



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Center, 300 S. Church

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

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

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

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

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-25:053](#)

RECOGNITION OF EVERETT HUTTON, THE KEEP JONESBORO BEAUTIFUL FIRST PLACE WINNER OF THE PERSPECTIVES ART CONTEST CONDUCTED BY THE FOUNDATION OF ARTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, so this evening, I'd like to start out we have a special presentation for Beverly. If you would, please come forward, Beverly Parker, with Keep Jonesboro Beautiful is to bring to your attention an outstanding young man in our community who loves to beautify the City of Jonesboro. So Beverly, if you would, please go ahead and give your brief statement, and congratulations. Beverly Parker, with Keep Jonesboro Beautiful, said, wonderful, thank you, Mayor and City Council. Thank you. I have with me today, Everett Hutton, and just to tell you a little bit about what he has done. Keep Jonesboro Beautiful has partnered for the third year now with the Foundation of Arts, for an art contest highlighting the beauty of our city and also seeking support and adoption of clean and green beautification efforts. We want people to do beautiful things, as he's illustrated. Everett here, his project was Bluebird Bungalow, but as part of what we asked the participants to do was to portray how they might reimagine to beautify a street, a sidewalk, an intersection, a park, or even a stormwater drainage basin. And, he has addressed here, habitat loss, and he's proposed nesting boxes to provide the city's green space and parks with these bluebird restoration projects. So we really want to thank and recognize Everett for his participation in the FOA contest and for what he is doing and will do for the city of Jonesboro. So thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, that's always wonderful to see. It's always important to get our youth engaged in the community.

Read

[COM-25:055](#)

PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD TO

REPRESENTATIVE DWIGHT TOSH FROM JOHN WILKERSON AND JACK CRITCHER WITH THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, next I'd like to go ahead and bring up. We have John Wilkerson with the AML office, league office. John and Jack Critcher, if you would, please come forward. I think they have a presentation this evening to make on behalf of AML to one of our representatives to Dwight Tosh. So Dwight, would you and your bride please come forward. The floor is yours. John Wilkerson, Arkansas Municipal League, said thank you, good evening. Thank you, Mayor. Good evening Council. I'm John Wilkerson, General Counsel and Legislative Director for the Municipal League. This of course, is Jack Critcher, and we're both up here today because this award means a lot to us personally, so we'll take a moment of personal privilege. We're awarding Representative Dwight Tosh with the Distinguished Legislator Award, but really it should be the Distinguished Human Award. He's an absolute gem of a person who's meant a lot to me, a lot to Jack, a lot to all of us, but really to you. And the reason we're here is to highlight what he does for the City of Jonesboro, what he does for the cities and towns of Arkansas, and how blessed we are all to know him and you are all blessed to be represented by someone of such a high caliber and really just an amazing human being that I, again, I cherish knowing. But again, because there's two of us and we, it's that important, I'll ask Jack Critcher to say it, a word or two as well about Representative Tosh. Jack Critcher, Arkansas Municipal League, said, I can't add much to that except that, you know, Dwight, Representative Tosh, Captain Tosh, has lived such a storied life, and I always think back to the Director of Public Safety, Colonel Mike Hager, referred to Captain Tosh as the greatest captain in the history of the Arkansas State Police. So I don't know how I can top that, but he also is one of the most effective, if not, I mean, there's not a more effective legislator than Representative Tosh, and he just, as John said, just an amazing individual, and I'm just honored to having he and Ms. Joan as a friend, and that's why we're recognizing him tonight is because of his legislative. Oh, I know what I almost forgot. There's not a better friend of cities in Arkansas than this man right here, and that's why we're honoring him tonight. Mr. Wilkerson continued, so, in honor of Representative Tosh, you demonstrate exemplary service that benefited cities and towns and Jonesboro. The cities and towns of Arkansas during the 95th General Assembly, we hereby bestow upon him the Distinguished Legislator Award. Thank you Representative Tosh. Representative Dwight Tosh said, thank you. Mayor, is it okay if I say a few words? First I want to say, I want to say thank you. I appreciate you. I appreciate my communications with you. I'm telling you, he's got me on speed dial because during the legislative session, we talk quite often, and he lets me know about pieces of legislation and how they affect our municipalities and you know, whether or not the pros and the cons about it and that's really a lot of insight, and I really appreciate it. And I'm going to tell you the Municipal League and the municipalities around this state, you couldn't be represented by two people that has any more respect by the members of the General Assembly than the counselor here, that's what I call him. He's my friend and I just call John the Counselor, and of course, this is Senator. So both these guys are outstanding. They are good friends and I'm honored to call them my friends, and I can tell you they have your best interest during the General Assembly during the legislative session. They really look out for our municipalities around the state. You guys are the best. And like I said, I don't know two people any more respected there capital than these two men right here. And of course, if I walked away from this podium and I didn't recognize this lady beside me, I'd probably be in a lot of trouble, so, you know, it goes without saying it and I hear it quite often when you, as we travel around District 38, and when we go to an event, when you see me, you see her. She's always with me. And, you know, I'll tell one quick story. I've told this a few times, but several years ago, you know, I was with the state police for a long time and being a state trooper, I was assigned to a lot of different areas. We lived in so many

different cities around the state. But one day we decided we would just get out and we'd drive around and we'd drive back to some of the old neighborhoods that we used to live in when I was assigned there with the state police. And so we was out driving and we was in one of the cities where we once lived and we went into this neighborhood, where we actually had lived at at one time and the neighborhood had really gone down. And the houses were looking pretty rough, and we were driving down the street and we were commenting about it, and I looked up at this one house and I saw these two rocking chairs out on the front porch, and there was this gentleman that was sitting in one of the rocking chairs, and the other one was empty and he was just rocking away. And I kept looking at him, and finally, I said, I know him and I commented to my wife, Joan, and I said, honey, I said, isn't that, I won't call his name, I said isn't that John that we went to high school with and she looked and she said, you know, I believe it is. That is him. Of course, being a little bit facetious, I said, yeah, I said, I remember when we were in high school. I said, he was kind of sweet on you. She said, oh, you know, she said, no, he was not. I said, yeah, he was and I said, I want you to think about it. If you'd have married him, instead of me, you could be in that other rocking chair on that front porch rocking away. She's pretty quick. She said, no, now that's not the way it would work. She said, if I'd married him, instead of you, you'd been in that rocking chair and he would be the State Representative. So, that's what she means to me. And, as I look at this City Council, I think about how many of you, are really close friends of mine. And some of you, obviously, I know better than others, but some of you, I go back many, many years with. And I look over here at Ms. Porter, what a great friend she's been to us. And Brian, his dad and I, when I was a trooper here, in this county, his dad was with the Jonesboro Police Department, and we established a friendship that it lasted many, many years. and I still think so much of this family and the last time, Brian, that I saw your dad was at a little cafe in Smithville, Arkansas. He bought my lunch that day, and I need to wrap it up. I thank you for that friendship. I'm about to wrap it up Mayor. I just love y'all so much and I appreciate this honor, and you know, you start calling names, you always forget. And I'll make it quick, but I see Dr. Coleman. And I remember when I first decided to get into politics, I met with you, Dr. Coleman. You may not remember that. But we met at a McDonald's, and I sought your advice and you gave me good advice. And then a few years later, I remember running into you, and I thanked you for your support and asked you for your continued support. And I remember what you said and it's stuck with me all these years. When I thanked you for that support and asked you for your continued support, you said, I will always support Dwight Tosh. Now, you may want to retract that. I don't know if you wanted me to say that publicly or not. You know, and I could go on about each one of you, and of course, I got to say something about my neighbor down here, John Street. John and I live just two neighbors between us, and what a great neighbor he is, what a great friend he's been for years. And of course then, L.J. Bryant, we go way back and you know, I learned the lesson with L.J. They always have the rice festival in Weiner and L.J. would come down and my wife loved it because she didn't have to drive me. They have a big parade, if you've ever been to that rice festival. I mean, there's how many people there? And I've been in the back of the truck throwing out candy. Well, L.J. would come down and he would drive me in the parade, and I said, This is not going to work out. I said, there's more people hollering and saying hi to him than they were me and I'm throwing out the candy. But anyways, I appreciate him and our long time friendship. Of course, Kevin, we go way back from all the days that we spent at meetings with the fire departments and stuff. I don't mean to leave anybody out, ever one of you, I can thank for something in my life, but I want to thank you again tonight and what this award means to me, and I thank you for allowing me to be one of your voices at the state capital. It's truly a great honor for me, it's a great honor for me to stand here before you tonight and receive this award. God bless you and thank you so much. Thank you.

Read

[COM-25:054](#)PRESENTATION OF THE LONG RANGE FIRE DEPARTMENT PLAN DRAFT BY
EMERGENCY SERVICES CONSULTING INTERNATIONAL**Attachments:** [Jonesboro \(AR\) Master Plan - Final 10 - 16 - 25.pdf](#)

Mayor Harold Copenhaver said, all right, Council, next, we have a presentation of the Long Range Fire Department Plan draft by the Emergency Services Consulting Group. Chief, are they in the room? Fire Chief Marty Hamrick said, yes, sir. Mayor Copenhaver responded, all right. Chief Hamrick continued, Council, earlier this year, we contracted with Emergency Services Consulting International to conduct a long range study to ensure we're doing the best for the public as a fire department and be planning for the next 10 to 15 years. We finally completed that study and we can get him pulled up here, our Project Director is going to come on, Mr. Michael Hogan, and give you a pretty summary of what they found during the study and some action steps that we can take. And then obviously, I'll be happy to answer any other questions y'all may have as you get a chance to look through the complete document. Mike, you on? Mr. Hogan said, yes, can you hear me? Chief Hamrick said, yeah, we got you. I'll turn it over to you, sir. Mr. Hogan continued, awesome, well thank you everybody for being here today. My name is Michael Hogan. I'm with Emergency Services Consulting International and as the Chief mentioned, we were tasked with conducting and drafting the long range master plan for the department. And what that plan is, is that is basically that long term roadmap.

So with that plan, what we did is we took and we interviewed both internal and external stakeholders, gathered multiple sources of data, looked at growth data, where the needs are going to be. We took a look and said, where is the organization at today? And then from that data, we said, okay, what are the needs of the city? How are the needs of the city going to change both in growth, call volume, future development? And putting that together, how can we address these immediate needs? And we basically divide these immediate needs up into short-term, which are things that we recommend 0 to 3 years; mid-term, 3 to 7 years; and then long-term 7 to 15 years. Now, when you go through our report, today's presentation is only going to be 11 slides. I'm not going to go through the entire report. The entire report is about 175 pages and I believe that will be available for those that want to read through that whole report. But today what I'm going to focus on is the recommendations. From this, we'll cover that and at the end, if there's any questions, we can go from that.

So we'll go right into the short-term. So, short-term recommendations, first one that we recommend is adding a second, it's just a second assistant chief position to improve the executive oversight and divide responsibilities between operations and administration. This will just help enhance accountability, succession planning, and help with the day-to-day managing of the fire department from the admin standpoint. And then the next two, we look at wellness. Today in the fire service, mental health, the things that the firefighters and emergency responders are constantly exposed to, mental health that wears on responders. So one of the things is there is the wellness coordinator through the police department that shared. Through our interviews, we've discovered that a lot of the personnel were unfamiliar with that person. So one of the things that we recommend is having that position out in the station, doing station business, ride along to help foster that trust before an actual intervention is needed. So they feel comfortable going with that person.

And that basically goes to the next one, which is the peer support team. The fire department has a peer support team. One of the things that we recommend is adding stipends to those members that serve on peer support, just to give them that extra

resource that they would have there. Also, not just with mental health, but firefighters had a very high risk of occupational diseases such as cancer. They're at a lot higher risk than the public is. So one of those things is early detection. So we recommend that the city look at offering full NFPA 1582 screenings to all of the department members. What this does is it allows us, it allows the department to detect anything that could be going on with responders beforehand. That way, if we can get that treated, and it will help allow a more resilient workforce.

And kind of hand in hand with that is the second one is going to be looking at installing exhaust systems within each station. So we know that diesel exhaust is a known carcinogen. The fire apparatus that the department uses is diesel. So being able to have a capture system that would capture this because a lot of times the firefighters are out in the apparatus floor with this exhaust fumes where they might be using workout equipment, they might be training out there. So this just helps provide them a better, safer atmosphere within the station.

Within each of the short-term, mid-term, and long-term, we do recommend additional staffing. Our first one in the short-term is going to recommend increasing the daily minimum staffing which is currently at 29 personnel, we're recommending to increasing that to 33 which with a staffing factor recommending hiring additional 15 firefighters. With this, it would allow the ladder trucks minimum staffing to go from 2 to 3, and it would also allow the minimum staffing on Engine 7 to be increased from 3 to 4. The reason we picked Engine 7, Engine 7 is in the outskirts. And in order to do an effective firefighting force for OSHA 2 in and 2 out, you need at least two firefighters to go inside, and then two firefighters outside to maintain that. With Engine 7 being on the outskirts, it's going to take longer time for backup units to get there. So the short-term, we're recommending to increase the minimum staff and on Engine 7 from 3 to 4. We're also looking at the training grounds. So currently, the city's very fortunate that the training grounds they rent at a very low cost. But the downside of this is it kind of ties their hands on making improvements and adding things that would be important for responders to be able to train. So we recommend that looking at negotiating a deal to purchase those training grounds from the county to be able to use and be able to add more props that would help responders train and be more well prepared for emergency responses.

The next, we look at workforce development. So with this, you've guys are very fortunate that Arkansas State is right in your backyard. So a lot of departments nationwide that have colleges within their response areas have partnered with them to develop leadership, tracks education paths for helping develop our future leaders. We do a really good job in the fire services of training firefighters on how to pull hose lines, how to throw ladders, and do the everyday stuff of the job. Sometimes we lack the ability to get them to move into those supervisory roles and those skills that we would need from those company officer and chief level ranks.

The next one is a lot of the stuff I mentioned costs money. So one of the things in our report, we wanted to look at, okay, what type of ways can we bring in additional revenue that helps pay for some of these things in the report. One of the first that we look at is a hotel occupancy fee. So basically it's a nominal fee that could be anywhere from a dollar to \$2 a night that's added to the hotel bills to be able to bring that money directly into the fire service because the taxpayers already pay for the fire service there, but the people that are visiting from out of town, it allows them to pay and contribute to have that high level of service. We also looked at adding a fee to Arkansas State students. Again, the same thing kind of with the hotel. It's recouping some of that cost, the fire department's responsible for the emergency response there,

so it looks at recouping some of that cost as well. And then the next one is just looking at SAFER and AFG grants. These are just two fire service grants. The department's always applying for these. So being able to have those grants there would be able to help maintain that long-term operational system for this success.

All right, now we're going to move into mid-term. So mid-term recommendations, these are those that we're saying in that 3 to 7 year time frame. The first one is another staffing increase. So in this, we're going to move the staffing, recommend moving the minimum staffing from that 33 that we moved to in the short-term to 36 in the mid-term. This is accomplished by moving to 4 person crews on the ladder trucks. We've also looked at advanced life support. So when the fire department responds to EMS calls of where there's two types of levels of response. Basic life support and then advance life supports, which can do a lot more. So being able to have advanced life support and being able to have paramedics arrive quicker is going to give the citizens and visitors of Jonesboro a lot better chance of survival when the fire department arrives on scene.

Next is, as we're adding all these additional staffing spots, we're going to look at people to train these people. So we recommend adding another FTE, another full-time position to the training department. And then the final one on this slide is everything in the fire service today is becoming data driven. And one of the things that would help with a lot of the recommendations that we lay out in the report is being able to have somebody dedicated within the fire service that can look at the data and interpret it, okay, when do we need to add additional personnel? When do we need to add additional stations? What's needed to maybe we need to relocate units, maybe we need to add additional units, but being able to have that data analysis would internally within the department would help out a lot with these recommendations. And kind of mention with that is when we went through the report, we looked at, is there a need for a Fire Station 8? We believe that when we get to that mid-term, that 3 to 7 years, there will be a need for Fire Station 8. Within our report, we broke down, there's some situations depending on growth, on call volume. Again, this is, there's a lot of different options with being prepared to construct Fire Station 8 and figuring out where that's going to be.

The next one is going to be hiring a PIO for the department. So being able to have that Public Information Officer for the department to be able to get that information out for not only emergency times, but being able to engage the public more to know what the fire department's doing and being able to operate with that. We want to continue, the department wants to continue when we recruit personnel, we wouldn't be able to continue to retain our personnel. So the third bullet point on that slide is being able to make sure that the compensation reviews remain competitive. So not just looking at it statewide, but also looking at it regional wide as well. So there may be departments that are across state lines that are closer in making sure that the compensation and the benefit package is that Jonesboro fire department's offering is comparable to other jurisdictions so the department's not losing personnel to those agencies.

Currently on the last bullet point, currently the EMS transport is handled by a private agency within the city. So this fourth bullet point isn't saying, hey, Jonesboro should take over EMS transport. It's saying that we should begin to have a plan just in case there is the need to supplement the private or if for some reason the private company is no longer meeting the needs of the city to be able to start to have a plan in that mid-term of, okay, if the city needs to take over EMS, we at least have a plan to move in and to move to accomplish that.

And then we're going to look at long-term, so long-term, that's at 7 to 15 years. The first one is hiring and creating a city emergency manager role. Currently there is a countywide emergency manager, and is also one for the university as well. But being able to, as the city starting experience or the uptick in more natural hazards, to be able to have a dedicated emergency manager for that spot. So the second bullet point is a community paramedicine program. What this is, this is basically a prevention program for EMS. So having that fire analysis, we could look at, say, okay, where are our call volumes? Do we have a lot of repeated callers or are they just, are they calling things for us that are truly emergencies, or can we pair them with a social worker? Maybe, you know, they're all 911 because they don't have the resources to get to the pharmacy to refill their medication. Well, can we pair them with resources so they're not calling 911 and they're not tying up the fire department's units there.

As the department continues to grow, we look at growing not only the operations staff, the people that are responding to calls, but we also need to make sure that we have the personnel to manage a larger department. So with this, we look at adding a logistics manager, so someone who's solely responsible for managing the day to day supplies, gear, equipment, fleet, and then also looking at a Chief of Staff spot that would help strengthen the administrative support, basically an aid to the Chief. And not only does that help the Chief with his day-to-day responsibilities, it also helps with the succession planning of the department because being able to have somebody that is underneath the Chief assisting him with his daily responsibilities also allows that person to learn those jobs as well.

And then the final one, again, looking at increasing the staffing standards. The national standard is adding four personnel to every unit. Again, we realize this is a costly thing. We have it in the long-term and we lay out some options on different ways that we could accomplish that. Long-term, there may be a need for Fire Station 9. Again, as the city continues to grow, as population expands, there may be the need to add Fire Station 9. Again, it's very tough when you look at 7 to 15 years out, where that's going to be. But being able to prepare and being able to figure out, okay, hey, our response times are not so great here, our population is growing here, our emergency call volume is growing here, we may need add a Station 9.

The second bullet point looks at adding additional units. So we may not need to add new stations, but maybe our units within the stations are running so many calls that they're not able to keep up with the call volume in that current response area, and then the personnel don't have the time to train and to be fit for responses. So maybe instead of building a new station in some of these areas, maybe we add a second engine, or maybe we add a ladder truck there. And again, financial planning, as I mentioned, there's a lot of information in the report about different sources, such as the potential looking at increasing, a dedicated sales tax for public safety, looking at hotel occupancy fees that were mentioned along with those university fees, looking at a cost recovery program for certain responses, maybe it's a vehicle accident where the city would bill the insurance company to be able to recruit some calls for that and be able to add some revenue to the fire department to help pay for some of the things in the report here. And that is it. So I'm ready to open the floor for any questions or clarifications.

Mayor Copenhaver said, first of all, Council, we appreciate the opportunity for allowing this to occur for our fire department. Internally, we've had a lot of discussions with the staff and Chief and with this commission on first steps. And so I think you'll see that we'll be enhancing as we go with all of our other plans as well and the coordination of efforts. But if you have any questions, please feel free to ask. Any questions? Okay. I

don't see any. Anything else Chief you'd like to add? Chief Hamrick said, no, thank you for your work. And there's a lot of the stuff that we talked about in the short-term that we are already in the process of working on. Many of those items we're going to be able to accomplish, hopefully within the next year. So that's a good thing. But if y'all have any questions after you get a chance to digest the whole document, feel free to reach out. Thanks, Michael. Mayor Copenhaver said, thanks Chief. Councilmember Joe Hafner said, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, appreciate you. Mr. Hogan said, thank you. Mayor Copenhaver said, you bet.

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

[MIN-25:102](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 18, 2025

Attachments: [CC Minutes 11182025.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

[RES-25:164](#)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION AGREEMENT AND AMENDMENT ONE FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES 457 (b) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN AND TRUST

Attachments: [01 - 311COJ 457\(b\) Amendment One_Final.pdf](#)
[02 - 311COJ 457\(b\) Adopting Resolution_Final.pdf](#)
[03 - 311COJ 457\(b\) SMM_Final.pdf](#)

This item was passed on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-179-2025

RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

[RES-25:166](#)

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FREE UTILITY SERVICES FROM CITY WATER AND LIGHT FOR TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Councilmember John Street asked to be recused from discussion and voting on RES-25:166 due to serving on the CWL Board of Directors.

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

Aye: 11 - Brian Emison;Chris Moore;Chris Gibson;David McClain;Joe Hafner;Kevin Miller;Anthony Coleman;Janice Porter;Charles Coleman;LJ Bryant and Ann Williams

Recused: 1 - John Street

Enactment No: R-EN-180-2025

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

ORD-25:040

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORD-17:026 RELATING TO TOWING SERVICES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO

Attachments: [CityJboroMayor 20251112 135058.pdf](#)
 [CityJboroMayor 20251112 135317.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:040 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

ORD-25:042

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM I-1 TO C-2 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 213 N MAIN AS REQUESTED BY SHAMIM WILKINS.

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Neigh_notification](#)
 [Staff report RZ_25-15](#)
 [MAPC Minutes 11.12.2025](#)
 [Publication Receipt](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:042 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading

ORD-25:043

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE 2000 BLOCK OF W. MATTHEWS/WASHINGTON, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY ROHN CRAFT

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Rohn Craft letter](#)
 [Certified Mail Receipts](#)
 [Staff report RZ_25-16](#)
 [MAPC Minutes 11.12.2025](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:043 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading[ORD-25:044](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, ARTICLE III, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY MEDIUM DENSITY DISTRICT TO C-3 GENERAL COMMERCIAL FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE 2000 BLOCK OF W. MATTHEWS/WASHINGTON, JONESBORO, AR AS REQUESTED BY ANDY CRAFT

Attachments: [Application](#)
 [Certified Mail Receipts](#)
 [Staff report RZ_25-17](#)
 [MAPC Minutes 11.12.2025](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Brian Emison, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-25:044 by title only. All voted aye.

Held at one reading**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS****ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING**[ORD-25:033](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 6 - ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO COMPLY WITH CHANGES TO THE ARKANSAS LAW REGARDING PRIVATE CLUB PERMITS

Attachments: [Alcohol Permit Application 2025.docx](#)
 [Final Jonesboro Application for Change in Business Operation of Private Club](#)
 [Final Jonesboro Application for Transfer of Location of Private Club Permit.docx](#)

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

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

Enactment No: O-EN-040-2025

[ORD-25:038](#)

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO PLACE VARIOUS TRAFFIC SIGNS AT DESIGNATED LOCATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMITTEE

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

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

Enactment No: O-EN-041-2025

[ORD-25:039](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD SECTION 2-289 TO THE JONESBORO CODE OF

ORDINANCES TITLED FIREFIGHTER BILL OF RIGHTS

Attachments: [Firefighter Bill of Rights.pdf](#)

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

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

Enactment No: O-EN-042-2025

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Copenhaver reported on the following:

I have a few notes for this evening, so hang with me just a little bit. I know you're excited. I want to start out with, first of all, I know each of you are aware, and that there's a current investigation process today as I stated earlier in the public statement. I know what you know. We plan to fully cooperate with any investigation to help bring it to an expedient closing. I do want to state that an investigation is an investigation and we will provide no further comment until that process is complete. Jim Stearns will serve as Interim Director during Danny Kapales leave, and we expect no disruptions in park programming or youth athletics. As a matter of fact, we have a tournament going on this evening in the parks. So, everybody, we've already met with the parks staff. Jim is going to do a great job and I appreciate your leadership there, Jim, and we're moving right ahead.

So next, now on the Mayor's notes, I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed your time with family and friends, and we are equally thankful to have been back here again at City Council tonight and doing a good job of representing the people of Jonesboro. So, on the first day of Christmas, the Mayor gave to me 12 minutes of notes. That was a corny joke. Anyway, Brian wrote that, so anyway.

So, we're going to start out with the Employee of the Month. I want to start by announcing this month's First Security Bank Employee the Month was Charles Martin. Charles works in our Sanitation Department and always goes above and beyond his work and duties. He always got a smile on his face, too. I really appreciate the work he does. Not only, though, is he over the incinerator, but at the same time, he manages our bulky junk campaign, glass recycling, and cardboard collection efforts on the Lacy Drive facility. This year, alone, he has been instrumental in helping the Sanitation Department collect 198,000 pounds of tons of tons and bulky junk, over 20,000 pounds of glass recycling, and 6,000 pounds of cardboard, and well over 500 tires this year. Charles does a little bit of everything, including volunteering when we are in need of a knuckleboom or roll off truck driver. Thank you, Charles, for all the hard work. You're a great example of our wonderful city staff.

Now, we'll begin in this month.

The Transition Fair, I enjoyed stopping by the fourth annual Transition Fair at Nettleton Baptist Church. This program, hosted by Project Care, is targeted toward special needs, juniors and senior high students in the region to help them connect with valuable resources, employment opportunities, and educational training. I'm grateful to all of those who participated in that event. It shows that these wonderful students will

now have options to exist in their area and explore careers that are a good match for their unique challenges and talents. I will say that we had many departments represented in the city at that job fair as well.

Now, I'd like to go ahead and announce some events that are going to be coming up.

This Thursday night is NEA Sounds of the Season concert. That will be held at Fowler Hall, and please come. It's 7:30, and this is a combination of many of the ASU choirs along with a local Jonesboro Corral choir and Jonesboro Camarada singers. It will be a great evening for all.

This Friday is the Christmas parade. It's our annual time to all come together as community. Special thanks to Heather Tally for all her efforts in coordinating these events, and dozens of volunteers, police and fire department staff that when ensure we have fun and a safe event. I know it might be a little cold, but nothing warms the souls more than the Christmas spirit, and hot chocolate. So come down, enjoy these festivities and floats and bands. For more information about the event, please visit JonesboroChristmasparade.com. I know there are some early concerns regarding winter weather. If those concerns escalate to the need to postpone the event, we will coordinate the effort organizers and public safety personnel to quickly work through the alternative date if the weather doesn't clear.

Joy Fest, this coming Saturday, come downtown and check out JoyFest. The programming begins at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 6th at Union Park downtown Jonesboro. The award winning Festival of the Year by the Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association features a Hallmark Christmas like event and will include the annual lighting of the RightFiber 64 ft Christmas tree at 5:30 p.m. Live music, Kids Zone, and over 50 local vendors will be there at no cost to attendees. Low cost rides include the Ferris wheel, teacups, miniature train, ice rink and carousel. Big thanks to Sarah Rickert, our parks staff, and DJA for all their efforts to make this event a wonderful event to attend each year.

Winter Wonderland - JoyFest kicks off the opening night of Winter Wonderland and the First Community Bank Wonderland Rink by the City of Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Department. Winter Wonderland will run through December 23rd at 215 West Monroe Avenue with the First Community Bank Winter Wonderland Rink and concessions open through December 31st.

Then we move on to Christmas at the Park. The Christmas at the Park is now open at Joe Mack through December 23rd. 2025 schedules run from November 26th through December 23rd, with sponsor highlight nights, special events, and holiday offerings through the season including Pay What You Can Night on Wednesday, December 3rd. Thanks to our area sponsors and Adam Sartin and the Ground Crew team for all their years of hard work, literally brightening Christmas for the whole region.

The Delta Symphony Orchestra will host the Enchanted by the Sounds of Christmas from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on December 14th at the Fowler Center located at 201 Olympic Drive. The Delta Symphony Orchestra will perform holiday classics and we all know. Santa Claus himself will lead a sing along. So for more information, please contact the Delta Symphony Orchestra Facebook page.

The Foundation of Arts Performances of Elf, the Musical Junior will take place on December 19th through the 22nd at the Forum Theater at 111 East Monroe Avenue. The musical production follows Buddy, a human accidentally raised by North Pole

elves. I don't have to explain Elf. I'm not even getting into Elf, but I think it'd be a good idea for everybody to attend, especially have youth in the community. For more information to purchase tickets, visit FOAJonesboro.org, the FOA website.

University Lions Park - Construction and new playground is complete, University Lions Park located in Northside Park. The new playground is all turf and includes some covered hills, and kids can enjoy playing on. It's really a nice addition to our parks offerings, and I hope you will check it out. This is a part of our continued efforts to help ensure the Jonesboro of Tomorrow is a city that all people with all physical capabilities can enjoy together.

December Neighborhood Cleanup - The final neighborhood cleanup of the year is Saturday at Southside Softball Complex from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Big thanks to our city staff who work weekends to provide this service. Totals this year have surpassed 100 tons with nearly 1,000 tires. That's a lot of junk in our neighborhoods and road sides. I'm proud of this program and how it's been accepted by the community.

Now we move on to Holiday Shopping Police Patrols - Friday marked the start of our special assignment holiday patrols to provide residents and out of town visitors, an elevated feeling of comfort and safety as you're all hopefully spending lots and lots of money in our local stores. So, Chris and April, do your part, please, more shopping. We all have a lot to do when it's only one penny at a time. But seriously, I'm a big fan of this program and thankful we can afford to spend the money to do it. JPD has partnered with some other agencies on a special Shoplifting Sting Program this year, and I believe they have already popped a couple of folks who have committed similar crimes in other areas. They learned the hard way. Jonesboro will dedicate the resources necessary to protect our residences and our business.

City Water and Light Sewage Project - For those of you who have driven through the West End over the last few months, you undoubtedly are aware of the utility work going on in the area by City Water and Light. For those of you who may not know the whole story, the major upgrade in Jonesboro's sewer system is underway in that area of town. City Water and Light is replacing the sewer sanitary system that in some parts of the area is pushing over 100 years old. This is nearly a \$10 million investment in our infrastructure and is helping prepare Jonesboro for the growth of decades to come. Now, this investment does have a side effect. Our roads have to be dug up in a lot of areas with new lines to be fed in. I know that we've all gotten, especially our office, who've gotten a lot of calls about it, but they all will all be repaved. But we can't do it until the work is done. We are working with City Water and Light on what the timeline looks like and look forward to our most recent historic part of town that have newer sewer and newly paved roads here to come. Nobody ever says, progress was easy, but literally didn't have bumps in the road along the way. I don't ever want to miss a chance to say, thank you to our friends at City Water and Light for all they do for this community. With winter weather approaching this week and for all the next several months to come, I know we'll be thankful for their first class efforts in servicing our grid when Mother Nature takes her best shot at us over headlines and water. That's the end of my report, Council. I know you're probably pleased to hear that. I hear an applause, thank you.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman said, on December 22nd, Fisher Street Community in Action will have a toy drive. It will be a drive through. The children must be in the car. We'll be giving away toys from ages zero to 12. So, I'm repeating the

point that the children must be in the car. Mayor Copenhagen asked, what time is that, Dr. Coleman? Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman replied, 4:00- 7:00 p.m. It's the building across from I'd say 330 North Fisher Street, because that's next to the building. We will be giving away the toys that evening. Mayor Copenhagen said, 4:00-7:00pm, thank you.

Councilmember Chris Gibson said, just one thing, and I was going to address this off of the council floor, but I think it's imperative that I say it in public. I think most of this group knows over my last 17 years I've been an advocate for youth sports in this community and I'm especially partial to swim because my daughter's involved. And I know that this time of year it falls off the radar. But last night at our city pool, there were ten children from 12 to 18 swimming in the water with no heaters in 32 degree weather. So I would ask that that be given attention, please, and I know Jim is already on it, we've already had conversations, but I just want to make that a priority. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you, Councilman.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said, with the budget books now being ready, at least the first version of them, we're looking at scheduling a working session. This would be a session just for the council to hear from staff about the 2026 budget. No action would be taken, but one time that was thrown out to me is 11:30 a.m. this Friday. I'll be reaching out to see how that works, to see if we get enough people there that would make it worthwhile event, but, you know, obviously, this is just the first, this would just be a working session, you know, chance to ask questions, no action would be taken. We'd follow that up with a finance meeting and then another chance to ask questions. And then, you know, if it gets forwarded to city council, another time to ask questions. So, but be thinking about 11:30 a.m. on Friday. Look at your schedules and I'll try to reach out to you tomorrow to see how that works. Councilmember Dr. Charles Coleman asked, is the city buying lunch? Councilmember Hafner said, I would think so. They have done so in the past. Mayor Copenhagen said, send us your request. Councilmember Hafner continued, all right, but anyway, I'll reach out to you. I know it may not work for everybody, but we're just trying to find out a time that works for enough to make it worthwhile. Thank you. That's all I've got. Mayor Copenhagen said, thank you, Councilman.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

_____ Date: _____

Harold Copenhaver, Mayor

Attest:

_____ Date: _____

April Leggett, City Clerk