



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

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 (ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE) INITIATED AND CONFIRMED BY CITY CLERK APRIL LEGGETT

Present 10 - Brian Emison; Chris Moore; Chris Gibson; David McClain; Joe Hafner; Kevin Miller; Anthony Coleman; Janice Porter; John Street and Charles Coleman

Absent 2 - LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, it's always a pleasure to stand in front of the council and the citizens of the community, especially to recognize, obviously, one of outstanding young individuals in our community. I don't want to embarrass you at all, but anyway, I probably already have by having you up here. I want to say that Miss Joanne Kim is a representative, she is president of the MYAC, the Mayor's Youth Council. She's been on that, but her accolades, that's just one of many. But I'm really proud because she has represented the City of Jonesboro, our community, and not only our community, but the State of Arkansas, and Washington, D.C. this past summer. She was one of only 102 women in the country to be represented on behalf and only two in the State of Arkansas. And so she is a Valley View student, she's active in many things. She participates in the Honor Society, Science Club, Spanish Club, Environmental Club, Cross Country and Track, National Honor Society, Student Council, and she's president of the Arkansas HOSA and President of the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council and President of the Crown Club. The nation, Girl nation, is once in a lifetime opportunity for our nation's future leaders to learn about the inner workings of the federal government before they become voting age. Students leave the program with increased competence and leadership skills for college and their future career paths. Some participants of the program will go on to have careers in public service at the local, state, and national levels. No matter what the future holds, she's got a better understanding of the civic responsibility. After attending the ALA Girls Nation, the participants returned home ready to be engaged as citizens at all levels of government. So, I would like to present to you, Miss Kim, a letter on behalf of the City of Jonesboro that states, congratulations on being selected to attend the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. in July 19-26. This is a prestigious honor and a testament to your outstanding leadership and commitment to service. As a President of the Mayor Youth Council, you've already demonstrated

maturity, integrity, and the general passion for making a difference. I'm confident you'll represent Jonesboro with excellence on this national stage as you did. Wishing you a meaningful and inspiring experience in our nation's capital, the City of Jonesboro is proud of you. With warm regards, Mayor Copenhaver. It is an honor. Thank you.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street and Charles Coleman

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street and Charles Coleman

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

MIN-25:067

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON AUGUST 5, 2025

Attachments: [CC Minutes 08052025.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

RES-25:081

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 3507 AGGIE ROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 3507 Aggie Road \(2\).pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-109-2025

RES-25:082

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 3505 AGGIE ROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 3505 Aggie Road.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-110-2025

[RES-25:083](#) A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 3700 BLUERIDGE CIRCLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 3700 Blueridge Circle.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-111-2025

[RES-25:084](#) A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 3704 BLUERIDGE CIRCLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 3704 Blueridge Circle.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-112-2025

[RES-25:085](#) A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 103 MARK STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 103 Mark Street.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-113-2025

[RES-25:086](#) A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 3515 AGGIE ROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 3515 Aggie Road.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-114-2025

[RES-25:092](#) A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY AT 3509 AGGIE ROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Offer and Acceptance - 3509 Aggie Road.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-115-2025

[RES-25:096](#)

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A DRAINAGE EASEMENT FROM PATSY SUE BROWN THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Attachments: [Permanent Drainage Easement - 641 W Cherry.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-116-2025

[RES-25:101](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MICHELLE'S EXCAVATING, INC. FOR THE ABILITIES UNLIMITED OF JONESBORO ALLEYWAY IMPROVEMENTS (BID 2025:19)

Attachments: [Contract Documents 2025 19.pdf](#)
 [Bid Tab.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-117-2025

[RES-25:102](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CRABTREE & SON, INC. FOR THE JET BUS SHELTER UPGRADES (BID 2025:20)

Attachments: [Bid Tab.pdf](#)
 [Contract Documents 2025 20.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-118-2025

[RES-25:103](#)

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, TO ACCEPT AND ADOPT THE TITLE VI PROGRAM FOR JONESBORO ECONOMICAL TRANSIT SYSTEM (JET)

Attachments: [TITLE VI PROGRAM 25-27 DRAFT 7.23.25.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-119-2025

[RES-25:104](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR A FY26 MATCHING GRANT FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-120-2025

RESOLUTIONS NOT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA**RES-25:105**

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DPZ CODESIGN AND AMEND THE 2025 BUDGET TO ALLOCATE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT RESTRICTED REVENUE REPLACEMENT FUNDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND A MASTER STREET PLAN FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Councilmember David McClain said, the only question I have, I see the price tag. How much is left in our ARPA fund? Mayor Copenhaver asked, state your question again. Councilmember McClain asked, how much do we have left in ARPA? Finance Director Steve Purtee said, of the report that we provided city council at the last meeting on page 24 of that report, it showed that balance was \$1,536,000. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes, sir. Follow up if you don't mind. So we're saying the balance will be minus this, is that correct? I just want to make sure I understand. Mr. Purtee replied, that is correct, yes. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, okay. And then my follow up on that is, and I do think we need to growth plan for the streets. But when was the last time we did a Street Master Plan? Do y'all remember? Mayor Copenhaver asked, Derrel, if you would, please connect the dots on this plan and combining it. Planning Director Derrel Smith said, the Master Street Plan, the last update was in 2018. The Land Use Plan was in 2017. But the last comprehensive growth plan that was done was 1998. So it's definitely time to update this. We could have used it last week. That would have been a perfect example. We had a rezoning on a place that our land use plan showed to be high intensity growth sector, but the roads are not there to have that type of development yet. And so in a comprehensive plan, that could have laid those items out that need to happen before those areas can development. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, so follow up question, I'm sorry, it's one last one, but this is good. So I do know that we have some other things going, like, Caraway Road and Prospect Road and things like that that's happening right now. With this, just for the record, I just want to make sure we understand this as a community, that that this would also include the connectivity, the roadways, I'm sorry, Trailways and all of that kind of stuff. Mr. Smith said, everything will be included in the document. Yes, sir. Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman replied, great, thank you. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I have a question. As we grow, how often do we need to do this? I know that is a hard question to answer. Mr. Smith said, the plan is usually for 20 to 25 years, about 15, we need to start looking at it to see when it needs to be revised. But like I said, it was 1998, the last time we did a comprehensive growth plan. So, it's way past time.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said, and I'm just going to throw a couple things at you because I kind of kind of researched this when I found out the price tag of it. So this is a resolution for a Comprehensive Growth Plan and Master Street Plan. And like Derrel said, is that we already have a Master Street Plan, I saw that it was 2017. He said 2018, and there was 10 people on that. But on that plan, it stated that the plan was to be reviewed and amended every two years for more detailed studies to be completed. But it also says that is a 20 year time horizon that had been applied. So it's only been eight years since we've seen that traffic study that was done. So we still have 10 more years or 12 more years to think that it was still being in place. So you ask the question, so why are we needing this? So you're talking to about the comprehensive. If you look back eight years ago, and I think that's kind of when Derrel started with the city, pretty close to it, is that the traffic study was probably pretty detailed because he brought in a lot of really good ideas when he first started here. In the newspaper, it said that the process will take 18 to 24 months. It says that the

comprehensive, in the paper, it says to evaluate the value of an development compared to the cost of the infrastructure and the public safety. I want to remind you guys that next week, we should be getting the results from the Impact Fees Study because that was a 26 week process and it's been 26 weeks, next week. So we don't even know what that's going to be hold, whether we have an impact fee or whether we don't have an impact fee. So that's going to have to be taken into consideration. In two years, two years, if you take 18 to 24 months, in two years, imagine how different Jonesboro is going to look. One, the Sporting Complex on Race Street is going to be probably pretty close. I saw that the pool was being poured or pretty close to being poured today. Almost 500, I say, condos or apartments are going to be located just south of the Sports Complex. Caraway Road hopefully will be widened within two years. Harrisburg and Parker Road has been wanting to be widened for the last, I think, eight or nine years, but hopefully that will be done pretty soon. But we've got a mess of a traffic out there already. Probably Southwest Drive and Parker Road is going to be widened. You look at the medical facility on Parker Road that will be built. Southern Hills is just expanding like crazy, and there probably might be a grocery store out there one of these days. Johnson and Greenborough is just going crazy out that way, too with stores, apartments, and it's expanding. You look at Greensboro Road, it is going to be expanding. You look at Martin Luther King Road. That's bringing in people. Parks are popping up all over the town right now. The quality of life trails, I know that I saw that Jefferson is being worked on right now. Also, two in two years, we should have two more trails that should be done by the time that the bond is required on that. But then we look at the downtown area. You know, we've got the property where the Citizen's Bank building should be. We don't know what's going on that. Are we going to recoup our money? Are we going to buy the property? What are we going to do with that? We don't know and we probably won't know for a while. Also, too, where is the E911 Center going to be? I have to tell you, this company that's doing it, they're qualified way beyond, way beyond. But on July 15th, in their presentation, they advised all of us that we need invest in the downtown area. That was kind of like free advice to the people that are on the task force to figure out where the bond or that E911 Center is going to be. The bond task force should have then said, "Gosh, we need to invest in downtown. Let's put it where the Justice building is, even though we have this other insurance and all that that we have to take care of. But the county has invested in downtown. We have to. And then also, too, with all the pathways that lead today downtown and there's going to be fewer trucks. If you all approve this tonight, there's much advice and success that's going to come from all of you. Because reading over the proposal that this company did online, it says not just the almost 30 committees that we have, and I looked on that on the website, there's almost 30 committees, but a lot of the same people are on the same committees. We have to get them on board. But the most important is all of you, because they said that citizens need to have ward meetings. We need to get the citizens to be involved and behind this. Ward meetings, public meetings, open houses, interviewing. There is a cycle of information I really like too. They say, inform proposal discussed, revise, and it's just a continuous circle that we have on there. They've done a great job at Batesville and Maumelle. If you look at all their photos. But when you look at all their photos, it's just packed with people that are participating. That's one thing that I really think that we lack here in Jonesboro. When we have these meetings, we don't have very many people showing up. So we've got to get the citizens more behind this of what we're going to do. It's a lot of money. It's the \$855,000 but it's going to take participation from all of you. We're going to have to have ward meetings and more people getting involved with this. Two years is a long time to look down, but also, too, we have to follow what they say, and the one problem that I have is sometimes we bend our rules too much, and today was a really good example of it. I was watching the BZA meeting. They had two items on their agenda. They bent the rules for both of the items on their agenda. One was a difference

between the size, the six foot to eight foot fence, and the other one was a gentleman did not want to pay or do the compensation of the sidewalk. But he is building three houses, and that was a subdivision, and Derrel was correct. If he had three more houses, it's called a subdivision, and you have to have a sidewalk. It's north of town. Jonesboro can't really grow too much South of town anymore. We're kind of packed out on that. It's north of town. So what's to say that the Philadelphia school isn't going to start getting crowded and all that? I don't know if anybody drove out there, but I drove out there. You know what? There's some nice houses out there, but that's not what they were told when they made this decision. So that's the one thing that I hope that we can do. If we're going to do this study that we follow the rules and not bend them for one person and not the other one on there. So if we follow them, then, you know, I think that we need it. If we don't follow them, it's going to be like everything else. But we've got two years of big high expansion in Jonesboro. So either we wait maybe for a year and get some of these projects done and see what the traffic and everything is involved, or also too, with not fulfilling the 20 years of our past traffic study, that maybe we do it for 10 years, and then revisit it in 10 years because look at what we did. We paid for it before, and we're not using what we had. So we're just not using the money and we're not taking advantage of it. So just food for thought for you guys. So I agree with what we need, but I don't know if we need it right now. So thank you.

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

Aye: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street and Charles Coleman

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: R-EN-121-2025

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-25:032

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM PD-M, MULTI-FAMILY USE AND OFFICE/SENIOR LIVING USE TO PD-M COMMERCIAL USE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3412 SOUTHWEST DRIVE AS REQUESTED BY JEREMY BEVILL ON BEHALF OF SOUTHERN HILLS REAL ESTATE, LLC

Attachments: [Rezoning Application](#)
[Southern Hills PD Amendment Pattern Book R](#)
[Block B Rezoning](#)
[Block K Rezoning](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)
[Minutes from MAPC.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:032 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING**

[ORD-25:025](#) AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

Held at second reading

[ORD-25:028](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ADD SECTION 50-40 ENTITLED PARK RANGERS

Held at second reading

[ORD-25:029](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SHJ CONCEPTS, INC. DBA BRIDGE STREET BREWERY OF JONESBORO.

Attachments: [Bridge Street Brewery Private Club Permit_Redacted](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

James Elywn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, if any of you have not seen the area that they're talking about this, I hope you will before this comes before its third reading. This is an absolute terrible place to put something like this in. It's asking for crime.

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-25:026](#) AN ORDINANCE FOR THE APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE CLUB PERMIT FOR SLATE ASSOCIATION DBA ROCK N ROLL SUSHI

Attachments: [Private Club Permit_Redacted](#)
[Publication Receipt](#)

James Elwyn Hinds, 508 Ridgecrest, said, this is a particular area where there's going to be some changes in traffic because of things going on, and I really think that we ought to take a look at what the traffic's going to be before we do something that would have an adverse effect on traffic. Mayor Copenhaver said, all right, thank you for your comments.

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: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street and Charles Coleman

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-030-2025

[ORD-25:027](#) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE

PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM I-2 TO C-3 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 500. N. CULBERHOUSE ST. AS REQUESTED BY 1ST PRODUCE AND FOODS.

Attachments: [Zoning Application](#)
 [Certified Receipts](#)
 [Redemption Deed](#)
 [Rezoning Plat](#)
 [Rezoning Signs](#)
 [Warranty Deed](#)
 [Staff Summary](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)
 [MAPC Minutes](#)

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: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street and Charles Coleman

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Enactment No: O-EN-031-2025

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I'll start out Alejandro. I don't know if she's in the room or not. Yeah, Alejandra's got a sign up sheet back there. This is a public meeting, obviously, so those that attended, we'd love for you to sign the sheet for the grant opportunity and that assist us in that on a public forum.

Now that all the local schools are in session, I visited with each superintendent yesterday. The work they do in our community is impactable, and it's important that they know we are here to help facilitate a safe school year. With that, please be attentive to the school buses. Remember that if red lights are flashing, it's a law to stop for school buses. Keep an eye out for our students walking and for our young drivers in town. Also, if you see a teacher or school employee, be sure to thank them. We attended a ribbon cunnning for Jonesboro Public School's new security, a partnership with Dynamic Integrated Security, DIS, placing commissioned school security officers within their schools. These are highly trained armed professionals who have specialized training in emergency response and youth mental health first aid. Their investment in school safety is critical to providing a learning first environment.

Even though schools in session and these temperatures are still hot, please don't forget our community centers are open for cooling centers and free transportation is available to the cooling centers through JET transit.

Now, you may remember that at our last city council meeting, we honored Gracie Doty. This is a pretty incredible council, and it's really good what we invest in. She was the first E- 911 dispatcher to save life utilizing the EMD, which is the emergency medical dispatch training that was launched just this past June. But since our last meeting, we've had two more lives utilizing EMD saved. I cannot emphasize the value and

impact this program has on our city and our county, outstanding its job by all at E-911 dispatchers.

Now, the future of air travel in Jonesboro is changing. We celebrated the groundbreaking of the new state of the art terminal last Tuesday. It's a new era for this region, folks, the 2020 tornado destroyed much of the airport's infrastructure, and it's being replaced with a new \$6 million, 13,000 square foot terminal. They'll have possibility of expansion to food services, upgraded TSA accommodations, making air travel more convenient, efficient, and effective for our travelers. It's symbolic. We have a hub of opportunity right here and that's a huge economic impact for our community. But even that took time. It took us over four and a half years to be able to bring that funding back to our community. So now over \$20 million has been utilized for overlays and now a facility at our airport.

You have seen the new mural on Cate Street, off of Main Street. It's stunning. Vivid colors have brightened up the space. We are thrilled to see this beautification effort take place. Thank you to the Public Art Commission and the continued commitment and big thank you to Dan and Casey Johnson for recognizing the value of public art. Volunteering their building for murals, so tell them thank you.

Work is in progress on revenue bonds. Updates will be provided regularly on the city's social media outlets to share progress. The most recent updates shared was about the work on the Jefferson Avenue path, a new shared used pathway along the west side of Jefferson approximately 1,300 feet, with a total of almost 5,000 feet. About a quarter of a mile of the work is already complete making our city more connected, accessible, and enjoyable for all.

I celebrated the one-year anniversary, or let's just say we all celebrated the one year anniversary or seven in dog years of the Bark Park on August 13th. The Bark Park is proof of what's possible when reimagining spaces, and it can make a huge impact. Don't forget the "Paint the Town Red" is this coming week, August 26th through the 30th. A block party takes place downtown from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, August 29th. Let's show our community support for Arkansas State as they kick off the football season. The city is getting into the spirit as well. So we'll have our own "Paint the Town Red" entry. There's something big about a game as well. The following week on September 6th in Little Rock, I've heard about it, so I don't want you to miss the chance in getting tickets.

Labor Day is September 1st. City offices and services will be closed. Sanitation will run on an adjusted schedule that's been shared on city social media. So please plan accordingly and let's help get the word out to our neighbors.

The next neighborhood cleanup is scheduled for September 6th at Parker Park from 8 a.m. to noon. These cleanups continue to be effective. We've already had over 600 tires and 80 tons of trash collected through this program year to day in 2025.

On the subject of cleaning up Jonesboro, once again, I want to say thank you to Keep Jonesboro Beautiful. Beverly Parker and her team have a great passion for cleaning up and beautifying. They just don't talk about things in our community. They get out and do it. Last month, they conducted their annual litter survey and we're excited to report the litter was down year over year. So thank you to residents for doing their part. And thank you to Sanitation, Code Enforcement, and Keep Jonesboro Beautiful for their education and shared efforts in our monthly cleanup projects.

Now, Chief Rick Elliot, Ronnie Shaver, Craig Light, and Brian Richardson met with the structural engineer at the Justice Complex this afternoon to evaluate if there are any further damage to the Justice Complex roof for safety or insurance purposes. For those who may be unaware, the building used to be a grocery store with a wooden domed roof. The original roof was built in the 1950's. In the 1990's, the city renovated the building, but left the old roof under the new roof. So it's a complicated process, and it's taking some time. After the information will be received, and we hope to within the next 10 days to two weeks, then we will pass that information on to you. And obviously, I think we all know that we have misplaced personnel throughout multiple facilities in our city. We are constantly evaluating that and although Carol's office is kind of permanent at this point. But, you know, we had to make some adjustments, but we realized that, and those adjustments are emergency adjustments. And so in the short term, we will be getting ourselves, hopefully, back to the way we need to go. But I'll keep council updated on what we hear in the next several weeks.

And I keep saying Jonesboro is always moving. You know, it's a fact. We're on the move. I think it was mentioned earlier, many of the projects that's going on in this community. We do the work to keep serving our city, from every department, from every resident. They work hard, they find pride in public service, and as our city continues to grow, we continue to evolve, finding many ways to enhance our city services. So thank you all for working with me to make Jonesboro the best city to live, work, and play.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Dr. Anthony Coleman said, yes, a couple of things. One, I think the city is great, and I appreciate the movement in moving forward. I had several guests here on this past weekend there. And as far as Virginia and Texas and Chicago, and other areas, and the first time in Jonesboro and it was phenomenal. They appreciated it. The city is clean and just great things happening. So I appreciate administration and city council and what the city is doing for our town. Second thing, though, on Prospect and normally I would email, but I just thought about this Brian and Tony. But I know on Prospect and I don't know what we can do, but there are a lot of ditches that have real high growth. And so can we kind of have a discussion on how can make that happen? I don't know if it's a cold thing or what, but I see a lot. I know in my ward and areas around, so if we can talk about that. Thank you.

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, I do have one question. I'm not sure the complex, are we about the invest more money into that place? Mayor Copenhagen said, the Justice complex, that's the report. We need to figure out what that investment would be. So that's what that report. Dr. Coleman, in a couple weeks will show us if we were to reinvest or not what the cost would be and the total all damage of that. So that's the insurance company coming in and evaluating it. Okay?

Councilmember Brian Emerson said, just to kind of piggyback on the statements previously made, you know, waiting to get the information in regarding the Justice Complex specifically to the next actions of the Bond Task Force. This is information of course we need to be able to move forward in that process. So, you know, if we're planning on getting that information in the next 10 business days. I'm tentatively looking at September 16th to hold the next Bond Task Force meeting. I think at that time, we'll have a lot of that information in front of us and we'll be able to really kind of dig over some data and figure out what our next steps are in that process. So looking at September 16th, as it stands today, as long as there's no delays, but that's all subject to change just based on the rate that we do get this data in.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Good afternoon. My name is Shamal Carter. My address is 3118 Meador Road here in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Good evening, Mr. Mayor, and council members. I'm coming to you guys to address you regarding the recent closure of the E. Boone Watson Center to the public. I understand that this has been an inconvenience for many. As the Mayor stated, and I appreciate the city's efforts in managing projects and public spaces, so we know that again that Ms. Carol said she ain't going anywhere. But however, the E. Boone Watson Center is more than just a community center to the black community. It is a repository of our history. The center stands on the site of the former Industrial High School built in 1924 with the bricks from an abandoned city auditorium, which was renamed Booker T. Washington High school in 1935 and served the black community until 1948. In 1966, Patrick Street Community Center was constructed there. In 1984, it was renamed the E. Boone Watson Center, honoring Mrs. Etta Mae Boone Watson, a dedicated educator who taught at Book T. Washington for over 40 years and championed the Head Start Program locally and served state and national organizations, advocating for early child education. Within the center is the Craighead County Jonesboro African American Culture Center, which preserves and shares the struggles, success and dreams of our community. The tours led by curator Roger McKinney, who has served for over 36 years, features exhibits on local property owners from the 1880's to about 1960. In short, the E. Boone Watson Center is not just bricks and mortar, it holds our legacy. I have received numerous phone calls from residents expressing concern that our history could be forgotten. And I understand it is temporary. I get that, but you said something here recently. Of course, we got to see what they're say when they go back to know how long they'll be out of the E. Boone Watson Center. We want to preserve the history of it. And so we understand that we have family reunions come in town that want to come into the museum, but from my understanding from the people that I've talked to, once in parole and probation, I believe, is there, and because of state regulations beyond the city, because of state regulations they're not allowed to go in that facility, I'm assuming. With that being the case, I do want to stress, this is not just about a building. It's about whether our city values the history and sacrifices in the legacy of African Americans who helped build this community. By protecting the E. Boone Watson Center and investing in the permanent future, you show that our history matters and our people and our voices matter. So what I'm asking is, one transparency with the community. Those who are calling did not know that it was closed to the community until they tried to reserve it, I'm assuming. Not only that, we don't know how long. So we understand that again, this has been kind of rocky for everybody because we don't know. And so what we're asking from the city, one is to be transparent with us. And if this is going to be a long process, can we not look at an alternative site for this particular division to be ran through so that the community can again utilize this facility. It is a more intimate facility than Parker Park or Allen Park, because you can have your family there not have to worry about outsiders invading what you're doing. When you go to other places, that's the issue that we have. And so, again, the community reached out and I'm reaching out to you guys to be a voice to let you know, hey, we want to hear what's going on. I understand that it's a hard process, and y'all now that I work on it, but think about us as the community. If we don't know, then we can't give you grace. And we want to give you grace because we know that our mayor is working for us. We know Dr. Coleman, who is my Councilman, I know he's working for me. But I talk to him. Everybody in the community don't talk to Dr. Coleman. So if you guys could at least keep us updated, everybody's not going to come to city council. If you can keep us updated, and then again, we'll come back again. I'll reach out to see what it looks like later on, because if this is going to be a long process,

which is I expect it to be, I want us to have an opportunity to give that museum back and get that community center back to those in a community that actually utilizes it for their families and their legacy. Thank you guys. Mayor Copenhaver said, thank you for your comments.

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: 10 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;John Street and Charles Coleman

Absent: 2 - LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

April Leggett, City Clerk