



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING AT 5:20 P.M.

Mayor Harold Perrin asked if there was anyone in the audience that wanted to speak for or against this hearing. John Easley with Associated Engineering said he was there representing Farmer Enterprises. This right-of-way is basically what is left over after the highway department rerouted Washington Avenue to the overpass, Washington Avenue and Washington Spur off to the west. This is basically just some housekeeping to take care of a right-of-way that was forgotten and is asked to be abandoned.

There was no one in attendance in opposition to this Public Hearing.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

Present 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

[COM-18:019](#) PRESENTATION BY MIKE DOWNING OF JONESBORO UNLIMITED

Attachments: [Knowledge Economy and Jonesboro, City Pres2.pdf](#)

Read

[COM-18:020](#) PROCLAMATION BY MAYOR PERRIN PRESENTED TO MISS NORTHEAST ARKANSAS OUTSTANDING TEEN IZZY BAUGHN

Read

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

[MIN-18:036](#)

MINUTES FOR THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 3, 2018

Attachments: [Minutes CC 04032018.pdf](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:045](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR PERRIN

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:046](#)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR THE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING EFFICIENCY AND CLARITY FOR THE JONESBORO CITY COUNCIL AS WELL AS THE CITIZENS OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:048](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH DELTA DENTAL FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTING COMPLEX

Attachments: [JMC DELTA DENTAL](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:049](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH CENTENNIAL BANK FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

Attachments: [CENTINNAL BANK](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:050](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH CHRIS CONGER FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK

Attachments: [CHRIS CONGER](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:051](#)

A RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH SENSATIONAL KIDS PEDIATRIC THERAPY FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ONE OUTFIELD SIGN AT THE MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK

Attachments: [Sensational Kids](#)

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:052](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND RES-18:044 ESTABLISHING THE LAND BANK COMMISSIONERS

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:053](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE BLUE AND YOU FOUNDATION TO RECEIVE SIX MINI GRANTS

Attachments: [RES-18-027](#)

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:054](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ALLIANCE TRANSPORTATION GROUP FOR A 10-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN/STUDY

Attachments: [Alliance_Contract_20180402.pdf](#)

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:055](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE SELECTIVE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROJECT GRANT FROM THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:058](#) RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXECUTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A LETTER OF CREDIT TO BE ISSUED TO THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (ADEQ)

Attachments: [centennial bank - credit](#)

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:059](#) RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:060](#) RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO UTILIZE FEDERAL-AID TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM FROM THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

This item was **APPROVED** on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:061](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE 2018 GRANT FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RETIRED PERSONS

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:062](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO GRANTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE 2017 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

[RES-18:063](#) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY 49 U.S.C. CHAPTER 53, UNITED STATES CODE, AND OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

[ORD-18:022](#) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF JONESBORO TO AMEND THE 2018 BUDGET FOR SIX BLUE AND YOU MINI GRANTS

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:022 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Street asked Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway if this was time sensitive. Ms. Calloway said that it is kind of time sensitive. We would like to go ahead and order the AED defibrillators, as well as the various equipment that we have been able to buy with this grant. So, yes.

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings of ORD-18:022. All voted aye.

Councilmember David McClain asked Ms. Calloway since they are suspending the rules and waiving the second and third readings and Council rules state that we need to state why we are doing so, do you mind explaining what these are? Just work through this if you don't mind and give us a brief overview. Ms. Calloway asked if he wanted a brief overview of everything that we were purchasing. Councilmember McClain said yes. Ms. Calloway said back a couple of months ago, you all approved for the Grants and Community Development Department to write the grant for six mini-grants. It is a \$1,000 cash grant with no local match required. We wrote the grants obviously and were awarded \$1,000 six times for various departments including Police, Fire, City Hall, Parks & Rec, JET, and also one other that I am missing. There is no match required and we just want to be able to purchase the equipment. Councilmember McClain said I

am just asking simply to explain this because everyone doesn't know what we are applying for. Ms. Calloway said right. Did I answer your question? Councilmember McClain said you did. Ms. Calloway said ok, good. Councilmember McClain said thank you and that is all.

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

[ORD-18:023](#)

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AMEND THE 2018 BUDGET AND PURCHASE PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO CRAIGHEAD FOREST PARK

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember LJ Bryant, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:023 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked that ORD-18:023 be read three times if there is no hurry. Mayor Perrin asked if Councilmember Moore wanted to hold it at one. Councilmember Moore said yes, please.

Held at one reading

[ORD-18:024](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE AND ABANDON A ROAD RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN THE STREETS OF WEST WASHINGTON SPUR AND WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE IN CRAIGHEAD COUNTY, JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

Attachments: [Farmer Public Hearing.pdf](#)
[Farmer Resolution.pdf](#)
[Farmer Ordinance.pdf](#)
[Plat.pdf](#)
[Engineering and Planning Letter](#)
[Utility Letters.pdf](#)

Mayor Perrin said we just heard at the Public Hearing earlier that this is actually a cleanup when they split the road on Washington Avenue which includes about a .54 acre.

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember John Street, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:024 by title only. All voted aye.

Mayor Perrin said I don't think there is any hurry on this if you want to hold, we will just hold it if that is all right. Mayor Harold Perrin stated that ORD-18:024 would be held at one reading.

Held at one reading

[ORD-18:025](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 17:079 TO ALLOW FOR THE ADOPTION OF A REGULATED FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT BY RESOLUTION

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:025 by title only. All voted aye.

Mayor Harold Perrin said that this is just a cleanup ordinance. It doesn't have to be adopted immediately so if you want to roll it over to the next time, we can do that. Mayor Perrin stated that ORD-18:025 would be held at one reading.

Held at one reading

[ORD-18:028](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM AGRICULTURAL, AG-1 TO RS-5, RESIDENTIAL; SINGLE FAMILY; 5 UNITS PER ACRE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3626 FLEMON AS REQUESTED BY GEORGE HAMMAN WITH CIVILOGIC ON BEHALF OF DEBRA STERLING

Attachments: [rezoning plat.pdf](#)
[Aerial View of Location.pdf](#)
[Application.pdf](#)
[City Council Summary.pdf](#)
[USPS Receipts.pdf](#)

Councilmember John Street motioned, seconded by Councilmember Bobby Long, to suspend the rules and offer ORD-18:028 by title only. All voted aye.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked if there had been any objection to this rezoning. Mayor Perrin said that he is not aware of any and the vote from MAPC was unanimous 7-0.

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to suspend the rules and waive the second reading of ORD-18:028 and hold it. All voted aye.

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

RESOLUTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

[RES-18:019](#)

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO CONDEMN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1007 CREATH, OWNER: NEOMA WILLIAMS

Attachments: [1007 Creath county data](#)
[1007 Creath Deed](#)
[1007 Creath inspection report](#)
[1007 Creath title search](#)
[pic3](#)
[pic2](#)
[pic1](#)

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams; Charles Frierson; Chris Moore; John Street; Mitch Johnson; Gene Vance; Chris Gibson; Charles Coleman; Bobby Long; Joe Hafner; David McClain and LJ Bryant

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[ORD-18:019](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE 2018 BUDGET AND MOVE \$2,000,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND RESERVES TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR STIP PROJECT

Attachments: [P Lack email Harrisburg Road.pdf](#)
[Petitions Against Widening Harrisburg Road 2018.pdf](#)
[PLack email 040318.pdf](#)
[P Lack Harrisburg.pdf](#)
[Against emails.pdf](#)

Mayor Perrin stated that since this is the second reading, I am going to try to hold it tonight if we can because I know there will probably be other items. If we can hold the discussion to about ten minutes per side on this. I know that Patti Lack wanted to speak tonight if I am not mistaken.

Patti Lack, 4108 Forest Hill Road, said thank you for allowing me to speak and I'll speak as fast as I can because I know there is a lot of stuff to do here. This is the ordinance to move the \$2,000,000 from the reserve fund to expand Harrisburg Road. I wrote you all an email over the weekend and I hope you did a couple of the things that I asked you to do, to go to our Facebook page Apartment 280 and look at some of the comments and the still pictures. I sent you some videos of different times of the day on Harrisburg Road and Stadium. Also too, I asked you to drive out towards Harrisburg Road before today. I think you probably got a funny laugh out of that when I said don't come on a Sunday morning because that is when Central Baptist Church has their services and that is when we all avoid that area. I compared that to having an ASU football game. I don't go towards Red Wolf Boulevard and Johnson when they are having a football game because I know there is a lot of traffic out there. It is the same thing with the church. You know that there is a lot of traffic out there at that time so you do avoid it.

On my first screen, I want to compare three of the roads that come into Jonesboro. The first one is Stadium. It has two lanes with a center turn lane. From Parker Road to Fox Meadow Lane is one mile. If you go down that street, there are 48+ businesses with some businesses on the side street. There is a traffic light at Fox Meadow Lane. I was told it was there because of the school. If you notice the first video that I sent you was on Stadium. I went down there one morning and yes, there was a lot of traffic, but the traffic was flowing. Thank heavens for that stop light because it let those people out, but it continued to flow. After the peak time on Stadium, the traffic was ok. They say that there are 16,000 cars per day that go on that road. It is consistent traffic, believe me, if you all have been down there. In order to make that a five-lane road, the city is going to have to spend \$11.8 million. I think that is a state highway too.

Another road that we have is Caraway Road. It is a two-lane road right now. From Parker Road to Fox Meadow Lane, which is an expansion that you all want to do, is

one-mile long. There are lots of businesses and lots of apartments there. From what I know, is that there are going to be more apartments because I have some friends that live in Willow Creek and the people who own Willow Creek are looking to buy some land on Caraway to build some more apartments. The telephone poles have already been moved on that road. In order to improve that, it is going to be \$13 million. Is the traffic consistent on that? I don't know whether it is consistent or local traffic because there are apartments and there are businesses so a lot of people go down that way. What I have right there is sidewalks. If you think of Caraway Road, if you come over the bypass, is that it is a five-lane road and it goes down to two-lanes and that is one of the concerns we have with Harrisburg Road of where it is ending at. What I want to say to you is that the sidewalks, we are talking about spending an extra \$2 million, this might be a road that we put a sidewalk on. I know all of these people are going to be here for sidewalks. That might be a road that we use that \$2 million because it is going to be a long time before we expand that road. From my understanding is that we don't have half of that money in that fund to expand that road right away so its not going to be done for quite a while. So, sidewalks might be done before then.

Harrisburg Road is currently right now a two-lane road. From Parker Road to Forest Hill Road, it is 0.3 miles. That is what the \$2.4 million is going to be used for to do a five-lane road down Harrisburg is only 0.3 miles. If you go to the church, it is 0.4 miles. If you go to the fire station, it is 0.6 miles so it is a half a mile down to where we want to go. We have a total of what used to be five businesses, but now it is only four because Kevin's Heat and Air has their property up for sale because the road is probably going to take over their business. They say that we get 12,000 cars a day. Is it consistent in the sense that it is local or is it commuter traffic? I think if you guys looked at those videos that we did, during the rest of the day besides peak times, is that it is more of local traffic besides the peak times. So, think of those videos that I did.

When we did the petitions, these aren't the petitions, but I decided to put 312 sheets of paper together. You wanted to see what a stack looks like. That is how many petitions that we got for people that are opposing the five-lanes. We are not opposing the five-lanes, we are just asking to amend what is done and not to have that expansion that we have. If you look on your petition sheet right there, you can tell that there are peak times in the morning and in the evening times. Nettleton Schools have 178 days. The rest of the time, almost half the year after that, I have to tell you that the traffic is much less. When it was spring break, you could easily go in and out. So, the traffic is not bad when there is no school or it is not as bad. If we build a five-lane road right there across from the Exxon Station, right there is where the JET bus stop is. Those people are going to have to cross over five-lanes. I have to tell you that there have been several times that people get off that bus and they pay no attention and they cross over the road. So, I can't imagine what it is going to be like when there is five-lanes there.

The city seems to be happy with the proposed area. In December when we came and looked at the plans, and then all of the sudden we got this request for \$2 million to extend it. The thing that I have a problem with is that we have known about this expansion for a long time. Its not like all of a sudden, we thought, oh gosh, that is going to be a bad place to put five-lanes down to two-lanes. We have known about it for a long time. So, I started thinking, I wonder why they want to expand it down to the fire station and we haven't really gotten very many clear answers. So, on Friday, April 4, 2018, there was an article and it is talking about the grants, about doing the phase of the greenway forest. I was reading that they want to provide a 10 ft. wide asphalt trail from the park along Craighead Forest Road until it connects to Harrisburg. Then, they

want to put the trail down to the fire station. I thought, ah hah, that is probably why we want to go down to the fire station. Well, first I have to tell you, Craighead Forest Road, to put a 10 ft. asphalt trail on Craighead Forest Road, I don't know if you have ever been down there, I can count on my hand how many times I have seen people there. I went the other day and I measured Craighead Forest Road because it seems kind of tiny. It is 19 ft. across and you are going to put a 10 ft. asphalt walking trail so that is going to be bigger than what half of the road is. So, I don't know if that is the best place to put an asphalt trail. But, I kind of started connecting the dots and I don't know whether that is the right place to put a trail because there is not a lot of people. But, once again, if you are going to be walking down Harrisburg Road on a trail when there is five-lanes, I don't know how safe I am going to feel. So, you have got to ask yourself that question.

So, then next, we had the Finance Committee meeting. On this, there was an article in the paper and Councilmember Street announced that, and this is stating from the paper, that is a dangerous spot. We can't stop the five-lanes at Forest Hill Road. You don't know. You can get out at 9 o'clock and you can get out at 11 o'clock, but you can't do it all of the time. You have to navigate your time. But, I also noticed that Councilmember Street is the chairman of the Northeast Arkansas Regional Transportation Commission. You are on the Finance Committee and you are here at the City Council so it is going to be really tough to turn your vote around on this because your vote is basically a yes vote because you started with this project so I am going to work on you a little bit harder.

Mayor Perrin stated to Ms. Lack that she has 41 seconds. Ms. Lack said you can read that. You can read the petition and all of that. The picture right here, the reason why people stop, and we will go to the map in a second, the reason why people stop on Harrisburg is that there is no center lane there. That is when the traffic stops. So, if you look at the map, this is a map that we are proposing. Right-hand turn lanes in Jonesboro have become popular. What we are proposing is two-lanes. Mayor Perrin stated your time has commenced. Thank you Patti. We will study this very hard and again we are going to give plenty of time on the third reading. Remember, I told you that we were going to limit this to ten minutes. Actually, I gave you more than that. Ok. So what we are going to do is going to the third reading, we will go into detail on that. Very much in detail. Ms. Lack said ok, but there is a lot more to this and I might even email it. Mayor Perrin said I think you were pretty clear and it looks good. I think it is good to read. It is pretty clear. Ms. Lack said you haven't heard the rest of it. Mayor Perrin said thank you. Is there anyone else for?

Beverly Parker, 205 Windover, said I too wanted to speak tonight in opposition. I think that the road could be better served in terms of a three-lane, but I would like to request to go first next time and I will make my statements then. Thank you. Mayor Perrin said thank you very much.

Held at second reading

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[ORD-17:027](#)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 117-330, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE PROVISION OF SIDEWALKS WITHIN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, WITH THE INTENT TO PROMOTE IMPROVED PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, EXPANDED OPPORTUNITY OF RECREATIONAL WALKING AND RUNNING ACTIVITIES, MORE COHESIVE NEIGHBORHOODS AND EASIER ACCESS TO SHOPPING AND OTHER

COMMERCIALLY RELATED PURSUITS

Attachments: [Current sidewalk code](#)
[sidewalks_1.mp4](#)
[JonesboroCoC_Sidewalk Approval.pdf](#)
[Sidewalks_Williams 03192018.pdf](#)
[NEA Homebuilders Association Presentation on Sidewalks 04032018.pdf](#)
[NEA Homebuilder's Association Ordinance Redline.pdf](#)
[NEA Homebuilders Association Ordinance .pdf](#)
[Mayor Letter.pdf](#)
[Mayor Email.pdf](#)
[4.12.18 redline sidewalk version](#)
[4.12.18 clean copy sidewalk version](#)
[Latest Version 041718_Home Builders Association.pdf](#)

Councilmember Joe Hafner said in the spirit of compromise, I would like to make a motion to remove my proposed ordinance, ORD-17:027 that is currently on the table and replace it with ordinance, ORD-17:027, version 7 which is listed in Legistar as 4.12.18 clean copy sidewalk version. City Clerk Donna Jackson asked if he wanted the red-lined or the clean version brought up. City Attorney Carol Duncan said brought up for purposes of discussion. Councilmember Hafner said you can bring up the red-lined version. Mayor Perrin said let me see if I understand your motion. Your motion is to remove your original ORD-17:027 and replace it with ORD-17:027 version 7. Councilmember Hafner said it is noted as version 7 in Legistar. Mayor Perrin said he had read it this afternoon, version 7. I think I got a second on that from Councilmember Chris Moore, is that correct? Councilmember Moore said yes it is. It included the compromise that I offered at the last meeting of only having sidewalks on one side of the road instead of requiring them on both and I will second that motion. All voted aye.

Mayor Perrin said ORD-17:027 version 7 is now on the floor. Councilmember Moore asked if that needed to be read for the third reading as the amended version. City Attorney Carol Duncan said I will read the whole thing if you want me to. Councilmember Moore said no, just by title. Ms. Duncan said I will need a motion to read it by title only. Well, the title is the same. Councilmember Moore asked if the title had changed. Ms. Duncan said the title did not change. Mayor Perrin said it will be at the third reading.

Councilmember Chris Moore motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to adopt ORD-17:027. All voted aye. Mayor Perrin stated that ORD-17:027 version 7 then passes.

REOPEN ORD-17:027 – Mr. Jim Gramling stated that as a point of clarification, we had some public comment on ORD-17:027. Carroll Caldwell was going to speak on behalf of the Northeast Arkansas Homebuilders Association. You all went through it so quickly that he didn't get a chance to get up here to speak on it. On a third reading, I assume that you are going to hear comments. Mayor Perrin said we would be glad to hear your comments.

Councilmember Chris Moore stated that we are past that item. Mayor Perrin said that is true. We have already adopted ORD-17:027. I believe that the comments that you all had submitted was in Legistar. Mr. Gramling said that the ordinance that you all just extensively passed, nobody in the public knows what it is. The text that is on the body

of Legistar is still the old ordinance. No one has had a chance to see the new one and we would like a chance to address the proposed changes. City Attorney Carol Duncan said just as a point of clarification, the new version was put on Legistar last week along with a red-lined version of the proposed changes that Councilmember Joe Hafner was going to introduce. Mr. Gramling said that if you look at the first page of the text, as of at least yesterday, it was still the previous version. Ms. Duncan said the original ordinance would be the previous version. It was one of the attachments much like the one your body proposed. Mr. Gramling said it is attached, but I am just making the point that it is confusing and nobody knows what you all were just voting on. Ms. Duncan said I will also say that a press release went out so that it would be put in the paper. That was the other thing that was done to try to make sure that everybody knew that there was a proposed compromise and what it would be and where they could find it to read it. That is all I can say about it. Beyond that, I will let you go on.

Mr. Gramling said that we are simply asking to be heard before you vote on it. Mayor Perrin said since I didn't pull it for public comment, I am going to let him talk. Ms. Duncan said that they would need a motion to bring it back on the floor. Councilmember Bobby Long motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to put ORD-17:027 back on the floor. Councilmember Long asked for a point of clarification, if it is put back on the floor, we will re-vote after public comments? Is that correct? Mayor Perrin said that is correct. Councilmember Chris Moore said that first he thinks we need a legal opinion because City Attorney Carol Duncan is going to have to determine if it can be reconsidered tonight or at the next meeting. Mayor Perrin said she is looking at it. City Clerk Donna Jackson said it is called reconsideration. Ms. Duncan said it is a motion for reconsideration is what it would be. Mayor Perrin said the motion would be for reconsideration. Ms. Duncan said under our rules, if you are looking at the rules, it is on printed page 5, but it is under Section 2-87, Procedures and Parliamentary Rules, Subsection C, Precedence of Motions, Subsection 2, Reconsiderations. After the decision of any question, any member of the majority may request a reconsideration of any action at the same or the next succeeding meeting; provided, however, that a resolution authorizing or relating to any contract may be reconsidered at any time before final execution thereof. A motion to reconsider requires a simple majority for passage. After a motion for reconsideration has once been acted on, no other motion for reconsideration thereof shall be made without unanimous consent. Ms. Duncan said so, it could be brought back tonight by majority vote.

Councilmember Bobby Long motioned, seconded by Councilmember Chris Gibson, to put ORD-17:027 back on the floor for reconsideration. Mayor Perrin called for a roll-call vote since it takes a majority. A roll-call vote was done – McClain (No); Long (Yes); Hafner (Yes); Bryant (Yes); Johnson (Yes); Street (Yes); Gibson (Yes); Williams (Yes); Moore (Yes); Coleman (Yes); Vance (Yes), Frierson (No).

Carroll Caldwell said we do like the ordinance. We want to recommend three changes. We are the ones that are asked to put them in. We are the ones that are asked to pay for them. And, the most important thing is that we have to market our lots with sidewalks and be able to sell them. So, Joe, I like this ordinance because it gives us an option on one side. If you will look at the red-lined version on the bottom of the first page, our comment on that about the industrial is totally up to you all. We don't have a comment about whether sidewalks should go into industrial parks or not. That is totally up to you all. We are being told that you all are being asked not to put those into the industrial park. Councilmember Joe Hafner said he would like to clarify that. I don't want to interrupt you, but since you asked, I will tell you. Mr. Young from the Chamber of Commerce expressed a concern about Planned Industrial Areas. So, not all

industrial areas, but planned industrial areas. The fact that this says totally removes industrial is not what I think they intended to do. I had a conversation with Mr. Young saying that I would look and I wanted to do more research on the planned industrial areas and since it wasn't a pressing issue as far as something being looked at to be in the Industrial Park right now that he was fine, and Mr. Young or someone with the Chamber can speak up if they want to, with leaving it as-is right now. Their intent was never to remove all industrial. They were concerned with planned industrial areas. Mr. Caldwell said we are ok with that.

Mr. Caldwell said on page two, on the exceptions, number three, the retaining walls, we don't want to build sidewalks that have retaining walls mainly because to eliminate the retaining wall, we have to cut the hill down, we have to totally destroy the environment. We are going to be cutting down all of the trees. So, that is just a fact. We would ask that you all take out the 3 ft. high retaining wall. On the next page, we are actually on the top, number one. It is modified to eliminate the isolated sidewalk islands and for clarity. We want to clarify that. So, we would like for you to consider that change. Councilmember Bobby Long asked where that was. Which one is that? Councilmember Hafner said number one. Councilmember Chris Gibson said that it is number one on page three. Mr. Caldwell said on exemptions, number one. Councilmember Gene Vance said it is Exemptions, C-1. Councilmember Hafner asked if City Clerk Donna Jackson was looking for a copy of their latest version. Ms. Jackson said she thought this was what this was. Councilmember Hafner said that is not the one he is addressing right now. Mr. Caldwell said no, it is not. Ms. Jackson said we have several versions. Councilmember Hafner said that the one that is in Legistar is the one that they submitted last Tuesday or Wednesday that I based my compromises on. I think this has even changed from last night. Mr. Caldwell said that is correct. Councilmember Hafner said this was sent last night. I got a copy of one about 6:30 last night. Ms. Jackson asked if this was the newest one. Mr. Caldwell said yes. This is, what we handed you is not. Councilmember Hafner said you won't be able to find this in Legistar because it is not in there.

Mr. Caldwell said on number four, the cul-de-sacs can only be 400 ft. long in Jonesboro. That is a requirement. So, we would like to mark out the less than 250 ft. in length. It can only be 400. Ms. Jackson said she needed a copy. Mr. Caldwell said on the last one is just minor, on the last page, we edited retaining walls off because you have existing retaining walls that need maintenance. So, we think these three minor changes that we are asking for is not too much for us to get a start, to try to help get a start, and to try to satisfy everybody in this room to show them we are for sidewalks. We have got to market this product. We have got to market our houses with sidewalks. So, we are willing to do this full steam ahead, immediately. We would like for you all to consider these three changes of ours.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said if they don't mind, I would like for City Engineer Craig Light and City Planner Derrel Smith to come up, if they have had a chance, to talk about the retaining walls and cul-de-sacs and get their opinions. Councilmember Chris Moore said while I respect Mr. Caldwell's right to submit changes and I am sure he is probably right on some of those, I don't think this is the place to start discussing the technical merits of a sidewalk, the height of a retaining wall, the construction of the sidewalks. I think that is all stuff that should be submitted to the committee and if the committee decides they are appropriate and they agree with Mr. Caldwell's assertion that there needs to be changes, then by all means, an amendment can come through the committee process. I don't think we can sit here and talk about the topography, the slope, the retaining walls. I sit on that committee and I will be all about hearing his proposed changes, but I don't think we need to have the City Engineer or City Planner

get into the technical nuances of this.

Councilmember Hafner said I agree with you. I am still willing to have my version adopted tonight. Councilmember Vance said that several times a year, we, as Councilmember Moore pointed out, several times a year, we amend ordinances. To me, what Mr. Caldwell is proposing should then go through that amendment process and not at this stage of the game. Councilmember Hafner said right. Councilmember Moore said I am not prepared to study the slopes and grades tonight of retaining walls or what the grade ought to be on the sidewalk. I think that is something that needs technical expertise from the Engineer and input on that, not an on the floor snap decision. I would ask that we take Mr. Caldwell's recommendations, submit them to the committee, and then the committee will review them and anything that is found to be appropriate, I think probably the cul-de-sac one for sure is probably not a deal breaker. I think there are several things there. I just don't think we should be making the technical decision tonight on the floor.

Councilmember Chris Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilmember Ann Williams, to adopt ORD-17:027. Councilmember Moore said we may want someone from the sidewalk side to give them an opportunity to speak like Mr. Caldwell got. If we are going to air it out, do it.

Paul Pickens, 316 Dunwoody, said I am co-chair along with Heather Allen for the My Healthy Jonesboro Coalition. What that coalition is it's a group of lots of business leaders and our primary goal is to look and help build quality of life for all of our community. I believe we have some My Healthy Jonesboro Coalition members here today if you all would like to stand. The My Healthy Jonesboro Coalition fully supports the sidewalk ordinance. We supported it as it stood and we will support it as it has been amended. I wanted to share with you just a quick, quick story. On spring break, my wife and I went to Oxford, MS, not northwest Arkansas, Oxford, MS. We spent a couple of days there. As we came into town there, the first thing that I noticed were sidewalks. I noticed them because we do not have them and we have been talking about them. We toured lots of new developments and new properties. When I went into look at the properties, the first thing out of their mouths were did you see our walking trail? Do you know how close we are to the bike trail? Not a mention of granite countertops, 10 ft. ceilings, it was all about the amenities and the quality of life. As we made our way back home, now keep in mind that I live in Jonesboro and that I love Jonesboro, as we came back and as we were driving around town, the first time for me to think oh, my gosh, what are we missing? Now, I feel this way and I live here and I love it here. What does someone feel like when they are moving here and trying to decide whether they want to live here? Council, I am asking you to really understand what you are voting on here today. Your decision is going to change decades of growth for our city. It is really, really important that this ordinance passes. Thank you.

Dr. Tom Mulligan, 730 CR 754, Medical Director of Senior Services, I am speaking in my role of Medical Director of Population Health, 505 E. Matthews. Jonesboro has an incredible opportunity right now. You heard my personal story. You don't want to hear that again. We have an incredible opportunity with a new medical school here, a new training program, etc. We need to think about the health of our population for the future. The health of our population for the future needs sidewalks and walking trails and bicycle trails. We do not want to go back to unpaved streets. We need to think forward. Thank you.

Ritter Arnold, speaking on behalf of the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, and on a meeting I believe on March 19, 2017, the council unanimously passed this resolution.

Whereas, the mission of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce is to create a thriving city through Service, Leadership and Economic Development; and Whereas, there is an economic development benefit in having a walkable community; Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce hereby supports the intent of promoting improved pedestrian safety, expanded opportunity of recreational walking and running activities, more cohesive neighborhoods and easier access to shopping and other commercially related pursuits. Thank you.

David Allen, 6005 Charity Court, as I stand before you today, I appreciate the opportunity. I am struck by the seal and the motto here. It highlights people, pride, and progress. I ask you to take that into consideration as you are evaluating the original sidewalk proposal and can you really be proud of the progress that we have made with regard to sidewalks and the work that has been done and hasn't been done since this has come up over a year ago. The folks that have already spoken have highlighted how impactful sidewalks are. It impacts every cohort in this community, the elderly, the disabled, the impaired, children, empty nesters, new families, etc. We heard them talk about the economic impact and the community impact. We have heard about the positive public health impacts, the crime impacts, all positive and all driven by sidewalks. And, yet, we are continuing to advance the opportunity and have compromises that reduce the likelihood of sidewalks being put in place in this community. That is not what people, pride, and progress mean. Every part of this community will benefit from it and from those proven benefits. I also want to highlight that in talkbusiness.net yesterday and I am going to read this. In talkbusiness.net yesterday, we had some developers highlighting Greensboro Village. It says, the village will feature stores, restaurants, a movie theater, and will have sidewalks and trails connecting every part of this city. I ask you to stop considering sidewalks as an amenity, but as a necessity. Thank you.

Councilmember Chris Moore asked if there was a motion on the floor. Mayor Perrin said I think you have a motion and a second. Councilmember Chris Gibson said yes, I made the motion. Councilmember Ann Williams said I seconded the motion.

Councilmember Bobby Long said that this is a pretty important vote. First of all, I want to thank Councilmember Joe Hafner for bringing this up and for doing the work that he has done. Although, sometimes many of us tend to disagree with certain parts of things, still, there is a sense that we want to do what is good for the city and we all want to do what is right. I have to be honest when I first looked at the first ordinance, it was difficult for me to take a look at mainly because this was a place where this needed to start. In my mind, I would have liked to have seen connecting neighborhoods to schools for connectivity. Connecting neighborhoods to medical centers to food centers to parks and recs and then neighborhoods to other neighborhoods. My initial thought was that was where it needed to start, not necessarily within the residential neighborhoods itself. I received calls from both sides with valid points on both sides for and against. One of my main concerns was the cost to maintain, but yet, data indicated that a good sidewalk, a good constructed sidewalk can last for up to 80 years. With the normal life expectancy that the city would go and look at possibly maintenance and repair of 25. So, I had to revise my view on that. When I looked at the original ordinance, it was difficult for me to look at and to I guess reconcile in my own mind is this something that we need to do. Then, when the ordinance came along and a compromise became available, I saw in where it says in Section A, under one, sidewalks would be constructed along public street frontages, I thought that is great, that is one of the main concerns that I had. I wasn't too thrilled with the idea on both sides of the street within residential neighborhoods. But, then we

heard from the Homebuilders Association saying that they were willing to do that. Another one of my points that they addressed was the fee that would be paid in lieu of building on both sides would now go to maintain the current sidewalks that we have. I think that is a tremendous value. So, even though I wasn't really keen on the original ordinance, in the spirit of compromise, I think that we have something that would benefit not only people, but everyone in Jonesboro and work toward connectivity too. Many times, not both sides get exactly what they want, everything they want, but a lot of times, when you work toward both sides getting something, I think that is what we strive for and I think that is what this ordinance does.

Councilmember David McClain said as Councilmember Long stated, compromise, I wanted to see sidewalks on both sides of the road just so we don't have kids running across the streets trying to get to the other side. I know and I get it. I get where everybody is at, but, at the same time, trying to start the process of making things right where it has been wrong for so long I think has been in everyone's mind up here. Trying to solve a problem that is decades old, I don't think we can solve it overnight. I truly believe that this is a step in the right direction. This shows that everyone needs to continue to be vocal and to be active. If you see that things aren't changing, we need to come back and continue to press and continue to show up and be heard. I appreciate everyone being here. Again, trying to work together and do what is best for everyone is hard. Thank you all for being here. We do appreciate it.

Mayor Perrin said he went back and pulled what the city has spent on sidewalks since 2010. The city has spent \$5,748,000. Right at you might say \$6 million on sidewalks. We started with those sidewalks and trying to connect all of our schools and that area several blocks from the schools down through there, particularly the real unfortunate accident that happened I believe at South School several years back. The second thing is that in June, the Engineering Department will be hiring two junior engineering students from Arkansas State University. They will do a complete inventory of all sidewalks within the City of Jonesboro. Not only will they be doing that, they will also be looking at ADA compliance. They will be looking for any cracked, any walkable, or anything that is tied to that so that we will be able to hopefully by September to be able to give a map to all of the citizens of Jonesboro of all the sidewalks and the condition that they are in. Just like we grade streets, etc. It will also show the void of connectivity of where we need to put those sidewalks in the future so I am real pleased about that. We do have two junior students. They are actually going into their third year as engineers at the engineering school at Arkansas State University. So, I am real pleased with that. I am pleased that we got this to where we have tonight. I also want to compliment Councilmember Hafner to get this started. I appreciate that very much.

Councilmember Charles Frierson asked which motion. Mayor Perrin said we have a motion and a second to adopt this ordinance. Councilmember Gene Vance said it was to adopt the ordinance that we reconsidered.

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: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

[ORD-18:015](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO MODIFY ARTICLE 1, SECTION 101-1 OF THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ADOPT THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS BY REFERENCE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF

GUIDING THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY AS PART OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

Attachments: [Land Use Plan.pdf](#)

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

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

Mayor Harold Perrin reported on the following items:

Mayor Perrin said that it is always a good thing to get good notes and stuff from our citizens. We did get one for Animal Control. Mayor Perrin said we did get a letter from a lady from out of state. Animal Control worked with them and they adopted those dogs. Those dogs are now in Maine. So, you can see how we work through our Animal Control. I am very appreciative of that.

Mayor Perrin said this was brought up at our staff meeting and every councilmember received a copy. Thanks to Interim Chief Operations Officer Roy Ockert. On our monthly report, every department head sends a report card to my office every month for every project that they are on, percentage of completion, where they are at on that project and status. Mr. Ockert took those, narrowed those down and sent those out. We are going to continue to do that because I want to thank you all. We got some great comments back from you all saying that's great. It keeps you in the loop of what is going on so we will do that.

Mayor Perrin said that Community Development Director Tiffny Calloway and he will be taking a trip to Greenville, SC. This revitalization of downtown, I took a map today and started from CWL all the way down to Flint, all the way back to Cherry and all of that area. What I have seen in that is that there is a great opportunity for us to do a lot of things within our downtown area. Mr. Downing mentioned the trip that we went on to Springfield, MO. Missouri State put \$52 million into their downtown area. They did an absolutely incredible job in that city and actually kicked it off. I was totally impressed with that, particularly seeing all of the students that were there, what is going on in the city, and they took an old OMFA, the old feed store, and converted it in. It is absolutely unbelievable. We will be bringing some notes back on that trip to share with you all.

Mayor Perrin said in the Parks area, we do now have the full ten fields with astroturf. I was out there last night and we are going to make some more changes in Joe Mack Campbell Park. It looks incredible. If you haven't had a chance, drive by and look at that. I think the first game started tonight. At Southside, CWL has been out there working almost two shifts as well as Musco Lighting. That is \$1.1 million of new lighting that will be at that entire facility. Also, CWL worked with us and put up all of the lights on the big parking lot that will accommodate about 400 cars which is directly across from the Southside Ball Complex. Those are up. Hopefully, they will get them hooked up and should be ready by Thursday or Friday of this week. That is a big plus for us in that area.

Mayor Perrin said the city is studying 5G. That is something that we are going to have to get our city up to par on. On May 2, Chief Financial Officer Bill Reznicek, IT Director Jason Ratliff, and some others will be traveling to Fayetteville, AR. Fayetteville started this some time back. So, we want to make sure and to listen to them about the pros and cons on that.

Mayor Perrin said that he was pleased that the United States Supreme Court is now looking at the fair market tax credit and when they do that and look at that, hopefully, they will come in with a positive vote on that to where all internet sales will be taxed based upon the origin of the purchase which, again, would help us in the City of Jonesboro and other areas on internet sales. I can tell you that on the first three months on our sales tax, we are only up \$65,000 from a year ago. I am going to repeat that. In three months time, we are only \$65,000 better than we were a year ago and that is just on that. State turnback is going down in the State of Arkansas. Also, the thing that I mentioned today with the other Mayors is the Garver Bonds that the Highway Department passed, back a few years ago. In 2023, that will all be gone. All of the cities in that room, get that money. The City of Jonesboro gets about \$1.4 million. That will be going away from the City of Jonesboro.

Mayor Perrin said on the sales tax, I am going to ask CFO Bill Renicek to start putting it in there because we will be budgeting a great number for sidewalks. We are also going to have to budget for maintenance. We are going to have to put another line item in the budget, or however, he wants to handle that on the budget to do that. Most of these cities that you are talking about have a sales tax tied to that on the maintenance of those sidewalks. We have been budgeting around \$500,000 a year. Obviously, that may or may not go up next year based on the budget. We will also have to have some in there for maintenance so I just wanted to share that with you.

Mayor Perrin said the United States Army crew out of Missouri is having a blood drive at the ROTC building. They were there today and will be there all day tomorrow. So, if any of you all would like to give, just please go by and it will go up to 7:00 p.m. Let's please do that and support our armed forces. We desperately need to do that.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember John Street said we had a meeting today of a technical and advisory committee with Northeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission. City Traffic Engineer Mark Nichols gave an excellent presentation and update on where we are on our state highway projects. I would love it if you could have him make that presentation to the council maybe at our next meeting. It is not that long, but it is very informative and it would help update everyone on the council and the citizens as well. He did a great job on that presentation. Mayor Perrin said we would be happy to do that. Primarily what he is talking about is the STIP Projects on the \$90 million. They are getting very close on the overpasses on Hwy. 18 and some of those. We will be happy to do that. Councilmember Street said as time schedules as well because he eluded to today, it takes years to get the stuff in process, requiring right-of-ways, moving utilities. It doesn't happen today so all of these things are in the works and it is good to stay updated on where they are at and people can actually note some progress on those.

Councilmember LJ Bryant said that skipping public comment by any of us was inadvertent on the sidewalk ordinance. We are all really focused and we want to hear from the public so I hope the public knows that it was inadvertent. Mayor Perrin said that is my apology because we were going back from one ordinance to another is what

happened. But, I will send Mr. Gramling and a couple of them notes tomorrow.

Councilmember Joe Hafner said he wants to say thanks to everybody.

Councilmember Chris Moore said that Mr. Downing talked about how millennials were looking to move to towns that had cool areas and the development of the downtown as opposed to necessarily the best opportunity for a job. I brought up to the council once before about a year ago, we have a tremendous opportunity that we can move forward on for free right now and that is the Wolverine property. It is five acres of property. We used a Brownfield Grant to clean it up. It has been completely cleaned. It is level. It is on the connectivity between ASU and the downtown area. They Hyatt Palmer group identified that as being the corridor to kind of have a street that has niche businesses for ASU and downtown. I proposed once before that we solicit developers and let them propose an idea to the council and we give one of them the opportunity financially to make something fabulous over there. That property is probably worth \$500,000. I suggest that we put out statewide requests for proposals and let all of the contractors and developers who develop in all of the other college towns come in and give us a pitch and we give that property for free. Now, think about that. That would be a \$500,000 leg up if they will build it to what Hyatt Palmer and the city determines is in the best interest. I am here to tell you that if something nice goes in on that five acres, that entire corridor down Aggie, the old Pepsi plant, all of the old houses, the car wash, the little kitchen, all of that will transform in a twelve month period. If somebody comes in and builds a \$7 million - \$8 million project on that, and let's face it, what developer wouldn't like to have free land. I imagine we would have every type of proposal you could imagine. I think we ought to establish a public committee of council and people from the community and interview them. Once again, I ask that we think about that. Mayor Perrin said that we will work on that.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

TJ Thompson, 3816 S. Culberhouse, said that at one point tonight there was a room full of confused people. You all went back and made that right and we appreciate that. I feel like that was done right. I think it is a great day in Jonesboro, Arkansas today. Over the past year, you have seen a lot of groups of people do a lot of work led by Councilmember Hafner. People came together with different viewpoints from different walks of life and people came together to make progress and that is something for which we should be very proud of in the City of Jonesboro. I just wanted to say thank you all for the work that you did. All of the different groups that worked on that. I know it took a lot of time and it wasn't easy. But, the great thing about that is that this is not the last thing I don't think that anyone believes that it is the last thing like this that we will have to tackle and we are equipped way better today to do that the right way than we were a year ago. A lot of relationships have been made. A lot of conversations have been had. A lot of people have been open to ideas that they may not have been open to before and that is very much progress. So, thank you to all. Councilmember Moore, your comment about Wolverine, I think that is a great idea. I think a group of people coming together to kind of vet those ideas would be great. If I can help with that, please let me know. Mayor Perrin said thank you very much.

Minister Imevbore Elugbe, his wife Angel Elugbe and sister Ally, said we represent the organization Future for Felons. We would like to invite everyone to attend the End Mass Incarceration Rally on May 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. While I was listening to Mike Downing's presentation, he had mentioned about going from good to great and the first thing he said was that we have to confront the facts of our reality, the brutal facts of our reality. One of those facts are that 5% of the world's population lives here in the

United States. However, 25% of the world's prison population, also resides here in the United States. We live in a country that is arguable the most free country on the planet, but we also have the highest incarceration rate and this is a paradox. It is also a brutal fact that our prison population is disproportionately represented by poor people of color, blacks and Hispanics. Another thing that Mike Downing mentioned was education and how education is correlated to your ability to earn a higher income. Sixty percent of the prison population doesn't even have a GED. In our meeting with you and Rick Elliott last year, I recall that you said that you didn't understand how that we live in a nation that spends more money on incarceration than on education. Mayor Perrin said that is correct. Mr. Elugbe said that research has shown us that crime is correlated through lack of education, low socioeconomic status, unemployment. These things are related to crime. Mass incarceration is not just about locking up a bunch of people who are disproportionately poor and of color, it is also about these laws that are used to alienate and to marginalize and to disenfranchise and to ostracize them and to discriminate against them. It only compounds the problem. It makes the recidivism rate go up so we are trying to bring an awareness of this into the Jonesboro community. I would like for you to attend if you can. Mayor Perrin said good and I appreciate your meeting in my office with the Chief. Again, as I have told you before, we are doing that in our employment here. I think that was good. We started that back I think in 2009 when I came here. You are absolutely right and I agree with you on that. So, we would be glad to do what we can. We would be happy to. Thank you for speaking tonight.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilperson Mitch Johnson, seconded by Councilperson LJ Bryant, that this meeting be Adjourned . The motion PASSED with the following vote.

Aye: 12 - Ann Williams;Charles Frierson;Chris Moore;John Street;Mitch Johnson;Gene Vance;Chris Gibson;Charles Coleman;Bobby Long;Joe Hafner;David McClain and LJ Bryant

_____ **Date:** _____

Harold Perrin, Mayor

Attest:

_____ **Date:** _____

Donna Jackson, City Clerk

