



City of Jonesboro

Municipal Center
300 S. Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

5:30 PM

Municipal Center

SPECIAL CALLED PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AT 4:30 P.M.

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

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

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2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

[play video](#)

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK DONNA JACKSON

[play video](#)

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

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COM-17:054

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE FROM MPO DIRECTOR ERICA TAIT

[play video](#)

Sponsors: MPO

Attachments: [ATP COJ Council Presentation 09.01.17](#)

Ms. Tait noted the last Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was adopted in January, 2016. They took a lot of public input into consideration and looked ahead to things they knew were going to take place. From that public input, they developed three themes. People expressed a concern with connectivity, traffic congestion, and adding/maintain sidewalks and multi-use paths. They then were able to prepare an

Active Transportation Plan that provide health, transportation and economic benefits to help the community move forward. The goals for the plan are promotion, safety, connectivity & accessibility and policy. She then discussed the plan development process and added they still in the process of producing a draft plan. They hope to have that out for comment at the end of September. It will be available for 15 to 30 days for public comments. They also have public input meetings scheduled and encouraged everyone to attend. They also have the plan and its progress on their website.

Mayor Perrin explained when a city hits 50,000 in population they have to have an MPO. There are eight in the state, with Little Rock being the biggest. In our area, it covers Jonesboro, Brookland, Bay, Bono and Craighead County. They look at all things such as walkability and trails, including things such as bike trails. He noted one thing that has been brought to his attention over the years is that JET buses should work on Saturday since people still have to commute to work on Saturday. They are looking at that in the 2018 budget. He encouraged everyone to have input because if people don't make comments then the MPO has no way to hear suggestions. Ms. Tait noted the technical and policy committees meet once per quarter, but the ATP committee has been meeting monthly. Mayor Perrin added the Highway Department also attends the meetings.

This item was Filed.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman 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-17:098

Minutes for the City Council Meeting on August 15, 2017

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Minutes.pdf](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

RES-17:116

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT FROM SYLVIA SHINAULT FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A SIDEWALK

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Permanent Construction Easement - Shinault](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-110-2017

RES-17:117

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT FROM BHMH RENTALS, LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AND MAINTAINING A SIDEWALK

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Permanent Construction Easement - BHMH](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-111-2017

RES-17:118

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

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Police Department and Engineering

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

Enactment No: R-EN-112-2017

RES-17:126

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ENTER INTO A TRI-PARTY CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT AND BNSF RAILWAY FOR THE BNSF RAILROAD OVERPASS (HWY 18) - JOB NO. 100824

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [100824 watt street agmt](#)

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

Enactment No: R-EN-113-2017

RES-17:127

A RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS TO ACCEPT THE LOW BID AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH AWT CONSTRUCTORS, LLC FOR THE CEMETERY MAINTENANCE BUILDING (2017:25)

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [Bid 2017-25 Cemetery Maint Bid - Tabulation Agreement](#)
[Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit B](#)
[Exhibit C](#)
[Exhibit D](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-114-2017

RES-17:128

A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR THE 2017 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF JONESBORO

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Grants and Police Department

Attachments: [Jonesboro E-Citation and E-Crash Program - Project Narrative](#)
[Project Abstract](#)
[Program Attachments for JAG Application](#)
[FY 2017 Budget](#)
[Budget Narrative](#)
[MOU for the City of Jonesboro and Craighead County 05252017](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-115-2017

RES-17:129

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CITY OF JONESBORO AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE (UACES) FOR THE PURCHASE OF BIKE RACKS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Grants, Planning and Parks & Recreation

Attachments: [CDC MOA with City of Jonesboro Revised](#)

This item was APPROVED on the consent agenda.

Enactment No: R-EN-116-2017

6. NEW BUSINESS

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ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

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ORD-17:069

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 117, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN ZONING BOUNDARIES FROM C-3, LUO COMMERCIAL, LIMITED USE OVERLAY TO C-3, GENERAL COMMERCIAL FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3012 PARKWOOD ROAD AS REQUESTED BY KRISTY HARVEY

[play video](#)

Attachments: [Application.pdf](#)
 [Plat and Map.pdf](#)
 [Plat.pdf](#)
 [Aerial View of Location.pdf](#)
 [Staff Summary 17-23 3012 Parkwood Road - City Council.pdf](#)
 [Ordinance.pdf](#)
 [Certified Mail Receipts.pdf](#)

Councilman Street motioned, seconded by Councilman Long, to suspend the rules and read the ordinance by title only. All voted aye.

Mayor Perrin noted the MAPC voted 7-0 in favor of the rezoning.

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Gene Vance, to Waive 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

ORD-17:070

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING RAISES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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Sponsors: Finance

Councilman Moore offered the ordinance for first reading.

Councilman Hafner discussed the history of the ordinance. In early August, Chief Financial Officer Suzanne Allen called him and expressed concern over elected officials not having a pay raise since 2015. He asked if that was something she wanted the Finance Committee to consider. Since he is chair of the Finance Committee, she sent him an email making a formal request. This proposed ordinance is what she, along with Human Resources Director Dewayne Douglas, recommended. At last week's Finance meeting, the ordinance was forwarded to Council, as it was vital for everyone to have their input in the matter.

Councilman Hafner referred to the portion of the ordinance that indicates the monies needed for the increases will come from savings in other budgeted line items that have leftover funds. He noted it's important to remember the city has added over \$2 million in projects to the budget this year. While some items have leftover funds, the city had already added \$2 million to a budget that was already dipping into the reserves by about \$3.1 million. He understands where the 6% came from, as it is 2% per year since 2015 which was recommended by the Johanson Group. It would be easier to take if it was 3%. He added he doesn't think the raises need to be retroactive to January 1, 2017. He doesn't think elected officials raises, if approved, should be

retroactive. Speaking for himself, he doesn't think officials in their first term should be included in the raises. He doesn't think any of them ran for the \$900 per month they are currently paid. They ran to help the city and doesn't think first-timers deserve a raise.

He continued at the Finance meeting it was brought up that the reserves could be used up in five or six years. The city could have to start cutting capital projects, etc., which causes him a lot of concern. Jonesboro is growing and they need to make sure it keeps growing in the right direction. The city will be at 100,000 before they know it. Decisions will need to be made that will put them into a position to do the capital improvements that need to be done. They talked about areas they are behind on and if they don't have a way to fund those projects, then the city will continue to be behind.

He then referred to the 2016 Salary Survey they received at the Municipal League meeting. He thinks it serves as a good guide to see how Jonesboro ranks against other cities. But, it doesn't serve as a good guide for the minimum and maximum wages for each position. In each instance on the survey, the midpoint is where people currently are and the minimum is 80% of that and the maximum is 120%. The mayor and city clerk have been in their positions for over 10, 20 years. They're not at the midpoint and would be more towards the maximum. He doesn't think the survey is good to use for midpoints and maximums. Jonesboro is the fourth largest city in the state. The mayor's salary is ranked fourth, the city attorney's is ranked five, the city clerk's salary is second and the city council is ranked fourth.

He reiterated that if the council chooses to move forward with the salaries, he thinks it should be reduced to 3%, take out the retroactive part and at least the first-term council members should be excluded.

Councilman Bryant noted one way to take care of some of the issues would be for the raises to not take effect in the middle of a council member's term. So, if someone was up for re-election in 2018, they would get the raise in 2019, etc.

Councilman Frierson stated he tends to agree with everything that has been said, except he thinks council members should receive raises in their first term. Otherwise, it will get complicated. He also agrees the raises should not be retroactive; rather, it should be put in the 2018 budget and become effective after January 1.

Councilman Moore agreed, explaining he doesn't think there can be a split between positions 1 and 2, as to who will get raises and not. Mayor Perrin stated he doesn't think it can be different depending on the term. He thinks it has to be everyone gets the raise, or none do.

Councilman Street questioned what the mayor's recommendation is concerning the raises. Mayor Perrin clarified that Councilman Street is asking someone who is included in the raises to make a comment. It's a given that elected officials have not had a cost of living adjustment since 2015. He explained when the Council decided to raise the \$3.4 million last year for raises, they put on him and the administration an added expense that will be hard to cover when there's no revenue to help offset the \$3.4 million. That money will be pulled down from reserves. If they continue to pull down for capital improvements, eventually there will come a time when there's no reserve to pull from. They will then have to consider freezing salaries, freezing employment, layoffs, a sales tax or some sort of additional revenue for this city to continue. They just heard during a committee meeting earlier that they have been pulling money out of reserves to pay for stormwater improvements that are 20 or 30

years old in order to stop the city from flooding. There will be other things that pop up, like the money needed for ditches. There will be times when the city will have to buy an excavator for \$400,000. That's why the reserves were built up, in order to give the city a solid foundation. If you take the reserves the city has today, \$7.8 million is needed to get the \$90 million from the Highway Department for improvements. After that, if you look at the excess reserves you don't have \$25 million. Subtract \$7.8 million from that. Then you continue to pull out the \$3.5 to \$4 million in reserves every year to cover the salary increases from last year. The first six months of the year, the sales tax has only increased 6%, which is about \$300,000 to \$400,000 over last year. Sales tax is about 70% of the money coming in for the city. He thinks in about three years, whether the proposed salary increases are passed or not, the city will be looking for a vote for a sales tax to keep the city afloat.

Councilman Johnson stated he has been criticized for supporting the raises for employees last year. He doesn't regret that decision. That's what helps the city be as great as what it is, compensating the city employees. It gives them motivation to take care of the city and the citizens. He knew what the salary was when he ran for his position. A raise doesn't mean anything to him. He's not here to make an extra \$500. Mayor Perrin stated he thinks they would say the same. He wasn't making a reflection on the employee raises or what was done. That's not what he meant. All he was saying is he has to balance the budget. They are already in the process of developing the 2018 budget and running figures. Whatever is voted on, he will make work. Department heads have done an outstanding job of getting to where the city is today. They work hard for the citizens every day. If the council doesn't like the pay raise, then so be it.

Councilman McClain stated there has been talk of cutting some projects and they know there will have to be some sort of tax increase to pay for the raises given out by the council last year. But, he doesn't see this as the right time to consider this proposal right now when they're talking about a tax, or layoffs, or cutting projects.

Mayor Perrin asked them to vote their convictions and his feelings won't be hurt by the way the council members decide to vote. Councilman Johnson clarified he wasn't trying to say the mayor was being critical of him being a proponent of the raises last year. It was outside sources that were critical of him.

Mayor Perrin explained with his financial background, he looks at the monthly financial statements and doesn't like what he sees. He sees revenues either going down or staying flat, yet expenses are going dramatically up. Any private business could sell stock, but government can't do that. The only thing the city can do is a sales tax. Sales tax is 70% of revenue. 72% of that goes to personnel costs, which doesn't leave a lot leftover to buy an excavator or dig a ditch. The city has 82 square miles and costs twice as to run as North Little Rock, who just raised a penny sales tax.

Councilman Hafner stated he would feel better about the raises if they took more time to come up with a plan regarding additional resources that will allow the city to do capital projects and run the general fund the way it should be run.

Councilman Vance noted they are looking at \$600 a year that the Council is a part of. They're not giving themselves a raise when they vote. When you look at 6% of their salary, it's not significant when compared to the overall cost. They're getting the heat because they're voting for themselves a salary increase, but that increase is nothing when looking at the city.

Councilman McClain disagreed because it is real money. It's coming from somewhere

and will be spent, possibly on a project. \$30,000 may not go as far as he thinks, but that's money that could go somewhere else.

Councilman Vance replied Councilman McClain is missing his point. They are having all this discussion about the council voting themselves a raise. He's not talking about the mayor, clerk or attorney. They're talking about the council, which is only about 6% of \$900. It's about \$50 per year for 12 council members. It's an insignificant amount. He's not advocating for the raise. He just wants to keep everyone's vision on where the true discussion is. It's not their salaries, but the raises for the other officials.

Councilman Long stated he thinks there are other ways to increase revenue other than tax increases. He knows the department heads to a good job of accounting for every penny, but before they approved raises last year the city was doing a good job of bleeding employees. The city was doing a good job of training officers, yet they left for employment elsewhere. They city did all that to stop the bleeding. The city is saving money on training and hiring. The city has more experienced officers and is fully staffed. There's attrition whereby if someone leaves they need to see if duties could be shifted to other places as opposed to replacing someone. When he looks at the report, there's nine cities that were reviewed. It looks like Jonesboro is right on par with where it needs to be. Councilman Hafner agreed, adding based on population Jonesboro's salaries are right where they need to be when compared to other cities that are on the survey. Jonesboro is the fourth largest city in the state. There's only one position where Jonesboro is fifth, which is the city attorney position. Otherwise, Jonesboro is four or two in comparison.

Councilman Johnson asked that the ordinance have three separate readings.

Phillip Cook, 5216 Richardson Drive, read from a 2016 Jonesboro Sun article that stated salaries for elected officials were not scheduled to change in 2017. He asked how much it cost for Johanson Group to provide this information, which the city could've gotten itself. He then questioned why Ms. Allen proposed the 6% raise and for it to be retroactive to January 1 when it was already stated raises wouldn't happen. First she said it was to be fair. You don't give raises to be fair. You earn raises. The men and women of the city have done an outstanding job of keeping their finger on costs and everything. They even gave raises to all the other city employees last year, which he was thankful for. When he ran for council, he didn't think about what he was going to make. He would've done it for nothing. He wanted to do something for his city. The city needs to be cautious about how the money is spent and employees should be treated fairly, but raises shouldn't be given just to be fair. They should be given because they're earned.

This item was Held at one reading.

[ORD-17:072](#)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE SECTION 2-576 TO ADD BENEFITS CONSULTING SERVICES AS A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Finance and Human Resources

Councilman Long motioned, seconded by Councilman Street, to suspend the rules and read the ordinance by title only. All voted aye.

Mayor Perrin explained the city will be able to hire a broker and get quotes and better ways for the city to provide health insurance to employees at a lower cost. Blue Cross originally came in at a 17.4% increase, then to 10.5%, and are now at a 4.5%

increase. The city had a good year in insurance terms, but the city's biggest utilization is in pharmaceutical. With things such as Obamacare in place, the cost of drugs has increased dramatically. But, most of the city's cost was generic. The city has been with Blue Cross for almost 20 years, but it's a business and other ways should be looked at. The city could look at something such as increasing the Blue Cross deductible to \$5,000, lowering the premium dramatically. Then, take out gap insurance to cover the gap between that deductible and the current \$600 deductible. Most companies have a 4-5% admin fee that has nothing to do with utilization.

Councilman Street asked if there was at no cost to the city. Councilman Hafner explained their fee is built into the premiums, so there is a cost to the city.

Councilman Long explained the necessity to get this ordinance done quickly is that the information will need to be put together and reviewed in order to present it to the employees before open enrollment in November. This ordinance just allows an RFQ for different brokers to bid on brokering it out, which he thinks is something that should've been done every year. Brokers can add a level of expertise such as self-insured and fully insured. He further explained that with a plan with a deductible such as \$5,000, instead of offering co-pays on office visits and pharmaceuticals, after the \$5,000 the plan pays 100%. But, on top of that you get gap insurance to cover the benefit up to \$5,000 because Blue Cross will pay 100% after that.

Councilman Frierson clarified the ordinance before them now is just to add something to professional services. They don't have to discuss the plans yet. After the RFQ's come back, then they can talk about the plans.

Councilman Street motioned, seconded by Councilman Moore, to suspend the rules and waive the second and third readings. All voted aye.

After adoption of the ordinance, Councilman Gibson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, to adopt the emergency clause. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Chris Moore, 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

Enactment No: O-EN-059-2017

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

[play video](#)

ORD-17:059

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING AN EXCEPTIONAL SITUATION AND WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR OVERHEAD DOOR REPLACEMENT FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING AT 2603 DAN AVENUE.

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Finance

Attachments: [Overhead Door estimates](#)
[Updated overhead door information](#)
[Email from Suzanne Allen](#)

Councilman Hafner noted at the last meeting he asked for the ordinance to be held because there was a question by one of the vendors. They have since worked out the issue and he thinks it was handled appropriately. He provided an email from Ms. Allen describing the situation. She indicated Street Director Steve Tippitt reviewed it and was satisfied. Councilman Vance asked for a copy of the email.

This item was Held at second reading.

ORD-17:061

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES SEC. 117-2 AND SEC. 117-107 TO DEFINE AND PROVIDE ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS FOR PHARMACIES, MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA CULTIVATION CENTERS

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Metropolitan Area Planning Commission and Planning

Attachments: [Map Locations](#)

Mayor Perrin commended City Attorney Carol Duncan for her work on the ordinance. A lot of people will be applying for this in September. He thinks it's a good idea to go slow and read this three times. Even if City Attorney Duncan has to write a letter for someone who is applying for this, that's fine. The letter will help applicants not be disqualified. City Attorney Duncan noted the state is accepting the letters. They have already written some from the Planning Department giving tentative approval of C-3 that can be followed up via confirmation once the ordinance is adopted, assuming it is adopted as written.

This item was Held at second reading.

ORDINANCES ON THIRD READING

[play video](#)

ORD-17:035

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE JONESBORO CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH A PERMIT PROCESS AND REGULATIONS FOR TEMPORARY STREET AND LANE CLOSURES IN THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS

[play video](#)

Sponsors: Engineering

Attachments: [Regulations](#)

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Joe Hafner, 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

Enactment No: O-EN-054-2017

8. MAYOR'S REPORTS

[play video](#)

Mayor Perrin reported on the following items:

This is Paint the Town Red Week. They visited Valley View Schools today with the Chamber of Commerce and ASU football team. They did a good job against Nebraska.

He got a confirmation of September 14th for the Land Bank. He will get that out tomorrow to the Council members. He will feed them lunch. Doug Tapp, who is over the Land Bank in Little Rock, will be coming up and go over it with the council.

He met with the Highway Department on August 22nd to look at the STIP programs and see how much money will be handed out next year for projects that will go out to bid. The Highway Department will also be working on the overpass at Airport Road. The will be starting plans on the overpass in front of the airport.

The ASP grant for \$52,000 has provided 59 cars, 14 in use now, with e-tickets in the vehicle.

The Highway 18 overpass will be delayed in opening due to moving utilities and acquiring right of way.

He got an email Thursday from Arkansas Game & Fish that they had to put in ad in newspaper regarding the location of the proposed shooting range. That don't think it needs to go back to the Corps. But, they want to make sure all of this is done prior to closing on real estate on October 17th. The Wildlife Federation will have to look at the grant, so he doesn't recommend purchasing the land until the grant has been approved.

He presented the council with a handout concerning the multi-family residential development guidelines. The city planner will present that at the next meeting. It will cost more, but it will give developers an incentive to re-develop property.

They have decided to double up ward meetings in order to increase attendance. Ward 1 & 2 will be on September 14th at Parker Park. Ward 3 & 4 will be on September 18th at Earl Bell. Ward 5 & 6 will be on September 25th at Allen Park. He will provide the council members with the information via email as well. City Engineer Craig Light will be making a presentation at each meeting describing the projects being done in each respective ward, as well as proposed projects for 2018. They will be doing a press release tomorrow.

He discussed the five-land project on Harrisburg Road near Central Baptist Church. They have suggested making Parker Road go back several hundred feet to make a dedicated right-hand turn lane in front of JT White Lumber. The Highway Department was very gracious and moved \$400,000 over into that Harrisburg Road project for that improvement.

9. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

[play video](#)

Councilman Street motioned, seconded by Councilman Gibson, to suspend the rules and add RES-17:141 on to the agenda. All voted aye.

RES-17:141

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CONTINENTAL UTILITY SOLUTIONS, INC TO UTILIZE 2ND FLOOR OFFICE SPACE IN THE MUNICIPAL CENTER

Sponsors: Mayor's Office

Attachments: [CUSI Lease.docx](#)

A motion was made by Councilman John Street, seconded by Councilman Charles Coleman, 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

Enactment No: R-EN-117-2017

Councilman Street noted that Communications Director Bill Campbell asked him to announce that anyone wanting to go to the ASU game versus Miami this weekend can go via JET if they meet at the parking lot on Union. They will be dropped off at the front door for a nominal fee and will start running people back to downtown during the third quarter.

Councilman Johnson referred to the Mayor's comments about widening Parker. He clarified the east side of Parker is going to be widened to add a right-hand turn lane. Mayor Perrin agreed. The lane will be backed up all the way to before the curve. There will also be guardrails. It was added to the job at no cost to the city. Councilman Moore noted that for at least five years he's been asking for something there because he is afraid someone will go off into the ditch.

Councilman Hafner thanked Ms. Allen for her service to the city and wished her luck in her new job. He then stated the sidewalk ordinance he talked about in May has not been forgotten about. It will be coming back up. He just wanted to give people time to compromise, but he expects it to come up again in the next month or so. He has also heard some concern about Southside. The parks director put together a list of improvements that are needed there. There's a lot of talk about Joe Mack, but Southside also needs to be considered. It should also get fair treatment when it comes to budgeting.

Mayor Perrin stated that since 2012 the city has spent \$887,000 on Southside. When the city took it over there was no infield mix for the girls to slide on. The sprinkler system was not there and the fencing was not there for the temporary, smaller leagues. There was not a \$500,000 concession stand or drainage improvements. There were not

any buildings present to store items. The drawing of a new concession stand at Joe Mack will be the same as the one being built at Southside. The city has spent a great deal of money on Southside and will continue to do so. He would like to asphalt and stripe the parking lot. CWL added security lights as well. Councilman Hafner noted the restrooms need improvements. Mayor Perrin answered it will be handled.

Councilman Long stated things are leveled off at the roundabout and everything looks really good.

Councilman McClain asked for everyone to attend the ASU football if they are able to, to support the football team.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

[play video](#)

Norma Ferrell, 108 East Gordon Street, spoke on behalf of the North Jonesboro Initiative. She asked that in the 2018 budget the city consider extending weekends and hours for JET. They asked for the buses to run until midnight because they have people who don't have a way home from work at night during the week and the weekend. People are walking from the factories and it's dangerous. If they can't get Saturdays and Sundays, then could they get Saturdays. It's hard on people to go to work and try to figure out how they're going to get home. It affects their ability to work. She also had a list of about 70 names of people who couldn't be in attendance, but were supportive of their request. Mayor Perrin stated they are looking at Saturdays with service possibly starting in January, 2018.

Donna Balon, 712 Valley Drive, expressed her appreciation as part of the bicycling community for the meeting at Allen Park with Ms. Tait. Ms. Tait did an excellent job of showing them different options and they were able to prioritize where they wanted money to be spent, what types of transportation was wanted. She wanted the council to know Ms. Tait did a good job. She also thanked Councilman McClain for attending the meeting and getting their input.

Helen, a citizen residing on Warner, stated she has ridden the JET bus when her vehicle wasn't working. Her children have used the bus. She's told other students at the high school about it. It provides you safety. More money could be made if the buses ran on weekends for employees commuting back and forth to work.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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A motion was made by Councilman Chris Moore, seconded by Councilman Joe Hafner, that this matter 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