



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

PUBLIC SAFETY 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 BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

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

Absent 1 - LJ Bryant

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-22:030](#)

MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL (MYAC) END OF YEAR REPORT

Mayor Harold Copenhaver introduced the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. He said this is their end of the year report. We will have some of these young individuals moving on to further their careers in education process and many of the new ones stepping up to the plate for next year. And, I believe Council, we have 72 members in this year's upcoming class. So, every year we have been growing and they have laid the ground work for next year's class. So, I look forward to hearing their presentation.

Nathan Sammons – I am the president and I will be giving the report for the president and community outreach. This was a tumultuous year and have finalized our bylaws and standing rules. With this, we have outlined the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of all board members and all regular members. We have established a new set of rules to determine new members every year with the establishment of a board committee to go over applications every year. We have set a minimum and a maximum for membership and we have put in place standardized forms of communication notifying as many members as we could. We have established an hourly requirement per semester for all members and we established penalties for the failure to fulfill responsibilities. We have combined the Communications and Technology Department with the Community Outreach Department to create Communications and Outreach. We have established the Office of Historian with the primary goal being to manage social media and manage historical records and they now have a deputy. We have also changed the title of Chair to President. We officially became a 501(c)3 non-profit which means all donations are tax deductible. And, we have established a code of conduct that all members must sign in order to allow appropriate action to be taken without undo outside influence. We have begun drawing a sketch of future events and fundraisers. We have a set date for our next

spring festival which should not be close to Easter this year nor in the Arkansas heat. Now, to go off a little report to say thank you to each of the members of the City Council for providing me the opportunities over the last two years. My term expires at the end of this month and Kenzie Green will take my place. Last year I was an inaugural member as Assistant Treasurer and now that I am President, I run this show. This has all been in thanks to you and I want to thank the Mayor for taking the initiative for allowing this organization to happen and City Council for allowing me and many others this opportunity. You have helped so many voices to be heard. Additionally, the Mayor allowed me as an intern in his office with the sole purpose of managing the MYAC in conjunction with Ms. Shelly Anderson. As a result of this, I and Ms. Shelly have put in hundreds of hours outside of normal hours into this organization and I had the great privilege of being taught lessons I will never forget. The Mayor has taught me in many ways how to be a leader and how to make difficult decisions and he has taught me how to view things from multiple points of view and he has treated me as an equal. Moving onto Ms. Shelly, being President has afforded me the opportunity of working closer with her. She is caring, nurturing, and kind. She has taught me how to take special circumstances into account, how to lead, and most importantly, how to be patient. I have come to think of her as a part of my family and as a result, I care for her very much and I cannot thank you all, Ms. Shelly, or the Mayor for all of the opportunities I've been afforded. Now, moving onto Community Outreach, our Director Ms. Julia Young was unable to make it with us today and she sent me her report saying Community Outreach has begun generating ideas to improve the MYAC social media presence through education opportunities such as speakers. We aim to further develop our social media following an enhanced interaction with local businesses and non-profit organizations. Thank you.

Gwendolyn Hutton – Hi everyone. I'm the Deputy Treasurer of the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. I am happy to report that thanks to the City of Jonesboro and their help with our pink trashcans for breast cancer awareness projects, we currently have \$2,911.34. As a registered 501(c)3, we are required by law to be completely transparent with our books. Our profit and loss statements can be available to you at any time upon request. I would also like to take this time to say thank you to those who purchased the pink trashcan and to let those who have yet to do so, there are still more available. Thank you Mayor Copenhaver and to the City Council for all of your support and time.

Taylor Cunningham – Good evening. I am the Deputy Secretary of the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. You have taken official meeting minutes of all board and membership meetings and we will be happy to make those available to you at any time upon request. Thank you Mayor Copenhaver and City Council for your time and support.

Judy Kim – Good evening. I am the parliamentarian of MYAC. As previously stated by our President Nathan Sammons, we have spent the year updating our bylaws to make them better fit the vision and the needs of MYAC. Our written bylaws can be made available to you at any time upon request. Thank you Mayor Copenhaver and the City Council for your time and support.

Isabella Hirsch – Good evening everyone. I am the Taskforce Department Deputy for the City Beautification. This year, the City Beautification Taskforce has begun the development of a community garden and park on the north side of Jonesboro to help the food crisis there. There is a food desert. We have also provided assistance to those in our community who have experienced breast cancer and by aiding them with yard work and raking of leaves. We also led the organization of our community spring fair this past April and we are hoping for this to be a yearly thing. Thank you again Mayor Copenhaver and City Council for your time and support this year.

Dillinger Carr – Good evening. I am the Taskforce Department Deputy Director for Communications and Technology. The Communications and Technology Taskforce has helped bring MYAC to the public eye and in the process given its members experience with intricacies of graphic design and social media. I am very grateful to have been the leader of this Taskforce and grateful to the City of Jonesboro for providing this opportunity. Thank you Mayor Copenhaver and City Council for time and support.

Saira Mata Rodriguez - Good evening. I am the co-chair of the Taskforce for Diversity and Inclusion. This year, the Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce hosting a fiesta party for the Hispanic Center. Receiving shampoo and conditioner donations from Unilever. Next year's plans for Diversity and Inclusion is to host a cultural festival as well as free public health screenings. Thank you Mayor Copenhaver and City Council for your time and support.

Anna Claire Carter – Good evening. I am the Deputy Secretary. Tonight I am filling in for Aiydan Kattaviravong who is the Taskforce leader for Planning and Engineering. This year we worked for several city departments and branches of the MYAC who worked on developing the Jonesboro experience app as well as plans for events with other Taskforces in the entire MYAC. On behalf of Planning and Engineering, Aiden enrolled us in the ASTATE Innovative Thrown to the Wolves Competition. To which we were finalist and won money to develop our app. Moving forward, we plan to develop the app further as well as grow closer in relations with Jonesboro Commerce and Business. Thank you Mayor Copenhaver and the entire Council.

Karen Amora – Good evening. I am the Taskforce Department Director of Health and Safety. The MYAC Health and Safety Department deals with preventive health in the Jonesboro community through multiple community service projects. This year we were able to secure a large amount of hygiene products through donations to help people in need throughout Jonesboro. We also carried out a breast cancer awareness program in which we asked students to wear pink on Wednesday's in October. Even more, we have begun preparing for next year. We have plans for a healthy baking class to be carried out sometime in fall. The Health and Safety Division is ready and excited about next year. Thank you Mayor Copenhaver and City Council for your time.

Administrative Assistant to the Mayor Shelly Anderson said, she concludes the report from the Class of 2022-2023 Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. I also want to let you know that this represents thousands of volunteer hours that have been put forth in the City of Jonesboro and we want to thank you all for making that happen.

Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you. I am so proud of you all and I have seen many of you develop in the last several years and I am looking forward to the new members as well. But, I wish the seniors in particular, many of you all have already gone through graduation, the best of luck. This is your city. This is your future. We want you to participate in it. I appreciate you for standing up and wanting to be a part of this community. So, thank you again.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

[MIN-23:045](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 2, 2023

Attachments: [CC Minutes 05022023](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

[RES-23:080](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AT 2301 S CULBERHOUSE STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Permanent Construction Easement - 2301 S Culberhouse](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-104-2023

[RES-23:081](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AT 1817 S CULBERHOUSE STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Permanent Construction Easement - 1817 S Culberhouse](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-105-2023

[RES-23:082](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL STREET OVERLAYS AND AMEND THE CONTRACT WITH ATLAS ASPHALT, INC. FOR THE 2023 ASPHALT MILLING AND OVERLAYS SELECTED CITY STREETS PROJECT - JOB NO. 2023:02

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-106-2023

[RES-23:084](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BAILEY CONTRACTORS, INC.FOR THE RESTROOM AND CONCESSION STAND FOR JOE MACK CAMPBELL PARK (2023:11)

Attachments: [Bid Tab](#)
[Contract Documents 2023 11](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-107-2023

[RES-23:086](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT AND TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE FY2020 SECTION 5339, FTA FORMULA GRANT, FOR THE JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (JET)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-108-2023

[RES-23:089](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH AXON GROUP, INC. TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

Attachments: [Jonesboro 31 BWC & TASER](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-109-2023

[RES-23:090](#)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH AXON GROUP, INC. TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

Attachments: [Jonesboro Updated Quote - 8BWC](#)

This item was passed on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-110-2023

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-23:072](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 413 Parkview St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel #: 01-144302-18300; OWNER: Sandhill Property Management, LLC

Attachments: [413 Parkview Certified Notice of Violation](#)
[413 Parkview Inspection Report](#)
[413 Parkview Map](#)
[413 Parkview Returned Signature Card for Notice of Violation](#)
[WIN_20221202_12_28_59_Pro](#)
[WIN_20221202_12_29_34_Pro](#)
[WIN_20221202_12_29_37_Pro](#)
[WIN_20221202_12_30_43_Pro](#)
[WIN_20221202_12_31_11_Pro](#)
[WIN_20221202_12_31_31_Pro](#)

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;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-111-2023

[RES-23:073](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 1907 Irby St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel #: 01-144223-08200; OWNER: Robert P. & Agnes M Cowles

Attachments:

[1907 Irby Certified Notice of Violation](#)

[1907 Irby Inspection Report](#)

[1907 Irby Map](#)

[1907 Irby Returned Signiture Card for Notice of Violation](#)

[WIN 20220824 09 45 38 Pro](#)

[WIN 20220824 09 45 51 Pro](#)

[WIN 20220824 09 46 05 Pro](#)

[WIN 20220824 09 46 25 Pro](#)

[WIN 20220824 09 46 30 Pro](#)

[WIN 20220824 09 51 23 Pro](#)

[WIN 20220824 09 51 44 Pro](#)

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to adopt RES-23:073. Councilmember Chris Moore motioned to postpone temporary until the second meeting in June. He said, I got with Officer Roper. They have made significant progress on this and he anticipates they will have it cleaned up maybe one day next week. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman seconded the motion. Councilmember Chris Gibson stated, I will withdraw my motion. All voted aye.

The wrong date was originally noted as June 19, 2023. Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to amend the date to June 20, 2023. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson Chris Moore, seconded by Councilperson Charles Coleman, that this matter be Postponed Temporarily. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

[RES-23:074](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT: 2034 N. Church St. Jonesboro, AR 72401; Parcel #: 01-144071-01800; OWNER: Patricia Hanks & Paul & Cherrie Kassen

Attachments: [2034 N Church Certified Notice of Violation](#)
[2034 N Church Inspection Report](#)
[2034 N Church Map](#)
[2034 N Church Returned Signature Card for Notice of Violation](#)
[WIN 20220901 09 00 22 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220901 09 02 22 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220901 09 03 05 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220901 09 03 28 Pro](#)
[WIN 20220901 09 03 42 Pro](#)

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;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-112-2023

[RES-23:085](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM (RTP) FUNDS; AND, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY23 RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM (RTP) THROUGH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Attachments: [RES-23.085 Budget Attachment1](#)
[RES-23.085 Budget Attachment2](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, Council, before we have discussion, I heard discussion in the previous meeting last week and there were several questions on this grant. So, I have asked Regina Burkett to come forward. I think she will be able to address some of those questions for the general public and for Council. Community Development and Grants Coordinator Regina Burkett said, I want to go ahead and address this resolution and the next one. It is the RTP grant and the TAP grant. So, the RTP grant is one that we are applying for to assist the city in budgeting for different projects throughout the city. The one that we have picked this time is the soft surface trail at Lacy Park. Several of our schools here already use this space at Lacy Park for the purpose of training their teams. We also have several that already walk and use this trail as pedestrian for exercise and different things like that. The project instills a healthy, active lifestyle in the community and by the youth, encouraging more events and competition for these sports that will bring economic development to our area if we bring in other schools for the cross country teams. And, with the TAP grant, is one that we are applying for the Culberhouse Trail and that will connect Craighead Forest. The city is currently vehicle dependent and that main roadway to Craighead Forest and Culberhouse Street. That area has no pedestrian infrastructure. Therefore, this grant will contribute to the city's long-term goals and objectives of making Jonesboro more pedestrian friendly, community and accessing key destinations using different forms of transportation. I also want everyone to know that we are just applying for this grant. We have not been awarded the grant. If we are awarded the grant, at any time, you do not have to accept any grant or we can accept it and move forward with these projects. That would be left up to the City Council because anything we do before we spend any money, it comes to City Council. This is just to apply and then if we are awarded the grant, we bring it

back to be accepted. Mayor Copenhaver asked, are there any questions from Council? Councilmember John Street said, on the second one, we haven't read the second one yet Mayor. Mayor Copenhaver said, we have not read the second one. Councilmember Street said, we have a motion and a second on the floor for the first one. Mayor Copenhaver said, yes sir. Any discussion on that Council? I see none. Anyone in the audience? If you would, please cast your ballot then Council. All present voted aye.

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;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-113-2023

[RES-23:088](#)

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FUNDS; AND, AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FY23 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM (TAP) THROUGH THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Attachments: [RES-23.088 Project-Cost-Estimate-Sheet1](#)
 [RES-23.088 Project-Cost-Estimate-Sheet2](#)

Councilmember John Street said, Mayor, I would like to ask where that \$1,146,320.42 would come from or do you intend to produce that through continued applications through the TAP grant. Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, and, as we have addressed before on the Creath Street application, I think you all are aware that, that process started in 2018 and it has taken us multiple projects to get that through to the point to now we have the actual construction bid going out and it is basically five years later. This would be funded through additional grant opportunity applications and of course, then we would see, accordingly as well, what our gross revenue proceeds would be throughout the year to see if there is opportunity there. So, I think you know we look at it in multiple areas of what the opportunity provides us, but, at this point, it would be additional grant application requests. Community Development and Grants Director Regina Burkett said, and we may have other grants besides the TAP Grant that we will be looking into to finish this project. But, it usually takes 3-4 years even if we are in a hurry to get everything done. So, that gives you time each year to apply for different funding methods to finish the project out.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, thank you Mayor and thank you Regina for a great presentation. So, in Finance and Administration, just a couple of questions I was asking, I was hoping to hear that today that this particular project, was it a part of the, I know we have always talked about One Jonesboro and the other plans, was this a part of the plan? If so, where are we? How does it fit into the plan and that type of thing? That is what I would like to hear and I think other councilmembers would like to hear that too. Ms. Burkett said, well, I can address the One Jonesboro Master Connectivity Plan. The RAISE Grant is what we worked on for the north section of that grant for the last three years. As you know, we applied for a regional grant this time, but it also covers only the north section. We have not touched the south section yet. This plan is in your Master Street Plan.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, if I recall correctly, I think in the One Jonesboro

Plan, there was a pedestrian way to Craighead. It wasn't necessarily this. But, I think one thing that has been in development since we adopted One Jonesboro is Southern Hills. It is my understanding that Southern Hills will have bike pathways and a pedestrian infrastructure and part of this plan is to tie in with that. So, while it may not necessarily have been a part of One Jonesboro, a pedestrian route was considered and this is just a new development since we adopted One Jonesboro. I mean, I think it makes sense to tie into it because this will give cyclists and pedestrians a way to Southwest Drive too.

Councilmember David McClain said, I have a couple of questions. So, I want to make sure we are following, I guess this is in the Master Street Plan is what I am hearing. Okay, so I want to make sure that it is the Master Street Plan and not the One Jonesboro Plan. Is that what we are using going forward and using to make our determination for other trails or are we using both or how are we? Ms. Burkett said, we will be amending the One Jonesboro Connectivity for this trail because at the time, as Joe mentioned, the development was not in that One Jonesboro Master Plan, the One Jonesboro Master Connectivity Plan. So, therefore, we will have to make some adjustments to the One Jonesboro Plan on the southern loop of that. So, as we move forward, yes, we will have to use this instead of the way that we have it right now. Mayor Copenhaver said, I think too, the progress of the community so we make adjustments as we go along with that. But, this was designed and passed by the Council in 2018 I believe. On trying to stay as close as we can with that. And, in accordance with the RAISE Grant application that we have partnered with, with Paragould and Brookland, our portion of that would be about \$16 million if we were to receive that and that would reflect basically on the north side of Jonesboro connecting east and west and north of the City of Jonesboro. And, in the process, you have to look at an overall Trail Plan, which we are now doing as well as a Master Plan, for our trails is the connecting of the second largest park in the state of Arkansas in which we have over 200,000 visitors approximately a year and that is growing. So, how do we utilize our resources in the direction from the center out, and this is part of that process.

Councilmember McClain said, I have got a couple of more questions. So, I want to make sure. Again, so you just mentioned that we had, we worked, I know the Parks Department is working on a Master Plan. Are we getting ready to work on a separate bike plan? Mayor Copenhaver said, no. Councilmember McClain said, okay. All right, so we have got One Jonesboro and we have had other plans in the past. We have got the Master Street Plan. Where are we as far as Trail Coordinator? I think that would help us in terms of connecting all of these things and would help give us some clarity on where we are going. I feel like we have, I think Mr. Street pointed out in Finance, it seems like we have got a trail here, a trail here, but where are we connecting to because they are not in the current plans we have adopted? I would like to know that. That would give me a little more peace about continuing to look at different parts of our city instead of following the plan. I feel like we are not following where we have said we want to go. So, where are we headed and do we have anyone lined up to help us get there? Mayor Copenhaver said, at this point, we have not filled that position yet. Danny, do you want to come forward with where we are in the process of that? And, as you are well aware Councilman, we are trying to fill those holes that have been there for a long period of time. That includes our sidewalks. We are making advancements in connecting our sidewalks that we had gaps in and many things as well. So, this is just one of the processes.

Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales said, I know when you look at that position, I know Craig has been a part of that, actually probably the main part of trying to hire that position. And, just trying to get somebody to actually apply for the position that we are looking for has been pretty difficult. We have reached out to other Parks

in the state and other folks trying to pull people in and that has been a chore. That has been a battle to get the right person for that spot. But, to try to touch on Trail Coordinator, I really do believe that we are in process constantly looking at these trails, the plan. And, you know, when you talk about following the plan, if you look, if you look at Creath, what we are doing right now, if you go back to the plan, that is exactly where the plan said to start. We started on Creath. We are building on Creath. And, with us doing the Bridge NEA, that is going to take the whole north section. So, when you start looking at other grant opportunities, which you have got to look at is, okay, where is the next piece? If we get that grant that covers the north half of that plan, where is the next section? Well, Craighead Forest. If you look at the plan as a whole, it doesn't say that you are going to be specifically on this road when you look at that plan. When you open up the Jonesboro Connectivity Plan that you all passed in 2018, it doesn't say specifically, all of those trails on which they are going to be. They were highlighted. They were raised up trails and then you have to dig down and get down in the trail. Even with this Creath trail, it said Creath to a certain point, and then we had to develop it the rest of the way. So, each section has to get, as we develop, we have to get a little bit deeper into that section. That is why it has taken a while just to get the money. It has taken a while to get the plan in place. It has taken design. It has taken acquiring the property. So, there has been a lot of processes in that timeframe to get these things done. And, it is not just one person that gets it done. It is a whole group right here in the city that takes care of that. And, I would love to be able to say and explain any of those details to you all anytime you want to. Absolutely, I will open the book up and show you why we think certain ways when we look at the trail system. But, connecting the trail system downtown to Craighead Forest so that you can get their on a bicycle or jog down there is huge. That is a big piece for Jonesboro. And, as you all have said, having the new development right there off of Southwest Drive coming in, that was just a big asset for us to be able to not have to worry about us building. We just tie into it. That takes off quite a few, let's just say feet, of the trail that we will not have to worry about building that we will be able to tie right into.

Councilmember McClain said, we keep referencing the plan and I want to read where because I am looking at the One Jonesboro Plan and it has a connection to downtown to the Earl Bell, Jonesboro High School using Higginbotham Creek to Home Depot. So, I am trying to again, I want to make sure that I am understanding which direction we are headed or which direction we plan to go in. Mr. Kapales, said, absolutely. And, when you look at that trail, that would have been great and it is still a possibility. Even a possibility for soft surface down the road along Higginbotham Creek. But, when you really get to looking at I-555, how do you get over or under I-555 in the best way? Well, right now, if we want to get over it, we have to use our inventory that we currently have. Councilmember McClain said, so, our plan, again, is says using the plan proposed an elevated crossing at East Highland Drive and a connection under I-555 utilizing new culverts installed adjacent to the existing culverts. So, it seems like we having something. Our mind is heading in that direction, I just want to know if we are going in that direction and if we are, stick with the plan and work the plan. But, if now, we are saying we are doing a different plan, I think that is where the confusion is coming in for me. Mr. Kapales said, yes. I think if you continue to look at that, if you actually flip through the pages, then you will see the spider web of trails because there is not just that wheel with those few spokes, there is actually a spider web of trails throughout that plan. This is part of that spider web of trails. Councilmember McClain said, okay. Mr. Kapales said, yeah, I think that as you dig into that, Jonesboro is not just about a couple of trails that we are looking at building. It is about connecting. That is why originally it was called the Jonesboro Connectivity Trail Plan and is about connecting all of Jonesboro as far as our sidewalks, as far as side paths, as far as building these flyovers. And, we know these flyovers are extremely expensive and right now we don't have a way to pay for the

flyovers. We are looking at the one over here, it could potentially be \$7-\$9 million to get over the railroad tracks. Well, if we are looking at the one to get over Highland Drive right now, I would say that it would probably be at least half of that, maybe a little bit more than that. That doesn't make sense at the moment. So, what would be the easiest way for us to get from downtown to Craighead Forest? Well, let's follow a pathway that we have. Culberhouse was a pathway to get from Jonesboro High School all the way to Craighead. And, that gets us a great start for getting folks from the middle of town to Craighead Forest. And, then as we continue to get our trails in place and the opportunities still arise, especially if we get another grant, we get another opportunity to build a flyover, I think a flyover would be wonderful over I-555. I don't know if going under I-555 is ever going to be an opportunity at this point. I don't know if we will ever be able to dig under that highway at this point, but a flyover would be great to get over as a designated bikeway and walkway. But, I think using what we have and right now that would be a side path getting over Southwest Drive, over 49, a safe spot to get over that is already currently built.

Councilmember Hafner said, when the One Jonesboro Plan was being talked about, I believe there were two groups that were kind of like the Steering Committee and Advisory Group. Those groups haven't met in a while. I would like to request that a meeting get called here in the next few weeks to get those groups back together and just kind of get an update on where we are and where we are headed. And, we can talk about the Trail Coordinator and stuff like that. We passed that in 2018 and it is now 2023, it's been years since we have met. There are a lot of good people on those committees. I would like to request that meeting be set up please.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, this is not necessarily a question, but I appreciate you for the open door policy that you have in your administration Mayor. And, I just wanted to say thank you for allowing us to ask these questions and then being able to address that with you even beyond this. But, I want to say something that I think is imperative that while we are talking and discussing, I used the term the other day of fluid transparency is the key because sometimes we just kind of when you throw a resolution or you throw this at us and we don't know how this fits in the plan, then I think that if we continue with some updates and transparency with where we are, what we are doing, and so forth, they won't be as confused with where you are with the plan in that regard. So, that is my spill, so thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you.

Councilmember Street said, I would like to ask, I know we have got the Master Parks Plan that is coming up. We've got all of these trails, a lot of other plans, I would like to have some idea of how much we are going to spend on these or budget on these annually. And, that I would implore you to not totally abandon the other priority needs of the city for strictly trails and paths and things. They are all great. But, we have a lot of neighborhoods that need parks. We have a lot of neighborhoods that need swimming pools and various other things. So, I would hope that each need got a percentage of our budget as we move along with this development plan. Mayor Copenhaver said, absolutely and Councilman Street, we are addressing all of those to which you have talked about. We will be presenting within the next month, probably the first part of July, plans for additional parks, plans for additional advancements in the community that address all parts of the community, but also with safety. Also, with as we are seeing today, overlays, sidewalks, safety for our community, but yes, everything is on the table. Trust me. We are well aware of that.

Councilmember Hafner said, today I was looking back at the Capital Improvement budget for this year and there is a total of \$11.7 million in Capital Improvements. And, that is all of the parks, street overlays, sidewalks, drainage projects, etc. Of that \$11.7 million, about \$2 million of it is the University Heights Trail and the Downtown

to ASTATE. So, 83% of the Capital Improvement budget is for other things other than this. Mayor Copenhaver said, yes sir, that is correct.

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Nay: 2 - David McClain and John Street

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: R-EN-114-2023

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-23:021](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO UPDATE CITY OF JONESBORO PURCHASING GUIDELINES TO REFLECT AMENDMENT TO STATE OF ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE PURCHASING PROCEDURES

Attachments: [ACT435 2021](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:021 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-23:022](#)

AN ORDINANCE BY 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-23:022 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

[ORD-23:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE SECTIONS OF THE DOWNTOWN JONESBORO DEVELOPMENT CODE (DJDC) IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit B](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-23:023 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, Mayor, I have one question. I have looked at both of the exhibits on that and could Derrel just give us an update? Are we just changing the setbacks? Is that the primary? Mayor Copenhaver asked if Derrel would come forward. Councilmember Moore said, if you will just give me the highlight Derrel of what we are doing. Planning Director Derrel Smith said, what we are changing is in the neighborhood transition. The residential code right now shows that everything has to have 12 foot ceilings on the bottom floor. We are dropping that down to 10 ½ feet. The other thing is we are allowing financial institutions to have a drive thru

where right now, there are no drive thru allowed for a bank in the downtown code so we are allowing for a drive thru. Those are the changes that we made. Mayor Copenhagen said, and that is limited as well on that drive thru. Mr. Smith said, that is correct. Councilmember Moore said, that is all I have Mr. Mayor. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Councilman.

Allison McDaniel, representing Signature Bank, said, good evening Mayor Copenhagen and members of the City Council. I am here on behalf of Signature Bank of Arkansas in regards to this proposed amendment. Signature Bank made its home in downtown Jonesboro in February of 2022. Our goal from the get go was to be part of downtown Jonesboro and help with its continued revitalization. We hope to do so with the construction of a permanent location in the 500 block of East Washington. Unfortunately, this overlay restriction in question, created an unexpected delay for us in getting this multimillion dollar project underway. If you have driven down Washington in recent days, you have noticed some big changes have taken place. But, making it our permanent home is contingent on the passage of this amendment. At this time, I would like to ask for your consideration in the waiving of the second reading of this amendment. Thank you.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and waive the second reading. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilperson John Street, seconded by Councilperson Chris Gibson, that this matter be Waived Second Reading. The motion PASSED with the following vote.

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

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-23:024](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3, LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 ROYALE DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY HORIZON LAND SURVEYING ON BEHALF OF CURTNER ASSET MANAGEMENT

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Certified Receipts](#)
 [Plat](#)
 [Staff Summary - C.C.](#)

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-23:016](#)

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Attachments: [CO-2023-1 \(ORDER\)](#)
[CO-2023-1 hearing minutes](#)
[overhead view close up](#)
[overhead view](#)
[Petition](#)
[Checklist](#)
[Chief Hamrick email](#)
[CityAttorneyResponse 04062023](#)
[ORDINANCE of ANNEXATION](#)
[ORDINANCE of ANNEXATION](#)
[Handouts Annexation 05162023](#)

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I would like to reiterate my same objection that I had at the committee meeting. Jonesboro currently has 80 square miles of property and 80,000 residents. I was elected to do what is in the best interest of the City of Jonesboro. I saw no benefit to the City of Jonesboro to annex this property, quite the contrary. If you review the plat maps, that is a straight line down Old Greensboro Road. This will actually create a bump out. So, I would ask the Council to deny.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I have a question. I don't know if this is for you or Ms. Duncan. I would just like to read a portion of Ms. Duncan's letter and I want to know if this was even done because I wasn't here on the first reading. But, in her email, she said, I would say that, and this is according to this annexation, I would say that we should amend the ordinance to state what zoning the property will be should the annexation be approved. That can be done by amendment at the first reading. And, so I don't remember reading any of that or hearing any of that, nor discussing about the zoning of the property or anything like that. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, we did. Councilmember Chris Gibson said, it was amended. Ms. Duncan said, it happened and I am going to double check. Councilmember Hafner said, it was R-1. Councilmember John Street said, if I may, R-1. Ms. Duncan said, yes. Councilmember Gibson said, I submitted it. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, thank you. That was all I had. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you Councilman.

Jim Gramling, Gramling Law Firm, 2500 Alexander Drive, said, I represent James Turner, his wife Brandy, Jameson William Turner. I have some items to hand out. So, this is to annex property at 1642 Highway 351. What I passed out are three different aerial photos. One, this first one, is sort of a birds eye view and I have circled in black where the property is. So, you can see that this is on 351 and everything else, all of the residences, you can see Scotchwood and Sage Meadows, everything else to the east of 351 is in the City of Jonesboro, but this house. It is the only house that is east of 351, up through Sage Meadows, that is not in the City of Jonesboro. If you go to the second picture, this shows you the little sliver right there where the highway goes, that is where this property is. The third photo is a close up that shows my client's house. That is the only residence in this little strip. And, so, this annexation would help clarify, in my opinion, the boundary, the natural boundary of Highway 351. Everything else out there to the east of 351 is in the City of Jonesboro. Yet, you have this one house, this one acre, that sits there that is county. And, one big problem with that is fire. Right now, if the Turner's had a fire, they would have to rely on the City of Brookland. That may take 30 minutes, who knows how long. By that time, their house may be destroyed and people might get hurt, who knows. We have met with Chief Hamrick. He has no objection to this. His email is part of the record on Legistar. He said, it will not pose any undue burden on the Fire Department for providing emergency services. The Fire Department already responds to property surrounding the Turner's. Across the street is church and commercial area, but everything else

around this is city property. We also spoke with City Water & Light representatives and they have already got infrastructure in place that goes out to Scotchwood and to Sage Meadows. And, in fact, the Turner's have a City Water & Light pole in their yard as we speak. So, I think this application meets all of the requirements of the Arkansas Code for Annexation. This was passed by Judge Day and the county. What I will say in response to objections, I certainly agree with the opinion of our City Attorney. The last annexation I was able to find was in 2016 when we did 20 acres in Sage Meadows which would create a heck of a lot more burden on the city and increase the footprint of the city than 1 acre and 1 family would. Before that, we did the fairgrounds in 2012, I think and then we did 186 acres by Farville Curve in 2011. Both of those extended the footprint of the city. This does not effectively extend the footprint of the city because you have property well to the north and east that is already city property. And, as I think that, as far as this creating any precedent, I would wholeheartedly, agree with the opinion of our city attorney that each case is looked at on a case by case basis. The standard on appeal is arbitrary and capricious. That is the most deferential standard that a court would be faced with. Any difference would be enough for this body to hang its hat on to meet the burden of arbitrary and capricious. And, if I can cite case law to you on the heavy burden of arbitrary and capricious, I will describe one case. The City of Little Rock vs. Breeding in which there was a rezoning application that was next to some commercial property and another applicant had the same situation and got denied. He appealed and said, well, my property is next to commercial property just like his and the court said, no, that's not how it works. Each case is on its own facts. It is a case by case basis. In cases involving an ordinance, I am quoting here from Murphy vs. City of West Memphis, the burden of proof is elevated and there must be clear and satisfactory proof that the action of the City Council is unreasonable and arbitrary. So, I am before you, this body, a lot on rezonings and sometimes they pass and sometimes they don't. And, if they don't, I tell my client I am sorry, I did the best I can. But, I will tell you what I told the Public Works, this is about more than just me. This is about my client's safety. We have already had the Fire Department saying, they have got no problem. It is not a burden. They already go out past this property to go to Scotchwood and Sage Meadows. God forbid, there is a fire at their house, they have got a big problem. This is about their very safety and I would ask you to pass this annexation.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, counselor, while I appreciate the fact that you are not concerned about extending the scope of the Fire Department, the Police Department, or the Sanitation that will have to pick up their trash and the mosquito control that will have to provide services, I appreciate you not thinking that is a burden. Can you state for the record because you have obviously studied this and you represent your clients, could you tell us one advantage that the city would have to annex this property? Mr. Gramling said, two things Councilman Moore. First of all, I did not say that it would not be a burden. Councilmember Moore said, well, you stated that the Fire Department, though, told you it was not and I am sure that you took into consideration the Police, the Sanitation, and the mosquito control also. Mr. Gramling said, I quoted the Fire Chief. I quoted Chief Hamrick's email. I did not say it would not be a burden. There is no annexation that is going to be a boom to the city. Councilmember Moore said, that is not true. The fairgrounds were actually quite the boom because as you know we fund the city with a one cent sales tax. So, by annexing the property out on Clinton School Road and moving the fairgrounds there, it was a huge boom. It probably accounts for several hundred thousand dollars in additional revenue. Mr. Gramling said, 186 acres on Farville Curve, a 2016 annexation of 20 acres out at Sage Meadows, all that did was create a burden. Councilmember Moore said, it straightened up the boundaries on at least one of those. And, I will argue the other was and you are actually disrupting the straight line boundary right there. Mr. Gramling said, the boundary as created is a section line.

Nobody can see a section line. People can see the highway. That is a natural boundary. Every other house, every other residence, until you get past Sage Meadows east of 351 is in the city except for this one. So, if the standard for annexation is that is somehow has to benefit the city, then nothing would ever get annexed but commercial property.

Councilmember Moore said, we have got 80 square miles, approximately 35% of which is undeveloped. If we didn't annex any more in the next 25 years, I would say that would probably be an advantage to the city. Mr. Gramling stated, I would also say that in my search for previous annexations, I found 2016 and I found the fairgrounds in Farville in 2011-2012. So, it is not like we have had a spate of annexation requests. And, I don't think there is any reason or any evidence before the Council to suggest that there will be. Councilmember Moore said, well, it just concerns me that we annex one person's residential property. I mean, all of the other cases were large properties that had extenuating circumstances. The only extenuating circumstance here, and I understand your client doesn't like the quality of service they have from the Brookland Fire Department, but we don't oversee the Brookland Fire Department. Mr. Gramling said, it is not a matter of not liking the quality of service. Councilmember Moore said, well, that was the only reason that you gave at the committee meeting. Mr. Gramling stated, I said that this would also create an imbalance... Councilmember Moore interjected stating, that was the only reason when I asked at the committee meeting and that was their concern over Public Safety due to the fact that it was going to take 30 minutes for the Brookland Fire Department to get there. Mr. Gramling said, well, and I think that is a legitimate reason. But, I also think that another good reason is to make the city limit boundary conform to the natural topography which is Highway 351. And, if you are talking about annexing one versus twenty acres, I am guessing that there would be a lot of people of here with a lot harsher things to say to me if I were trying to annex 20 acres that was going to have 40 homes on it and require trash and fire and sanitation to 40 homes on the outskirts of Jonesboro rather than one home that is already on the route that all of these services are already taking.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, I have one question. I know that I have called Mr. Roper about a couple of businesses that I would have thought were in the city limits, but they weren't and so there was nothing that we could do about the condition of the property as far as tires and grass and stuff like that. I mean, would one benefit to the city, like right now, if they decided, hey I am going to let my grass grow and we are going to start storing tires here, there is nothing that we can do to keep their property cleaned up right? Mayor Copenhaver said, right. Councilmember Hafner asked, would one benefit be we have some control over the appearance of their property? Mr. Gramling said, that is correct and that is in the ordinance.

Councilmember Janice Porter asked, would I be correct to assume that their property taxes will increase? Councilmember Moore stated, there is no property tax advantages to the City of Jonesboro on residential property. We waived that in exchange for the one cent sales tax. That is what I am saying. There is not one single advantage for us to expand our footprint.

Councilmember David McClain said, I have one question. So, I want to understand. So, right now, sanitation drives to Sage Meadows and drives right past. Police call in Sage Meadows and they drive right past. Fire call and they drive right past. Mr. Gramling said, that is correct. Councilmember McClain said, thank you.

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Nay: 2 - Chris Moore and Anthony Coleman

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-020-2023

[ORD-23:018](#)

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ACT 1112 OF 2017, AND APPLICABLE ABC REGULATIONS APPROVING THE RESTAURANT PRIVATE CLUB APPLICATION OF KPOT JONESBORO, INC. AT 2312 E. PARKER ROAD, JONESBORO, CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [KPOT Jonesboro Inc. 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: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-021-2023

[ORD-23:019](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1, SINGLE-FAMILY LOW DENSITY TO RS-8, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON WIMPY LANE

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Certified Mail Receipts](#)
 [Rezoning Plat](#)
 [Staff Summary - C.C.](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

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

Aye: 9 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Anthony Coleman;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Nay: 2 - Mitch Johnson and Janice Porter

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-022-2023

[ORD-23:020](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 TO C-3 LUO FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF SOUTH CARAWAY ROAD AND STADIUM BOULEVARD AS REQUESTED BY WESCOTT ENTERPRISES, LLC

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Certified Letters](#)
 [Rezoning Plat](#)
 [Staff Summary - C.C.](#)

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;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Mitch Johnson;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street;Charles Coleman and Ann Williams

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

Enactment No: O-EN-023-2023

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

In the Mayor's Report, you will see the Financial Statement Overview.

We have had a lot going on and this is coming to the summer months ahead of us. I know school is ending and we have had graduations. Today, we had the Guardians of the Flame Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympians here in Jonesboro. Officers from JPD and the Fire Department participated in this important fundraiser that sponsors Special Olympians around the state. Jonesboro Special Olympians do a great job representing us on the state level and sometimes the national stage. I am always proud to be around them. I am also proud of our First Responders who took time to bring special attention to this event that is an important fundraiser for Special Olympics Arkansas. They so their dedication to our city and people and always extend the ways beyond their jobs. As usual, the finish line was at Centennial Bank on Red Wolf and Highland. The bank workers cooked and served all participants. They and other businesses supporting our Special Olympians are very important and show the heart of our great city and community.

It's that time once again. We are coming around to the Jonesboro Pool Center and hopefully if all plans go well, we will see the opening on Memorial Day. We are about to get there. We have several things that are occurring at the facility and hopefully our plans and the weather conditions will make it doable to where Memorial Day will be the opening as usual.

This past weekend, I spent several hours out at our Softball and Soccer and Baseball facility. I don't know if many of you all realize that we have rugby. Did you all realize that we have Youth Rugby? I had no idea. It is quite enjoyable to watch and participate and these are young kids age 5 and above participating in Rugby. I wish we had that when I was around. We had over 200 teams playing soccer, baseball, softball, and rugby in our Parks this past weekend. I want to say congratulations to our Parks Committee who accommodated everybody in one day of activities on Saturday so everybody could enjoy their Mother's Day home on Sunday. I commend them for their work and I want everyone to realize the impact that they are bringing as many teams come to Jonesboro. This is not only a quality of life, but it is supporting so many of our local businesses and yes, our tax base. I credit all who participated and their hard work and our volunteers in the Parks Department for the success that weekends like this mean to our city.

In the past week, I have toured two of our premier factories in the Industrial Park. The thought that I came away with was that Post Consumer Brands and Crane Composites in Jonesboro are vital parts of our community and their companies mean a whole lot to our city and our Industrial plan. These plants are among the best in their respective fields. I watched Crane Composites receive a state award for workplace safety. They also received the top award, the only one in the State of Arkansas, a gold label. So, we were very proud of them. It is a gold standard and that was the highest potential. The Governor's Liaison came up to present them with that award. Post Factory, as well, we got to taste and see the processing of the facility there for, I think today was, what was it today Tony? What cereal was it today? Chief Operations Director Tony Thomas said, it was Cocoa Pebbles and Honey Bunches of Oats. Mayor Copenhaver said, there we go. I knew Tony would know because we had a taste testing. But, it is very imperative to see. They supply 203 jobs, but more importantly, it provides us the ability to organize and prepare our youth for opportunities that are right here in Jonesboro. There are good paying jobs. Many of these employees have been there 15-20 years and they continue to live in this community. And, so, I am very proud of what they have done.

Another part of which we received good news this past Friday from Gary Vernon who is Director of Trail Innovation at the Runway Group in Northwest Arkansas. Council, if you will remember, two years ago we requested \$250,000 on the soft surface trail at Craighead Forest. This past year, we also did another \$250,000 in hopes that we would receive additional funding mechanism from Northwest Arkansas. It has been talked about for a lot of years. We received Friday, an additional fund of \$301,000 to help match what we have out at Craighead Forest. This is a big step for us, folks, and I am very proud. Craig Light wrote the grant request and it was approved. So, again, this is now providing us \$800,000 in funding. And, because of our initial investment, we are seeing return of other individual organizations then participate in our community.

At the request of the Stormwater Management Board, I am working with ARDOT's Brad Smithee, on a couple of drainage and developmental related issues in eastern Jonesboro. We have a couple of ideas. ARDOT has some ideas. I'll let you know when we have something to discuss in Council on those.

Our Sanitation and Code Enforcement Departments held one of the biggest neighborhood cleanups we have had this past week. People from all over Scenic Hills came and I believe we had almost eight tons of trash. And, we are going to continue these in different parts of our community. I am very proud of our Code Enforcement and other departments that work with that. These cleanups are really making a difference in our community and I don't even mind paying the tipping fees when our teams do so much good work out there. So, I appreciate that Scott and as well as our Sanitation Department.

[COM-23:024](#)

CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OVERVIEW,
MARCH 2023

Attachments: [March 2023 Financials](#)

Filed

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said, you were talking about the tournaments and last week Valley View hosted the state soccer tournament Thursday, Friday, and

Saturday. It was a great success. Teams from across every corner of the state were here. I want to thank everyone in the community who welcomed them so graciously and made their stay in Jonesboro good. And, all of the volunteers that helped put that on. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you councilman.

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, I would like to piggyback off of the Mayor and say thanks to Danny and the Parks Department. I am wearing green because it is mental health awareness month and I just wanted to thank all of our mental health partners and workers that have been doing a great job for our community. ARISA and of course, St. Bernards and NEA and several others, but I just wanted to make sure that we put them on record and let people know that it is there and there is awareness and so many things are happening because of this issue. But, I did want to make that open and including my church. We are doing some things to help combat and help those who are in need mentally. So, I just want to say thank you. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Councilmember David McClain said, we have received emails and I want to give kudos to Danny and his team. I know you guys work to get Rock Solid Trails in here to work on the trails out at Craighead. And, I think that has gone off really well from what I understand. I had a friend from Bentonville call me and say, hey man, I have heard good stuff about the trails going on because Rock Solid does a lot of work over in Northwest Arkansas. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, I am going to piggyback off of that as well because I have heard twice this week, world class trails. So, kudos.

Councilmember Chris Moore said, I just want to thank the Mayor for the Youth Council. I think it is pretty impressive to see 70 people at that age who are willing to step up and possibly be the next generation of leaders. And, that's pretty impressive. Thank you Mayor. Mayor Copenhagen said, they are.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, this Saturday, starting at 11:00 a.m., we are having the free fish plate that we will be giving out to the community. On June 3, 2023, we will be having a cleanup on the north side. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you councilman.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Campbell, 1110 Church Street, said he would like to recognize City Clerk April Leggett for winning the gold award for Best Politician in Northeast Arkansas. Ms. Leggett said, thank you.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Absent: 1 - LJ Bryant

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk