

JUDY A. HENSON
CITY ATTORNEY
319 SOUTH CHURCH
P. O. BOX 607
JONESBORO, ARKANSAS 72401

September 26, 1983

TELEPHONE
501-972-8639

Mayor Neil Stallings
314 West Washington
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401

Dear Mayor Stallings:

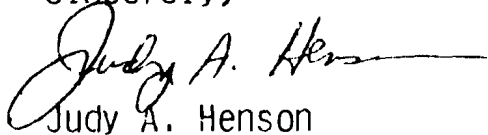
In December of 1982 I petitioned the Quorum Court for the annexation of certain property belonging to the City of Jonesboro located in the Industrial Park. On April 6, 1983 Judge Bearden entered an Order of Annexation. I have tried on several occasions to have the matter placed on the agenda for the MAPC. Each time it has been removed by John Broadway. It was my understanding that he was pulling it off the agenda to wait until the City Water and Light's property was ready to present to the MAPC. At the time Mr. Broadway brought the plats for the City property and the property belonging to the City Water and Light, I informed him that I would not file the petition for annexation on behalf of the City Water and Light. I explained to him that they had their own attorney and he should have the City Water and Light Board contact him and authorize him to proceed on their behalf.

I was not aware that the matter was to be on the agenda until shortly before the subject was presented at last Monday's Council meeting. The attitude which the Council expressed at that time was very disappointing. I feel that the Council was being unfair. Therefore, I am unwilling to file the petition.

The Council needs to know some additional information in order to understand my position. The simplest solution would be for me to abide by their wishes and file the lawsuit. However, there is an important principle at stake. Since I accepted the position as City Attorney, I have provided free legal services to various individuals and agencies. I do feel that I have a civic obligation to the City of Jonesboro. It has been this sense of civic duty which has prompted me to do free legal work for the Forum and the Commission overseeing the Justice Complex. I have never considered these services to be duties of the City Attorney. I have merely tried to be of assistance to the community.

However, I do think that asking me to represent an agency which already has an attorney on retainer, is unreasonable. If the City would like to employ me on a full time basis or compensate me for the time spent on such litigations exceeding my responsibilities, I would certainly consider doing so. Until that time, I must insist that the Council be a little more understanding of my position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy A. Henson". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Judy A. Henson

JAH/msg
