



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Service recognition to Larry Jackson for over five decades of service with Parks and Recreation: Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, well, good evening council. It is always a pleasure to stand in front of you. Before I start this evening, I would like to recognize two individuals that have provided service to our city for not only just a few years, but a number of years and some are too many years to mention. But, they have seen a lot of changes within the city. They have seen a lot of changes within leadership. They have seen a lot of changes within their departments. And, so, Larry Jackson, if you would please come forward. So, I have written a letter for Larry. Let me read it to you real quickly. For the better of five decades, five decades, you have worked daily to shape Craighead Forest Park from a gravel loop, miles from downtown, to a recreational centerpiece in the entire region. In the 45 years you worked for the city, your passion for protecting our prized park land was unsurpassed. Rarely would you see litter unattended and park grounds and anything less than immaculate condition. The individual projects you managed at the park would be a long list, but rest assured nearly everything we see at the park today, you had a say in. You did didn't you, pretty much. Mr. Jackson said, I had something. Mayor Copenhaver continued, you had something to say. And, quite literally a hand in. Larry, thank you for quarterbacking the evolution of a park that any city in the nation would love to have. Enjoy your retirement. And, on behalf of the City of Jonesboro, thank you for your remarkable service and many years to your community. Thank you Larry.

Service recognition to Tracy Clayton for 38 years of service with the Street Department: Mayor Copenhaver asked, Mr. Clayton are you in the room? Good to see you sir. So, I wanted to start out a little bit. Tracy was a field representative so he and I met quite a bit. He wasn't afraid to ever ask for things for the employees and we always didn't agree, but we listened. Mr. Clayton said, we are still doing that. Mayor Copenhaver continued, but I want to start by thanking you number one for your friendship as well as your 38 years of service with the Streets Department and

recently as a crew leader. Over the last three years, I enjoyed to give and take you as Chair of the Employee Representative Committee. You are certainly one of a kind. And, by that, I mean a hard worker, not just for yourself, but for your fellow employees. We could not always meet each other on every wish, but I hope you understand that we always did our best to meet your needs. In your much deserved retirement, I wish you all of the best and I know you will enjoy spending the time with Mrs. Betty, the children, and grandchildren. On behalf of the City of Jonesboro, thank you for all of your service. Mr. Clayton said, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you Tracy.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BY MAYOR HAROLD COPENHAVER:

Good evening council. It's good to see everybody. Directors, thank you for being behind me tonight, unified. (inaudible) I am very fortunate to have the support of my wife and I have my number one fan in my book, my big hero, Landry, here this evening. He never misses a channel 24 meeting. So, somebody watches it. But, I can't say enough about what this means to myself and our administration to have these ladies and gentlemen behind me in this room because it's unity. It's unification of what we do for the citizens and residents of this community. It's hard to believe this is already the fourth time I have stood in front of City Council to present the State of the City. Each year it is special because of what we have accomplished over the past year, but then what we have planned for the coming year.

This year is extra special, and I say that because, what I am about to do is lay out a plan and show you that Jonesboro is growing and thriving. Actually, it's better than ever. And, that is worth celebrating. Jonesboro's story is like a book, one of many chapters. And, in each chapter there is consistency and that consistency has one common thread and it is called growth.

We are a city of over 82,000 people, nearly twice that on any midweek day. Jonesboro requires a lot of daily detail when that happens. Growth means everything for our jobs, our businesses, our schools, our healthcare, our parks, and not to mention, necessarily infrastructure improvements that consequently all add up to a better quality of life. But, take a look in how we have been growing. Just this past week, we hosted over 500 people from all over the state of Arkansas at the Governor's Conference for tourism. Over 35% of the people attending had never been to our community before. They had a fabulous time here for three days and I want to say thank you to the A&P Commission, the Parks Department, the hotel staff and a whole lot of volunteers to make that universally happen and what they considered a wonderful time in Jonesboro. But you know, tourism is not something Jonesboro really gets a lot of credit for. It's not a significant part of our history, but that's changing.

We have this fabulous convention center. We have ever expanding things to do, especially at our parks – especially Craighead Forest Park. We have more trails. We have kayak rides. We have fun areas to enjoy than ever. You've seen ongoing progress around the city, especially with ARDoT. The Executive Director Lori Tudor and I are great friends, but she is a great friend to this community and to the City of Jonesboro. You're seeing \$100 million of projects that are being worked on and hopefully completed soon. And, we're in conversations for future projects that could easily be another \$100 million plus. Businesses are earning more than ever. Property values are higher than ever. New neighborhoods keep emerging to provide for the next wave of talent coming to town. Older neighborhoods are being revitalized. And soon we will break ground on a sports complex that will absolutely transcend Jonesboro in a way that I don't believe we've seen before. We all are partners in growth, because Jonesboro is a bustling city. And, I'm proud of it.

I'm proud that Jonesboro is a city where a baby born today can have world-class healthcare, top-ranked education in our schools, and study to become an engineer, a nurse or even a doctor without ever leaving our city limits. I am also proud that, even with more people that we have in our community, we have more traffic, more of everything spinning around us, but still, we still have our quiet, peaceful neighborhoods that remind us of the old times we find nostalgic. We are still a family town, a city of churches and a lot of banks. But, we are a city where it is safe to walk in your neighborhood. Or ride a bike around our trails. Or get in the car with a family member and go out to eat and get some ice cream. Play a game at Arkansas State University, attend a game there, go to a play at the Forum, or just spend a beautiful day in the park. Today, we're creating a future for our generations to come. And, this means starting with fundamentals by keeping our city safe and functioning at a high level while we do it. Speaking of safety, Chief Elliott has been making this point about crime rates for a while. But, let me say it again. Crime has gone down in Jonesboro in the past three years. I will always want to note though that any crime is too much. And, if you have been a victim of crime, statistics don't matter. But, to measure success at battling crime, they do.

Without raising taxes, with your support, we gave meaningful raises to first responders at a time when police forces across the nation were in crisis. A lot of them are understaffed, undertrained and way too often, disrespected. While Americans in many cities can't even trust a call to 911 will ever be answered, in Jonesboro, I can say we are effectively staffed in all emergency response departments, including police. And now when an officer resigns or moves on, we have a list of applicants ready to fill that position. Folks, this is not common in the world today. In our police department, our 11-hour shifts continue to pay dividends to put cruisers on the street and more visibility in our community. Our camera system has grown to almost 700 units, where our computers can detect abnormal activity by drivers, or locate a vehicle by description. We solve serious crimes with the Real Time Crime Center, and because surrounding towns and cities have bought into our program, we have caught perpetrators in other cities that have committed crimes here and vice versa. Now, to think Jonesboro exists in a vacuum is not reality. So the regional cities participating in the Real Time Crime Center are having impact across northeast Arkansas. So I thank you, Rick Elliott and Assistant Chief Lynn Waterworth – and the great men and women of the Jonesboro Police force for always making their top priority the safety our residents, their families and properties every day. Thank you Chief. I'd be remiss as well to leave out the Citizens Police Academy. I think some of you in this room have been through that. It's a free, weekly class. It's 13 sessions, and the community is taught to understand the whys of police procedures and the processes they go through. I think we have had over 400 graduates since 2015.

Let me move on to speed tables. And, this is very critical. Our pedestrian speed tables because every once in a while, believe it or not Council, I get a negative comment on Facebook about it. I can't imagine. But, you know what, I'd rather deal with that than talk to a parent of a child that is hit outside of the Foundation of Arts or the family of a nurse harmed after finishing a shift in the middle of the night at St. Bernards. Just this morning, we had a pedestrian struck on Church near the hospital. We owe it to our citizens to work collectively on safe and useable pedestrian infrastructure. Another factor that reduces crime is lighting. Recently in the RAISE grant, we did a request out to the community. We had over 1,800 applicants that sent back information and their ideas and their number one thing was that our community wasn't lit well enough and they didn't feel safe enough in it without lighting. So, downtown looks wonderful with more lights. We need more lighting in neighborhoods, our streets and our parks. It will take a little time. We have got some catching up to do, but we have to do that to get ahead. Working with CWL, we are making progress

and I look forward to more in 2024. You know what else deters crime? Getting rid of blight. Knowing that, our Director of Code Enforcement, Scott Roper and his department have been on the attack. More than 170 dilapidated houses have been removed from Jonesboro neighborhoods over the past 18 months. That's 170 sources of blight, danger, and quite possibly crime, eliminated in our city. And they're not done.

Our Sanitation and Code Enforcement departments, along with the great volunteers at Keep Jonesboro Beautiful, continue our monthly neighborhood cleanups each month. We take our large junk to the landfill, at no cost to the public. And over those 12 mornings in 2023, we collected over 96 tons of junk and 443 tires. Ninety-six tons is equivalent to around 200,000 pounds and I think we are going to collect more this year. Three neighborhoods, though, had been doing this for years. So North Jonesboro, Scenic Hills and the West End, I saw thank you. It was your initiative that showed us what would work over the city.

Speaking of taking care of the city, the Jonesboro Fire Department is hosting its first citizens academy for members of the public. This is a great opportunity for the public to learn what firefighters do, and pick up tips as well. I've taken pride in everything regarding our Fire Department, from knowing that they're often the first on the scene of an accident or a 911 call. So, Chief Hamrick, Assistant Chief Bassham, you and your team provide fabulous services to the city that save lives daily.

Another department that deserves our appreciation is Finance. We once again have a balanced budget, \$82 million. And, we just received a Legislative Audit that found zero cases of error and misuse. That's a tremendous achievement that validates the competence and integrity of your city government, and the overseers in Finance. So, thank you to Steve and his team.

The Jonesboro we live in today didn't happen by chance. But its founding fathers hardly foresaw a city on the Ridge that would grow far beyond its initial boundaries. And, if I could go back in time, which I would like to do, I would have asked them to widen Main Street. But, constant growth, miles off the ridge into former woods and farmland, have been met with constant planning and replanning. Jonesboro's exponential growth over the years has created a set of new challenges. Once vacant low-lying areas have been turned into now businesses and homes. Some developments took proper steps to alleviate stormwater concerns. Some did not. Some streets were built to carry water to nearby creeks and streams. Which is good, water in the street is better than in the house. New state and local measures better focus on pre-emptive mitigation, but we still have many areas that we need to continually work on because these concerns are real.

We were honored. The City of Jonesboro was honored with a statewide Trendsetter Award from the Arkansas Business for Water and Infrastructure improvements. Council, it costs a lot of money and requires a lot of labor, but its money well spent. We doubled our excavator fleet from two to four. They're a million dollars apiece. We added staff and resources for this to be accomplished every day possible to remove obstructions in our creeks, canals and ditches, which have more than 400 miles. We also focused on removing leaves from culverts, and educating the public not to blow mowed grass or leaves into the drainage culverts. I have no doubt that we will have more and more bad weather and events in the future. And, our Engineering and Streets teams, as well as first responders, are trained at the highest class level to prepare to handle these events.

Our parks have dealt with bad weather here quite a bit. That is why we are replacing low-built, often muddy soccer fields with artificial turf that will allow the use almost

regardless of the weather. It's only one of many projects that our Parks Department, led by Danny Kapales, undertook last year. And I must say, the results have been remarkable. We renovated the 'Y' and many of you grew up and it was the old YMCA. The swimming pool on Nettleton Avenue, if you haven't seen it, you need to. The indoor is remarkable. Your resources spent on that facility have rejuvenated that part of the community. We have indoor soccer. We have new basketball. We have new meeting rooms. All of this is being utilized by our students and by our community.

We opened Union Park, a covered pavilion right over here, downtown and it was barely open when I saw The Hispanic Center holding Zumba classes under its awning. We even moved our First Community Bank ice rink there during the holidays. Right now, a new swimming pool with all the bells and whistles is being built at Parker Park, and it should open in May. A new dog park will soon open on Highland behind Jonesboro High School, and it will be larger than the one in Mid-Town, which will receive a much needed facelift as soon as the new one is finished. The coming Sports Complex, that I mentioned earlier, will serve our residents as well as a host of events state-wide and regional. We are down to final details of this fabulous facility. I cannot thank the A&P Committee enough and the Public Facilities Board as well. I know our businesses in town are looking forward to the droves of visitors that will come to Jonesboro.

Last week we announced that once again, our U.S. Congressional delegation has come through for our airport. It was destroyed four years ago. Many of you remember that. But in the years since, we have secured funding for over \$20 million. Over \$10 million was for the overlay. That has been finished. Now, we have received \$5 million a year and a half ago for the extension of that runway. And, just the other day, we received funding for the terminal. In my conversation with George Jackson earlier this week, he said Arkansas State University traveled to Coastal Carolina, the basketball team. They flew in a plane. It was a much larger plane and it had been here before. It took on 800 gallons of fuel at \$6.50/gal. and you can do the math. But, his point to me was, this is more fuel than an individual that owns one plane at the airport does in an entire year. That is the type of economic impact that you can see comes from the Airport. So, I want to salute George Jackson and the Airport Commission for working with us and staying on this.

We also have a lot of critical service organizations that I shudder where we would be without them. I want to mention the Salvation Army not only provides beds at night, but Captain Smith makes a mean hot breakfast and serves hundreds of people a week for breakfast. Hotel owner Naz Kazi has partnered with JPD to provide a voucher system for the homeless during bad weather. Of course, when we talk about partners, I have to mention our United Way. What a phenomenal organization in our community. It raises almost \$500,000 plus a year, every year to go back to our community. It is the largest service organization in America and does great work right here in Jonesboro. Jonesboro is a great community, that is what I love about it.

A renowned trade magazine, Area Development, with CEO's around the country consider the most recognized source for economic development last month ranked Jonesboro #1 in the south and 14th in the nation for potential growth. That is a big deal folks. What this tells me with this study done by experts in the field who know that future development requires land, water, education, health care, technology, and transportation infrastructure. All things Jonesboro has in spades. We also compare well to big cities in uncertain times. How many of us realize that Arkansas State University just had its largest spring enrollment class ever?

If you look at Jonesboro from the outside, the one word that stands out to me is consistency. Our job market remains consistently strong. Our economic diversity

helps make Jonesboro a great place to live and I credit this to a long-held philosophy of diversity in our market. The Chamber of Commerce has long believed in recruiting industry with a lot of indirect employment. That means you bring one company in and it attracts supporting companies. That way, a fall in one sector can't undo Jonesboro. Look at Rust Belt cities that were not diversely invested. They suffered tremendously.

Now, I want you to picture this. From my office on the fourth floor of our beautiful Municipal Center downtown, I can look out my window and look west. I can see a couple going to dinner at, in my opinion, some of the best restaurants in the state. And, then hopefully to go buy a pair of shoes and recreational equipment at the best homegrown stores in the country. A little farther in the distance, I see rooftops where residents finally have a choice of their TV/internet provider. So, I say thank you to Ritter Communications and RightFiber.

Beyond Union Street stands our well-patched but far from ideal 911 emergency center, which responded to more than 120,000 calls last year. And you better believe I am grateful for those call takers. Thank you Ronnie Sturch and your 911 team. In the skyline to the west though, I see agriculture. I see Riceland elevators, that is a pillar of our economy. And, then, they overlook the historic neighborhood on the rebound, the West End. So now, let's take a look out my north window, I see trains bringing in raw materials to our industrial partners, and leaving with the finished product right here in Jonesboro. I look at Johnson Avenue, which will soon be lit up from Main all the way to Red Wolf Boulevard because we secured \$5 million in grants by the grants team.

I see Parker Park, which before summer will be bustling inside and out with kids playing at our first northside swimming pool. I see workers making improvements on Creath and Cate, soon to become the long-awaited Downtown Connector to A-State and will in turn lead to another revitalized neighborhood east of Main Street. I also see another great city partner and that is City Water and Light, which provides, in my opinion, the best water and electricity service in the country. I see to the south, I see expanded and upgraded St. Bernards Medical Center, one of the two healthcare facilities that saves lives daily on which we all depend to care for our families in times of crisis.

And, I say all this Council because I see growth. I see a future coming to life. But not everything makes me happy. I see people struggling in a way that's heavy on my heart. I see housing and food insecurity. I see stores struggling to perform and sometimes going out of business. I see areas that need better lighting and some projects crossing multiple administrations that need to be completed. I see an aging police station and municipal courthouse that have been long used past their prime. I don't see enough pedestrian infrastructure, and I see vacant land that we could be an anchor to our downtown. See, I see needs. I see the work that lays ahead. But, I see opportunity. We have funding mechanisms available to make investments happen now. There will always be those in opposition to progress. That is life. There will always be those who criticize every decision the city makes. That is life too. We are moving forward. If you want to see the Jonesboro of tomorrow, one of prosperity, then get onboard today. Let's work together, row in the same direction. It's not a new concept. It is one that requires just a little bit of humility and teamwork.

This spring I will bring back to you, a plan to fund more trails, investments in public city facilities, quality of life projects and park investments, and funding for more road overlays. I want to complete the final pieces of the Shooting Sports Complex, build a park in east Jonesboro. I will propose we provide additions to the Forum Theater and make needed upgrades, complete a Caraway Road project that has been underway for nearly a decade and buy a bunch of street lights to dramatically increase the way

our city looks at night. Council, our needs are many, and I am just touching on a few. Council, as you look out your window, what do you see you need to address? So, let's dig in and let's work together.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to this Council. You serve your wards and the entire community with passion, pride and persistency. I look forward to working with you in the coming years to further cement Jonesboro as the recreational, cultural, medical, educational, and commerce hub of northeast Arkansas. Thank you.

Thank you Council. I appreciate that and at this point in time, I would also like to play about a ten minute video and this will give you all the aspects of all the great work that the directors behind us have initiated over the past year. Please enjoy.

Council, thank you for your attention this evening and I do want to say a special gratitude to again all of the directors and the Communication Department as well for putting together that video. That takes time. It takes resources, but we have a lot of talent. And, I think we just showcased a small piece of that. I do also want to say thank you to my administration, Tony Thomas and Brian Richardson for their constant support, their due diligence as well. And, so it is a team effort.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

[MIN-24:016](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Attachments: [CC Minutes 02202024](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-24:011](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO A TWO YEAR LEASE CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIVE SANITATION SIDE LOAD TRUCKS, ONE FRONT LOAD SANITATION TRUCK AND ONE REAR LOAD SANITATION TRUCK

Attachments: [2024 Proposal 7 Sanitation truck](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-018-2024

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-24:007](#)

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 Chris Moore, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-24:007 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-24:005](#)

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 5709 E. NETTLETON AVENUE

Attachments: [Rezoning Application](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[CWL Signed Notification](#)
[Rezoning Sign](#)
[Receipts](#)
[Staff Summary - CC](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-24:001](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR A MICROBREWERY-RESTAURANT PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR DEFENDING ADVANCEMENT, INC. d/b/a LEBOWSKI'S INC. TO BE LOCATED AT 1514 SOUTHERN RIDGE BLVD., JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Application Redacted](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-006-2024

[ORD-24:002](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM AG-1 TO I-1 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6725 E. HIGHLAND DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY GARRETT DUNHAM OF FISHER ARNOLD ON BEHALF OF PLATINUM PROPERTIES OF NEA, LLC

Attachments: [Staff Summary-CC](#)
[Rezoning Plat](#)
[01032024 Certified Receipts](#)
[01042024 Certified Receipts](#)
[Platinum Properties Cover Letter](#)
[Platinum Properties Property Owner Notification](#)
[Platinum Properties Rezoning Application](#)
[Staff Summary \(6\)](#)
[6725 e highland](#)

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

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-007-2024

[ORD-24:003](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR JONESBORO KIDS D/B/A SOUTHERN BBQ HILLTOP

Attachments: [Southern BBQ Hilltop Private Club Redacted](#)

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

Enactment No: O-EN-008-2024

[ORD-24:004](#)

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE TRANSFER OF LOCATION OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR 1812 PIZZA COMPANY

Attachments: [Private Club Relocation Application](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

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

Enactment No: O-EN-009-2024

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Copenhaver stated, council, while I know you'll probably be disappointed, but the Mayor's Report, Item #8, I don't have any tonight.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, we spoke earlier this week and in fact, this worked into your presentation tonight about areas, especially in downtown Jonesboro where so much investment has been made to improve it. It's very nice. For years we have looked at the TRG property with hopes that we could acquire that and turn it into a park or something. I understand that is possible, but my only concern about that is environmental. If you would, I would appreciate if you could get some information on environmental and come back to us with that. Mayor Copenhaver said, I appreciate your request. Councilmember Street said, I don't believe we could build anything structurally on it, but it would make a great park and a great addition to the City of Jonesboro and clean it up. I mean, it's kind of a blight. It's kind of outlived its usefulness for downtown especially. So, it would be a great addition to the city. Mayor Copenhaver said, I would be more than happy to. And, we have had conversations with Jack Grundfest and the owners of that property. And, I think there are some things that could be worked out. But, I appreciate your request, that way we can look into it. But, thank you.

Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I would just like to say, I appreciate the presentation Mayor. It was good and I just appreciate how Jonesboro is moving forward. Just to see the work among so many great people here in this city and I'm just grateful that as much as I travel, I do enjoy coming back home in Jonesboro. So, I just wanted to say that to you and to all of the administration and staff. Thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Mayor Copenhaver said, before we have public comments, I am going to ask Carol to speak. She would like to discuss an item. City Attorney Carol Duncan asked, is there anyone in the audience concerning the condemnation at 122 Coleman Street? (No one spoke up from the audience.) Okay, that was originally to be scheduled for tonight and that matter has been moved to March 19, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. It will be on the next council agenda. Mayor Copenhaver said, okay, thank you.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Gibson, seconded by Councilperson Brian Emison, that this meeting be Adjourned. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 12 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

_____ **Date:** _____
Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____
April Leggett, City Clerk

