. Downtown Jonesboro becomes its own Christmas Hallmark experience.

Saturday is also a neighborhood cleanup from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Fox Meadow Elementary School. Now, don't forget glass recycling is now available. Glass must be separate from all other trash items in loose containers, not bagged and disposed of the design class cycling roll off dumpster. Any colored glass, broken glass is accepted. The only glass not accepted is building windows or automotive windshields.

A reminder that the humanitarian outreach funding applications are live and available on the city's website: www.jonesboro.org. The \$500,000 funding to help non-profit organizations grow their impact in the community are due by January 15, 2025.

I have to mention that I am proud of our employees for reaching huge improvements on the United Way contributions. In 2024, we had 14 participants raising \$1,785. In 2025, we have had 102 participants signed up for payroll deductions totaling almost \$12,000. Special gratitude goes to Alejandra Morales in her efforts that she encouraged the staff to do so.

And, finally, for those of you who may have missed it or have not looked in your mailbox, watched tv, listened to the radio, or have been out of state or the country for the last month, there was a runoff election Tuesday. Thank you to each and every voter who got out and voted and made their voice heard. I am humbled by your confidence in this administration and every voter's passion of our city. Thank you and I pledge to continue focusing on making Jonesboro the very best city it can be in an honest and dedicated manner.

[COM-24:057](#) SEPTEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Attachments: [September 2024 Financials.pdf](#)

Filed

[COM-24:060](#) NAIDC 3rd Quarter Report 2024

Attachments: [NAIDC Report 3rd Quarter 2024.pdf](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I want to thank Chief Elliott, Debbie Johnson, and Fisher Street Community in Action. They started a soup on Wednesday evening from 5:00-7:00 p.m. really for the homeless, a free cup of soup or whatever we are going to be dishing out. We were just really excited that Chief Elliott is actually sending some of the parole guys to watch us while we are out there so nobody will jump on us. Every Wednesday from 5:00-7:00 p.m. a free cup of soup for the homeless. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked, Mr. Mayor, what was the alternate route for the Christmas Parade tomorrow night? Did I read that it was going to start at Burke and come up Union? Mayor Copenhaver said, it will come up Union, a straight shot and it will not actually stop. So, it will be a continual parade. Everybody will line up. Do y'all have any more information on it Donna? Communications Director Donna Malone said, I have a little bit of information about that. I know that there is going to be five different zones where the different types of participants will line up. So, for example, the floats will line up in one area. The bands will be in another area. Vehicles will be in another area. Walking participants will be in another area. They are going at different, meeting at different time zones. Basically, between 5:30-6:00 p.m. So, they will be like floats at Bill's Grocery Store. That is where those will be. The wonderful director, Heather Talley, will just kind of call off when it is your turn to go so that, in essence, what you will end up having is a variety of exhibits going in the parade so that you don't have all floats at one time and all bands at one time and that the parade is continuous and flows nicely. It sounds like a wonderful plan to me. But, they are meeting at various locations throughout, on the other side of Union. It starts at Burke and goes all the way down Union. But, it does not turn around and go back again or anything like that. Councilmember Moore said, okay, so everybody needs to be on Union? Mayor Copenhaver said, yes sir. Ms. Malone said, to observe, you will hang out on Union, that's right, and wear warm clothes. Councilmember Moore said, okay, thank you very much. Mayor Copenhaver said, and go eat on Main Street afterwards. Ms. Malone said, absolutely, go eat on Main Street and then go to JoyFest and all of the other good stuff

the next day. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Donna. Thank you.

Councilmember Ann Williams said, I just want to mention that the Impact Fee Committee met on Tuesday and voted to accept the proposal from the firm DTA. And, that information will be forwarded in that proposal to the City Council at the next meeting. That was one of the firms that was interviewed by Impact Fee Committee. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you councilmember.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, the Advertising & Promotions met yesterday afternoon for a very lengthy meeting. I think we had about \$1.3 million in grant requests yesterday and we were able to award about \$675,000 of that if my calculations are correct. Very worthy organizations within the community and I encourage everybody to continue to apply for those. And, if we are able to grant those, we will be more than happy to do so. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, just one quick question. Now that the election is over, when will the revenue bond going to come back up for consideration? Mayor Copenhaver said, well, we actually have been in discussions about that over the last two days seriously. We are going to bring the budget forth first of all and then the revenue bond will be in conjunction partly with that and continue that effort. So, that will be very quickly. Councilmember Hafner said, there are a lot of good projects in there and I want to make sure that we keep moving on. Mayor Copenhaver said, and, well, we need to coordinate the efforts between both plans.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Joe Hafner, that this matter be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - David McClain

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk